**IHLYI**  **Statement- Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI)**

Thank you

The International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHLYI) a youth-led social movement founded in 2018 by young professionals amplifies grassroots voices to promote human rights and humanitarian law, while empowering youth to engage in global advocacy around international humanitarian law.

We appreciate the continued discussion on Article 7(4) of the Treaty, and would like to draw attention to three practical gaps in the current voluntary guidance, particularly in relation to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV):

1. Lack of operational steps for integrating CRSV risk assessments into national licensing systems.
2. Insufficient analytical indicators and sources to identify GBV risks, including underutilization of UN reports and international monitoring mechanisms.
3. Limited linkage between the ATT and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms, despite evident overlaps in their implementation pathways.

These gaps are not theoretical; they have direct, real-world consequences such as rampant arms proliferation, bombardment, and the use of small arms in perpetuating sexual violence.

Based on this, we recommend the following:

* Develop an updated guidance that incorporates specific procedures and practical indicators for assessing CRSV risks under Article 7(4), with concrete examples.
* Engage local actors, including civil society organizations working with survivors, in drafting and updating this guidance.
* Strengthen integration between the ATT and the UN PoA on Small Arms to enable a unified preventive approach.

As a youth-led initiative, in partnership with IANSA and with support from the European Union, we are committed to raising awareness on this issue. Next month, during the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, we will launch a campaign entitled “For Her Safety and Wellbeing”, focused on the gendered impact of arms on women and vulnerable communities.

We believe that advancing Treaty implementation starts with acknowledging field-level challenges and closing technical gaps through inclusive and evidence-based policies.

Thank you.