



## **PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES** **United Nations Member States**

Permanent Mission of the Independent State of  
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### **Statement by**

**H.E. Mr Robert G. Aisi**  
**Permanent Representative**  
**of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and**  
**Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)**  
**to the United Nations**

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**  
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**Mr. President,**

**I congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of the Conference and pledge the support of the Delegations of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States represented here at the United Nations namely, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and my own country Papua New Guinea. We are also honored to be joined by Timor-Leste.**

**We align ourselves with the statement delivered today by the Delegation of Mexico on behalf of the 106 UN member states and would like to add to that list another 8 members.**

**Mr. President,**

**Like other Delegations, the PSIDS and Timor-Leste will continue to strongly support the process of negotiating a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty and which will establish "... the highest possible common international standards for the international transfer of conventional arms".**

**We again re-iterate our strong call for the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in a final Arms Trade Treaty. Other Delegations especially those from many developing states have noted the horrible, adverse effects of the illegal use of small arms and light weapons. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons continue to pose serious challenges to the effective maintenance of law and order and to our national security. More importantly, the illicit trade and illegal use of small arms and light weapons continue to hamper the progress in meeting our development goals**

**Our Group therefore looks forward to the conclusion of a legally binding arms trade treaty which would establish common international standards to regulate and monitor the trade in conventional arms – including small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.**

**Mr. President,**

**We are mindful that effective implementation of obligations will require capacity-building, assistance in the establishment of national regulatory and monitoring systems as well as having an effective legislative framework and support for inclusion in a final Treaty.**

**We support the call by others for international assistance to ensure fulfillment of our obligations under a final Treaty. To this end, we support the establishment of an implementation support unit under the proposed Treaty to match needs with resources as well as act as a repository for reports.**

**While agreeing to the merits of regional-based reporting, including “nil reporting”, standardized formats, among others, we would note the importance of individual country reporting as a means of assessing the effectiveness of the proposed Treaty. We realize that the strength and effectiveness of the Treaty will depend very much on how transparent and accountable states are in their reporting.**

**Mr. President,**

**We look forward to working with other like-minded countries as we head into negotiations in the coming days in the hope that a strong and effective Arms Trade Treaty is concluded**

**Thank you.**