STATEMENT OF HUNGARY
by
Ambassador Dr. György Molnár
Special Representative for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
at the First Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
(Cancun, 24 August 2015)

I would like to start by thanking Mexico for hosting the first Conference of the States Parties, and for undertaking the role of the Provisional Secretariat.

The Arms Trade Treaty has been an important priority for Hungary since the very beginning. The fact that my country signed and ratified the Treaty among the first ones is clear testimony to that. We were pleased that the Treaty could enter into force already in 2014, thus making a very quick start, and we are proud to have contributed to this success story.

The number of States acceding to the Treaty has grown fast since to reach more than seventy by now. However, one needs to keep in mind that some of the key players in the international arms market have yet to ratify the Treaty. With their accession, undoubtedly, the Treaty would become even stronger. We therefore must continue reaching out to them as well, as part of our universalization efforts.

We are convinced that in order to make the Arms Trade Treaty fully functioning, some key decisions need to be taken, here in Cancun, at the First Conference of the States Parties,. We are grateful to Ambassador Lomónaco and the facilitators for saving no effort while preparing those decisions, thus paving the way for a productive 1st Conference.

We look forward to the adoption of

- an efficient set of Rules of Procedure;
- sustainable and equitable financial arrangements, providing the necessary funds for the implementation of the Treaty;
- a well-defined reporting tool providing maximum transparency within the scope of the Treaty and;
- a Secretariat that is small in size, but fully staffed and equipped to perform its duties enshrined in the Treaty. As for the seat of the Secretariat, the decision should be based on merits, such as links to the broader UN system, expertise and accessibility.

By doing so, we would lay down the foundations of an effective structure.

For the future, the key challenge will be implementation. It is only by fulfilling the obligations undertaken as States Parties to the Treaty that we can render it a real milestone in the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms.

We are convinced that by preventing and cutting down the illicit trade in arms and their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end users, the Arms Trade Treaty has the potential to make a significant contribution to international peace and security ultimately, saving lives of millions of people.