
Arms Trade Treaty
Second Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 22 – 26 August 2016

WORKING PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY

In the Final Report of the Working Group on Reporting Templates (ATT/CSP2/2016/WP.6), the Group recommends that the Conference of States Parties consider establishing a Working Group with a mandate to work with issues in the area of reporting and transparency.

Rationale

The text of the Arms Trade Treaty states, as one of its purposes, "*Promoting transparency by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms, thereby building confidence among States Parties*" (Article 1). The Treaty also contains reporting obligations that are mandatory for States Parties (Article 13).

Already in the preparatory phase for the first Conference of States Parties, an *ad hoc* working group was created to work on the issue of reporting templates in the context of Articles 13.1 and 13.3. In the absence of a final result at CSP1, this work was continued, and at the Extraordinary Meeting of CSP2 in February this year the Working Group was formalized and provided with Terms of Reference. These were limited to the task of proposing reporting templates. The Group's Final Report to CSP2 (referenced above) recognizes that beyond the templates themselves, other measures could be taken to promote States Parties' fulfilment of their reporting obligations. Several such measures are included among the Group's recommendations.

In the course of future work among the States Parties it is likely that, in line with perceived needs, further measures will be required to support mandatory reporting, and that other issues related to transparency will be raised. It is therefore suggested that States Parties at CSP2 create a general Working Group on Transparency and Reporting that can intersessionally prepare these types of questions for States Parties' consideration at the regular CSPs. The predictability inherent in creating such a Group would hopefully allow for participation by individuals with relevant expertise.

At the same time, it is felt that such a Group should not play an independent role, but be focused on specific tasks formulated by the Conference of States Parties.

Proposed Terms of Reference

Mandate

1. The Working Group on Transparency and Reporting shall undertake tasks defined by the Conference of States Parties in the general area indicated by its title. As a rule, the purpose of such work shall be to prepare materials and proposals for the Conference of States Parties.

Membership and composition

2. The Informal Working Group on Transparency and Reporting shall be open to participation by States Parties, signatory States, and observers to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Second Conference of States Parties. At the request of a State Party, and in accordance with Rule 43, a particular session or part of a session of the Group may be limited to States Parties only. Experts may be invited to attend such a session or part of a session, pursuant to Rule 42.2 of the Rules of Procedure.

Working methods

3. The Chair of the Working Group shall be appointed by the Conference for a period of one working year (from CSP to CSP).
4. Although a Chair shall always be appointed, the Group will be convened only when there are tasks defined by the Conference of States Parties to work on.
5. The Working Group shall primarily hold its meetings in Geneva, where the meetings can be supported by the Secretariat of the Treaty.
6. The working language of the Group shall be English.
7. Meetings may be complemented by intersessional work conducted by posting proposals and comments on the website of the Treaty. If a closed session or topic has been agreed, communications pertaining to the confidential aspects of that session or topic may be posted in the secure area of the website.

Budgetary implications

8. Direct meeting costs, such as for technical support and documentation, will be covered by the resources allocated for the conduct of meetings in the budget of the Conference of States Parties. Indirect meeting costs, such as for travel and accommodation, will be borne by the participants.
