Statement by Norway

On Threshold for Entry Into Force

Mr. Chair,

We have heard a lot of different proposals regarding the number of ratifications necessary for entry into force of this treaty. Some states have pointed to the need for universal adherence to the ATT, and proposed that for this reason, large numbers such as 60 or even 90 ratifications are necessary. Norway does not have very strong views on whether it should be 20, 30 or even 40 ratifications. We would, however, like to point out that the only treaties with truly universal adherence, the four Geneva Conventions, require only two ratifications for entry into force. There is thus no contradiction between universal adherence and a low threshold for entry into force. The essential point is that by adopting a strong ATT we will have set an important norm, which is urgently needed in order to reduce the humanitarian impact of irresponsible and poorly regulated arms trade.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation is not convinced that we should introduce requirements that certain states should have to be among the ratifying states parties before entry into force. This would give some countries a veto with regard to entry into force, which would not be in conformity with true multilateralism.