

Remarks for
HON. EVAN P. GARCIA
Undersecretary for Policy
On the Occasion of the
High Level Event in Support of the Progress towards
the ATT's entry into force and implementation
25 September 2013, ECOSOC Chamber

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the Philippines is proud to announce that it signed the Arms Trade Treaty at this morning's treaty event and now the next logical step, which is that of ratification will be pursued. My delegation has always been supportive of the efforts of all delegations as far as the negotiation of this crucial document and now that we have it, the Philippines will assist in efforts to push for its early entry into force. Fifty ratifications seems like a significant number, but I do believe this number of ratifications will be achieved in no time. It is also important that any treaty have a good number of parties before entry into force, otherwise it will be an empty obligation. This is why my country supported calls during the negotiations last March 2013 to have a large, yet reasonable number of ratifications for entry into force and yet avoid a CTBT like Annex 2 list of major arms producing States.

Negotiating the ATT was a long arduous process. Amb. Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina deserves great praise for the groundwork he laid down, which I am certain greatly benefited my former colleague in Geneva, Amb. Peter Woolcott of Australia last March 2013 when he came up with the version of the ATT that we supported and voted for at the Special Session of the UNGA on 2 April 2013. I recall Amb. Jo Adamson of the UK stated at the closing of the 2013 March Final ATT Conference that it was merely "success deferred" when the ATT was not adopted by that conference and indeed her words rang true for only a few days later, the treaty was adopted overwhelmingly by the UNGA with a vote of 154 in favor, 23 abstentions, and 3 votes against. A clear signal that the Philippines and majority of UN members believe in the objectives and goals of the ATT. Furthermore the negotiation of the ATT, showed the world that the disarmament community can achieve a measure of success and that there are alternative means to negotiate treaties of crucial import. The ATT has given us the blueprint on how other disarmament treaties can be negotiated.

The uncontrolled and unregulated trade in conventional arms, specifically the arms covered in the scope of the ATT have been used to devastating effect with dire humanitarian consequences. One need only look at the current global landscape to realize that the ATT must enter into force at the soonest possible time.

For its part the Philippines is working with the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Nepal on the possibility of hosting a regional meeting on the ATT entry into force. Negotiations are on-going and will hopefully have a positive result and

the country in coordination with UNRCPD will be able to host the regional meeting in November 2013.

In closing, I wish to assure delegations of the Philippines' continued support for the ATT and would like to acknowledge the tremendous work done by the governments of Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom in making the ATT a reality.