GENSAC

Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control

ATT CSP12

STATEMENT

# Statement by the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC) at the Twelfth Conference of States Parties (CSP12) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

**August 2026**

President,

I am honored to speak on behalf of GENSAC—a cross-regional network of women peacebuilders, security practitioners, grassroots civil society organizations, researchers, and disarmament experts working across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Balkans to advance gender-responsive small arms control.

We welcome the opportunity to address the Conference of States Parties at an important moment for the Arms Trade Treaty.

This is the first Conference following the appointment of the ATT Gender Focal Points, an important milestone that demonstrates the growing recognition that gender-responsive implementation is essential to achieving the Treaty's humanitarian objectives. We congratulate the Gender Focal Points on their appointment and look forward to supporting their work in the years ahead.

While the Treaty has made important progress, implementation remains uneven. Article 7(4) established a global norm by requiring States Parties to assess the risk that conventional arms exports could facilitate or contribute to serious acts of gender-based violence. The priority now is ensuring that this obligation is translated into consistent practice.

From GENSAC's engagement with members and partners across Africa, Latin America, and other regions, one message has emerged clearly: effective implementation requires both technical capacity and meaningful engagement with those most affected by armed violence.

National authorities responsible for licensing and transfer decisions need practical guidance, training, and institutional support to conduct robust gender-based violence risk assessments. At the same time, local women's organizations, community leaders, youth organizations, and other civil society actors possess invaluable knowledge about how armed violence affects their communities. Their perspectives should inform policymaking, risk assessments, implementation efforts, programme evaluation, and national monitoring wherever possible.

Meaningful implementation therefore requires investment in both institutions and partnerships.

We encourage States Parties to:

Strengthen national capacities across all relevant authorities responsible for arms transfer decisions, including licensing, customs, law enforcement, and security institutions.

Systematically integrate gender-based violence risk analysis throughout arms transfer assessment processes.

Ensure meaningful and effective consultation with women's organizations and other local civil society actors whose expertise can strengthen evidence-based decision-making.

Support the work of the ATT Gender Focal Points through sustained political backing, adequate resources, and practical cooperation.

Promote the full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation of women in ATT implementation and decision-making at the national, regional, and international levels.

President,

The Arms Trade Treaty remains one of the international community's most important tools for reducing human suffering caused by the irresponsible transfer of conventional arms. Realizing that promise requires moving beyond commitments on paper toward implementation that is inclusive, evidence-based, and responsive to the realities experienced by communities affected by armed violence.

GENSAC remains committed to working with States Parties, the ATT Secretariat, the Gender Focal Points, and civil society partners to strengthen gender-responsive implementation of the Treaty and ensure that its provisions contribute to more peaceful, secure, and inclusive societies.

**Thank you, President.**