



# ITALY

**PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CESARE MARIA RAGAGLINI**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**(NEW YORK, 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2012)**

**Check against delivery**

Mr. President,

Italy, as all of the countries preceding me on this podium, is extremely pleased to see you presiding over the proceedings of this Conference. You have been at the forefront of the ATT process since the very beginning. Your skilful and balanced chairmanship of the Preparatory Committee resulted in its successful and highly satisfactory outcome. The Draft Paper that you presented to us one year ago remains a very good basis for our work these coming weeks. We are confident that, under your guidance, we will be able to deliver what is expected of us: a strong, robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty. Please rest assured of Italy's full support to you and your team in this endeavour.

Earlier in this session Ambassador Marinaki delivered her general remarks on behalf of the European Union. We fully align ourselves with her statement. Allow me, however, to make a few general comments from a national perspective.

Mr. President,

Italy has been supportive of the ATT process since the beginning. We think that by regulating the legal arms trade, that is, by setting common standards and control mechanisms of the highest possible order, we will be able to tackle more effectively and efficiently those phenomena that constitute a substantial threat to international peace and security, such as trade diversion and illicit arms trafficking. We hope that the outcome of this Conference will be a Treaty that enjoys universal support. The constructive spirit shown by all Delegations during the session of the Preparatory Committee is a good starting point. Now it is time to build on this spirit and deliver.

Allow me, Mr. President, to present some specific points to which my Delegation attaches great importance. As to the scope of the future Treaty, we think that all military conventional arms and systems, small arms and light weapons, munitions, related technology, parts and components should be included. We have presented on various occasions our position concerning sports and hunting weapons and the reasons behind it. We still believe that they do not pertain to the scope of an Arms Trade Treaty regulating military weapons and systems.

Parameters are essential for the effectiveness of an ATT. We need clear, strong and comprehensive criteria against which to assess exports. Should a transfer be in violation of international obligations, such as embargoes decided upon by the UN Security Council, then the

ATT should contain a provision on its automatic ban. Similarly, in cases where a risk of serious violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law may emerge from a possible transfer of arms, then such transfer must be prohibited.

Like others, we believe that implementing the ATT should be the individual responsibility of the State Party concerned. States should be mandated to establish proper and functioning systems, including credible and enforceable sanctions for individuals who violate provisions of national law.

We also believe that the Treaty should include clear provisions to ensure that the arms trade is conducted in a transparent manner and that transactions be made public and described in adequate detail. A reporting system could be envisaged, in which States report on the implementation of the Treaty, i.e. on how they have set up their national control systems as prescribed by the Treaty. Information on the assessed transfers should also be exchanged by States Parties, as is already being done by Italy on a voluntary basis under the UN Register of Conventional Arms or through a report we submit annually to our national Parliament.

In terms of Treaty ratification and entry into force, Italy believes that we should strive for its universal acceptance. The Treaty's universality and effectiveness would be further enhanced if we agree on specific provisions allowing relevant regional and international organizations to sign it, ratify it or accede to it. There are precedents and successful examples which could be usefully exploited during these negotiations. For its entry into force, we favour a minimum requirement of approximately sixty ratifications, which we deem to be a reasonable number. We could also consider allowing the Treaty to enter into force for ratifying States after a certain number of years from the completion of their national ratification procedures. In other words, we do not wish to reproduce in the ATT a mechanism similar to the one in the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, since it would risk granting individual countries the power to block its entry into force indefinitely.

As we start our negotiations, Mr. President, let me express Italy's sincere hope that we will be able to complete this process in a successful manner and agree on an Arms Trade Treaty at the end of these four weeks. The world is looking at us. We cannot and we must not fail.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.