**ATT Working Group Meetings**

**Geneva February 2025**

**Australia - Intervention on Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Gender Focal Points**

Facilitator

Thank you for the opportunity to share Australia’s perspective.

The ATT was ground-breaking as the first legally binding treaty to recognise links between the arms trade and gender-based violence.

We welcome this effort to focus on practical implementation of Article 7 (4) of the Treaty.

Australia, when assessing a relevant proposed export, assesses the risk that the items could be used to commit or facilitate gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.

When assessing this risk, Australia draws on a range of information sources to make these arms export decisions. These may include, for example: open source information; reporting from our overseas network; briefings by country partners, international organisations, NGOs and individuals; and intelligence.

As we have previously discussed, coordinated action by multiple government agencies is essential if the ATT is to be implemented effectively.

Australia continues to encourage an efficient and readily accessible set of resources for States considering how to implement this requirement of the ATT.

Turning now to the gender focal point proposal, I wish to thank Mexico for your important work promoting gender, diversity and inclusion in the Arms Trade Treaty.

We also thank Mexico for hosting the informal conversation on ‘addressing barriers to women’s full, meaningful, equal and effective participation at ATT Meetings’ on Monday 24 February 2025, and the participating entities – ATT Secretariat, UNIDIR, Control Arms, ATT Monitor and Small Arms Survey – for the valuable expertise they bring to this issue.

We are pleased to see gender attracting increasing attention in the ATT – both in terms of levels of participation, as well as understanding gendered impacts and analysis.

In this regard, we welcome the initiative presented by Mexico at this ATT Working Group meeting on enhancing gender equality in the ATT.  Australia is pleased to support Mexico’s proposal to establish gender focal points in the ATT.

We are encouraged by the widespread support for this proposal which demonstrates that States Parties recognise the institutional strength that diversity delivers.

In our view, this proposal helpfully highlights a number of very concrete, practical actions that States Parties could undertake to strengthen our collective efforts in this area.

Australia looks forward to further discussions on the possible role of gender focal points.

I thank you.