PHILIPPINE STATEMENT
4TH PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

Thank you, Ambassador Moritan.

Since this is the first time that I am taking the floor, allow me to convey my government’s appreciation to you for serving as Chair of the Preparatory Committee Meetings and for spearheading this consultative process on the proposed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

I wish to express the Philippine Government’s position on both procedural and substantive matters.

On the Provisional Rules of Procedure for the UN Conference on the ATT, we find these to be acceptable and consistent with standard UN practice and we assure you of our full support in ensuring a successful outcome for this PrepCom.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines considers the ATT as an important legal instrument that seeks to address unregulated transfers of conventional arms worldwide through the establishment of internationally agreed standards on conventional arms transfers. We fully support the efforts of the Secretary-General to address the concerns of UN Member States on various aspects of the Arms Trade Treaty.

At the Third PrepCom, the Philippines emphasized the importance of States being able to establish their respective national control processes taking into consideration their respective laws and policies, as well as administrative systems. We continue to maintain the position that for States, especially developing states, to effectively implement the Treaty, it should include language on assistance specifically in the areas of technical assistance, capacity building, information-sharing, and sharing of expertise.

At this crucial home stretch in the run-up to the negotiating conference in the ATT, a challenging task that confronts all delegations today is to forge an agreement that would garner consensus. The Philippines would like to take this opportunity to enunciate its position on some key aspects of the Treaty.

- In the area of principles, we fully support the right to self-defense and the right to territorial integrity and we seek further discussion and clarity on the proposal to include the “right to self-determination” in the text of the Treaty.
- On the scope, we support the inclusion conventional arms as well as small arms and light weapons. We believe the proposal to include ammunition in the scope of the Treaty would place an onerous reporting and financial burden on States.
- On Transfer Denials, the Philippines reiterates its proposal to set up a database of information available to States Parties to verify whether an entity within an importing State has been denied authorization before.
- On Record- Keeping, Reporting and Transparency, the Treaty would require setting up and strengthening export control mechanisms, and in this regard, measures must be taken under the principle of International Cooperation and Assistance to ensure all States Parties can reasonably comply with the Treaty.
- With respect to Entry into Force, the Philippines considers it important that a sufficient number of States ratify the Treaty before it comes into effect.

Mr. Chair,

In closing, the Philippines again wishes to assure the Preparatory Committee of its active participation and cooperation and hopes that substantial progress could be attained in addressing unresolved issues to enable the process of concluding an Arms Trade Treaty to move forward.

Thank you.