



**Remarks by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at
the 100th Adherence to the Arms Trade Treaty
Commemorative Event**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today the Arms Trade Treaty welcomes the crossing of its 100th State Party threshold. I commend Mozambique on its ratification of the Treaty.

I congratulate Latvia for organizing this event. I would also like to express my appreciation for ControlArms and other civil society entities, for their tireless efforts to promote the Treaty.

I am heartened that the ATT has crossed the threshold of 100 States Parties in less than four years since its entry into force.

Abiding by the ATT's regulation will help to prevent the misuse of conventional arms and their diversion to illicit markets. Thus, it will help reduce human suffering and create a more secure environment for countries attaining the sustainable development goals.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a global organization, we see the consequences of irresponsible arms transfers every day, in all regions of the world. We see them in our efforts to maintain international peace and security, to protect human rights or to provide humanitarian aid. All too often, armed violence fuelled by poorly regulated arms transfers prevents us from reaching the goals laid out for us by Member States.

Today, we are witnessing growing signs of tension in the international security environment. The global arms trade is flourishing—with States showing a renewed interest in expanding and modernizing their arsenals.

With increased competition in the global arms market, countries face growing pressure to relax their export control policies and procedures, thus increasing the risk that weapons are exported to governments that are likely to use them against civilians or to commit widespread human rights abuses. This is a test for the ATT: an opportunity for the Treaty to prove its practical worth.

The United Nations will remain unwavering in its support to the Arms Trade Treaty.

We need the ATT to be a universal treaty, and we need all its States Parties to remain committed to complying fully with the Treaty's provisions, so it may deliver on its promise and fulfil the hopes of millions of people around the world.

I thank you.