



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA



Arms Trade Treaty
Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation
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The Philippines commends the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI) for its commendable efforts in crafting a guide to facilitate the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in particular the element on Gender-Based Violence. This invaluable resource is poised to serve as a practical tool for State Parties, aiding them in effectively addressing emerging challenges related to arms diversion. As a relatively recent entrant to the ATT, the Philippines anticipates significant benefits from the guide's insights. Moreover, it is anticipated that the guide will prove particularly advantageous for countries currently in the process of ratifying the ATT, ensuring that their strategies and initiatives align with established international practices. Also, this guide can function as a comprehensive document for benchmarking best practices, enabling countries to assess their adherence to global standards and identify state-specific practices where applicable.





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In line with the risk assessment under Article 7 of the ATT, the Philippines, in particular the DTI-STMO, develops its risk assessment matrix to assign corresponding numerical risk ratings. Depending on the overall risk associated with the transaction, the assessment results in either an authorization with normal license conditions; an authorization with special conditions, in which the condition is based on the factor where the overall risk is considerably high; a risk rating prompting an interagency consultative process; and lastly, a risk rating that results to a decision of denial. The risk assessment matrix provides a uniform and objective method of assessing a license application that balances trade and security.

The overall risk assessment is the intersection of technical and policy recommendations. For the technical recommendation, the licensing officer with technical expertise mainly evaluates the goods to be exported in terms of their associated proliferation risks relative to the technical capacity of the exporter, and the nature, quantity, and stated technical end-use of the commodity vis-à-vis its ease to be weaponized. Meanwhile, the accompanying policy risk assessment evaluates the risks of diversion in terms of the end-user and its affiliates/intermediaries and the intended country of destination to consider such as internal peace and security status and records of humanitarian and human rights violations and the legitimacy of the entities involved in a strategic transaction. Such risk assessment matrix may also be developed by States to objectively assess the probability and severity or likelihood and impact of risk.



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Further, the Philippines support the idea of the voluntary guide being a dynamic document in order to adapt to the evolving threats presented by arms diversion. In connection with this, the Philippines proposes incorporating samples of red flag indicators into the document, such as significant discrepancies between the quantity of arms requested and the historical demand or typical usage patterns for the recipient country or end-user or unexplained diversion routes, or submission of inconsistent documentation. This is to identify potential high-risk or suspicious activities related to arms transfers and allow timely intervention and prevention measures to mitigate the risk of arms diversion.