

(Non-Paper)

**Summary of the informal consultation on the issue of regional representation
under the Management Committee**

Background

The Third Conference to the Arms Trade Treaty recognized that the difference in approaches to regional representation in the appointment of vice-Presidents and the Management Committee requires further discussion and clarification during the informal preparatory process leading up to the Fourth Conference of States Parties with a view to resolving this and other issues related to the Terms of Reference of the Management Committee at the Fourth Conference of States parties, and thus, it requested the Presidency to allocate sufficient time to these discussions during the informal preparatory process of the Fourth Conference of States Parties (ATT/CSP3/2017/SEC/184/Conf/FinRep.Rev1).

First CSP4 Informal Preparatory meeting

Pursuant to the CSP3 decision, the first CSP4 informal preparatory meeting exchanged views on the issue with a view to identifying options for further consideration. During this meeting, it was agreed that a small group of states be established to further discuss the issue, explore options and make proposals to the second CSP4 preparatory meeting on 01 June 2018 for consideration.

Summary of the informal consultation

Against the above background, the informal consultation was held on 9 May 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Those who expressed views on the issue at the First CSP4 informal Preparatory Meeting and Signatory States and States Parties to the ATT who belong to the Asia-Pacific Group of the United Nations Regional Groups (<http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml>) were invited to the informal consultation. The meeting was attended by representatives of 13 States together with ATT Secretariat.

During the meeting, different views were expressed including those related to necessity, benefits and implications of reviewing the Management Committee's Terms of Reference to the ATT process. The elements listed below were, amongst others, put forward for further exploration, discussion and assessment during further consultation on this issue. The elements are listed in the order in which they were raised during the consultation:

- a. It was proposed that CSP4 consider adopting a decision formulated along the following lines :
"The Conference decided that, for the purpose of paragraph 2 of the Terms of the Reference of the Management Committee, Australia and New Zealand will be considered as part of the Asia-Pacific UN regional group instead of the Western European and Other Group.";
- b. It was proposed that geographical balance rather than political groupings be considered and applied in the operation of the Management Committee;
- c. It was proposed that expansion of members of the Management Committee in order to provide for increased representation be considered;
- d. It was proposed that the establishment of consistency between the way in which Officers of the Conference are elected (Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure) and the way in which members of the Management Committee are designated (para 2 of the Terms of Reference of the Management Committee) be examined;

- e. It was proposed that the Terms of Reference for the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (“ensuring diverse representation” (para 6 of the ToR of the VTF)) could be considered as one of the options to address this issue.

On the elements a) c), and d) above, some countries expressed their oppositions and concerns.

The way forward

The President proposed that the summary of the consultation be reported to the Second CSP4 informal Preparatory Meeting for further consideration among all participating States. In view of the apparent need to further explore and assess each of the elements mentioned above, the President referred to a possibility of a second round of informal consultation on the issue. Participants in the small group meeting looked forward to a full discussion of the issue at the Second CSP4 informal Preparatory Meeting.