

**Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
President's Working Paper**

**26 April 2021**

**Delivered by: Stephen Singo, Security Research & Information Centre (SRIC)**

Thank you, Ambassador.

As we are taking the floor for the first time, on behalf of Control Arms, I would like to express our thanks to you and to the ATT Secretariat for your efforts to bring this unprecedented virtual meeting together, and to all nations joining here today, for their contributions

On behalf of Control Arms, and my organization, Security Research & Information Centre, based in Kenya, I would like to thank the CSP7 Presidency held by Sierra Leone, for showing strength and resolve in this difficult time, and for choosing to focus this year's Conference on a topic so critical to Africa and the Global South -- curbing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, with a specific focus on stockpile security.

Stockpile security is one of the key elements required to prevent diversion of weapons. Without taking careful steps to ensure arms are delivered to their intended recipient and to safeguard those weapons upon arrival, an otherwise regulated arms transfer could result in further fuelling armed violence and conflict. Well-documented cases of diversion of arms and ammunition from arms and munitions stockpiles, particularly in East Africa, demonstrate the effects of poor stockpile security -- especially in my region. Overcoming key challenges to achieving effective national stockpile management in Africa and beyond requires a concerted effort by all states involved in the arms transfer chain.

In this regard, Control Arms welcomes the President's Paper as an opportunity to strengthen the implementation of Article 11, to bolster cooperation and assistance, highlight the importance of stockpile security and to explore synergies with other instruments, including the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the International Tracing Instrument and the UN Firearms Protocol.

This year in particular provides an unprecedented opportunity to bridge the work being done in the context of the ATT with that of the UNPoA. The Seventh Biennial Meeting of States Parties of the Programme of Action will include two agenda items relevant to our thematic discussions this year -- one that considers ongoing efforts on how to prevent and combat diversion and illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons, and another that will review international cooperation and assistance in these areas. Control Arms encourages all ATT stakeholders to follow the BMS7 this year as the discussions there may inform and enhance work on the ATT CSP7 thematic focus.

The President's thematic focus also serves to encourage ATT States Parties -- exporters, transit states and importers alike -- to consider stockpile security in the context of mitigation measures. Control Arms encourages the sub-Working Group on Article 11 to fully consider stockpile security and management both under discussions on "assessing the risk of diversion" scheduled to take place later this week and in later discussions scheduled during the CSP8 cycle.

Control Arms also encourages the newly-formed Diversion Information Exchange Forum to include the role of stockpile security in its closed discussions and in its regular updates to this

sub-working group. In particular, it would be useful to learn from examples of actual cases when mitigation measures proved effective to combat diversion, as well as cases when these measures may not have achieved their intended purpose.

Control Arms welcomes the four recommendations set out in the President's Paper and encourages States Parties to take them forward beyond the CSP7 cycle, either as part of the sub-Working Group on Article 11 or in a special session dedicated to implementing the recommendations of CSP Presidencies. As ever, Control Arms and its members stand ready to work with the Presidency in developing its thematic focus further.

Thank you for your attention.