

The Arms Trade Treaty
Avenue de France 23
CH-1202 Geneva
27 January 2022

To : Representatives of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of Signatory States to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of Observer States to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of International and Regional Organizations.
: Representatives of Civil Society, NGOs and Industry.

Dear Distinguished Representatives,

ANNOUNCEMENT: CONFIRMATION OF THE FORMAT OF THE FIRST SERIES OF MEETINGS FOR THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

1. I refer to my letter of 18 January 2022 to all ATT stakeholders outlining the options for the format of first series of meetings scheduled for 15-18 February 2022 and the process for determining the format of the meetings.
2. At my request, between 18 and 25 January 2022, the vice-Presidents held consultations with their regional groups on the draft options outlined in the letter to gauge their views and preferences. I then held a virtual meeting with all ATT Office Holders on 26 January 2022 to give the vice-Presidents an opportunity to share feedback from their consultations and discuss and agree the proposed format of the February meetings.
3. I write to inform you that there was unanimous support for the proposal to hold the February meetings in hybrid format (whereby some delegates will be physically present at the conference venue (CICG) and other delegates will participate virtually). Accordingly, I am pleased to announce that the first series of CSP8 meetings taking place from 15-18 February 2022 will be in **hybrid format**.
4. It was not considered necessary to make the determination on the format of the February meetings via silence procedure for the following reasons: it is still possible for delegates to participate in the meetings *in person* at the venue announced in my letter of 22 November 2021 issued pursuant to the CSP7 decision, if they so choose, and the decision to hold the meeting in a format that permits *in person* and *virtual* participation expands the modalities or options for participation, it does not restrict or limit them (as a virtual meeting arguably does). In addition, States Parties already agreed that a Conference of States Parties (CSP7 in fact) could be held in hybrid format. The February meetings are Working Groups meetings and an Informal Preparatory meeting, not a *Conference* of States Parties, per se. While such meetings have been held in person in past years, this is not required under the ATT Rules of Procedure. Accordingly, while it was important to hold a transparent and inclusive process to determine the preferred format of the February meetings, it was not a decision requiring adoption by Conference via silence procedure.
5. As I indicated in my letter of 18 January 2022, a hybrid meeting would necessitate an adjustment of time to accommodate all regions to some extent. The preference expressed during the meeting with ATT Office Holders on 26 January 2022 was to adopt the same session times as CSP7.

Accordingly, the meeting sessions will be held from 13:00 – 16:00 (Geneva local time). A schedule of meetings is attached, reflecting these session times.

6. The documents for the meetings, including session agendas, and the link to the virtual platform will be communicated to all ATT stakeholders in due course.

7. As our focus now turns towards the forthcoming meetings and the substantive work ahead, I wish you well in your preparations and look forward to engaging with you in the first series of CSP8 meetings in February.

8. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Göbel', is written over a light blue circular watermark.

Ambassador Thomas GÖBEL
President: Eighth Conference of States Parties to the ATT

ANNEX A



27 January 2022
 Issued by: the **ATT Secretariat**

SCHEDULE OF WG MEETINGS & 1st CSP8 INFORMAL PREPARATORY MEETING: 15-18 FEBRUARY 2022

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | |
|--------------------|--------|---|---|------------|--|--------------------|
| 13:00 – 14:30 | | WGETI Sub-working Group on Articles 6&7 | WGETI Sub-working Group on Article 11 | WGTR | 1 st CSP8 Informal Preparatory Meeting | 13:00 – 14:30 |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | | WGETI Sub-working Group on Article 9 | WGTR | WGTR | 1 st CSP8 Informal Preparatory Meeting | 14:30 – 16:00 |
| SIDE EVENTS | | <i>tbc</i> | <i>tbc</i> | <i>tbc</i> | <i>tbc</i> | SIDE EVENTS |