



**Seventh Conference of States Parties
to the Arms Trade Treaty**

**Effective Treaty Implementation
Statement by New Zealand**

31 August 2021

Aotearoa New Zealand welcomes the excellent work of the Chair and facilitators on the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation and its sub-working groups.

Our Treaty sets strong standards. It prohibits certain transfers, provides for export-related assessments, seeks to reduce the security risk of transit and transshipment, and prevents diversion. In realising its objectives, and in ensuring its ongoing credibility, we must all meet the Treaty's standards. In this regard, we welcome the CSP6 President's paper on elements of a process for assessing the risk of diversion.

As some of you may know, New Zealand has recently conducted a review of its export control system, reflecting public and political interest in our export assessment process. Recognising that transparency is critical to the success of our Treaty, we look forward to sharing the results of that review and the lessons we have learned from it with the ATT community in the near future.

For some states, we know that cooperation and assistance will be essential for implementing the ATT effectively. New Zealand has had the privilege of acting as Chair of the Selection Committee for the Voluntary Trust Fund since late 2019. This year, the Selection Committee held its annual meeting virtually in May and approved 13 projects (from 21 applications) – all aimed at improving ATT implementation. In our capacity as VTF Chair we have recently released three videos providing guidance on the application process, which are all available on the VTF website, and we have a further video coming soon. In June, New Zealand made a national contribution of NZ\$100,000 to the Fund. We thank all of those who have contributed to, and applied for, VTF support

and encourage all ATT stakeholders to explore all possible avenues for promoting and supporting this Fund.

Finally, New Zealand would like to recognise the tireless work of the non-governmental representatives that continue to play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the ATT. The role of civil society in raising awareness of our Treaty's aims and in supporting its implementation cannot be understated. New Zealand looks forward to continuing to work with all ATT stakeholders in our common pursuit for better prospects for international and regional peace, security and stability, and for the reduction of human suffering, through our commitment to a more responsible international trade in conventional arms.