

# SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

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at the

First Committee, Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons

United Nations

New York

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Chairperson,

Sweden fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union. I will therefore limit myself to some additional points in a national capacity.

Chairperson,

Sweden welcomes the positive outcomes achieved at the second Conference of State Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty, because these results put the international community in a position to step up its efforts in the fight against irresponsible, unregulated and illicit arms trade. We are confident that the coming years will very clearly demonstrate the benefits of the ATT, and that it is in every state's interest to participate in these efforts.

Transparency and reporting play an important role in this work and Sweden will continue to contribute to efforts in the ATT and in other fora to facilitate increased transparency. The support of Sweden to the ATT is also of a financial nature. The newly established ATT Voluntary Trust Fund and the ATT sponsorship programme – both important in ensuring a successful implementation of the treaty – should be receiving Swedish contributions before the end of this year.

Sweden's commitment to transparency is also demonstrated by our participation in this year's Group of Governmental Experts for the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The report of the GGE and its recommendations were presented yesterday by its chair Ambassador Paul Beijer of Sweden. 2016 sees the 25th anniversary of the UN Register. Sweden encourages all UN Member States to report annually to this important confidence-building mechanism.

The UN Programme of Action, together with the ATT, provides us with a comprehensive toolkit to tackle the illicit trade of small and light weapons. While the ATT addresses cross-border trade, the PoA focuses on domestic measures that suppress diversion of arms to the illicit market. Small arms and light weapons – and their ammunition – continue to destabilize societies and thus undermine both peace and development. Awareness of these negative societal effects energized the work of the PoA's recently concluded Sixth Biannual Meeting of States Parties. Sweden welcomes those results and will follow up on them.

Chairperson,

Last year's Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions set important goals in the Dubrovnik Action Plan which were further reaffirmed at the recent Sixth Meeting of State Parties. Sweden takes an active part in the work of the Convention as one of the first Signatories. We fully share the goals of the Convention banning this inhumane weapon, including a complete ban on its use. For a ban to become truly effective, it is important that also the world's largest manufacturers and users of cluster munitions join the Convention.

Sweden joins those expressing deep concern about reports of the use of cluster munitions affecting civilian populations, and call on all actors to strictly observe International Humanitarian Law.

Under the heading "Finish the Job", the International Campaign to Ban Landmines has noted that the promise of the Ottawa Convention will be fulfilled when the norm against use of antipersonnel mines is universal, and when States Parties to the treaty have fully implemented their key obligations. One important theme of the past Review Conference in Maputo was that the goal of a mine-free world is possible to achieve if efforts are sustained. The example of Mozambique itself has shown that this is a real possibility, as the country was recently able to declare itself to be mine-free. Sweden is proud to have contributed to this achievement. All in all, Sweden has contributed over 100 million EUR to mine action worldwide over the last decade.

Sweden remains firmly committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its protocols. We believe that this instrument provides an effective and flexible means to respond also to future weapons technology developments. Sweden very much appreciates the discussions held on lethal autonomous weapon systems, LAWS. Our basic position is that humans should always be ultimately responsible when it comes to questions of life and death. We welcome a continued discussion of LAWS within the framework of the CCW, and we will support a decision to create, at the Review Conference in December, a Governmental Group of Experts to further examine this issue.

Chairperson,

Let me conclude by way of making an observation of importance to my Government. Without the full participation of women in discussions on disarmament and arms control – in line with the women, peace and security agenda – effective and lasting results cannot be achieved. Sweden will continue to support a gendered approach, in cooperation with civil society and through the UN.

Thank you Chairperson