

ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization
Co-chairs' Summary Report of meeting held on 9 February 2017

Introduction

The ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU) held its first meeting on 9 February 2017 in Geneva, at the WMO building, the premises of the ATT Secretariat. See the attached Draft Agenda, Initial Work Plan, and Annex to the Initial Work Plan (Working Paper Promotion of Arms Trade Treaty Universalization (ATT/CSP2/2016/WP.4/Rev.1) ('Working Paper')).

The WGTU meeting was attended by representatives of 70 States, 3 international organisations and 12 civil society organisations.

The work of the WGTU was guided by the Draft Agenda and Initial Work Plan developed by the WGTU Co-chairs, as well as the Annex to the Initial Work Plan (Working Paper *Promotion of Arms Trade Treaty Universalization* (ATT/CSP2/2016/WP.4/Rev.1) ('Working Paper')).

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss treaty universalization with a view to determining the best approach for taking the issue forward using the Initial Work Plan provided by the Co-chairs as a basis for planning the work ahead. Additionally, an update on the current status of participation in the ATT – the number of States Parties and Signatories – was provided by the Head of Secretariat.

Discussion

The WGTU is mandated to generate and share views and implementation measures on Treaty universalization. It is also tasked with leading the process of harmonising thoughts on the issue of universalization with a view to determining the best approach for taking the issue forward.

In the Co-chairs' view, the sense of the meeting was that there is continued support for the suggested approaches to promoting ATT universalization outlined in the Working Paper, namely:

1. Creating a momentum towards more ratifications by setting ratification/accession targets;
2. Utilising every opportunity for High Level statements on the ATT;
3. Establishing a working group on universalization;
4. Rotating the regional focus of universalization each year;
5. Making universalization materials easily available, and in multiple languages;
6. Role of Regional Organizations;
7. Producing region-specific policy resources;
8. Coordinating with Civil Society.

These elements should inform the development of the work plan for the Group. There was also a sense among meeting participants of a need for the WGTU to unpack the elements and identify and prioritize outreach activities to be carried out at the international, regional and national levels. This includes identifying relevant partners and agencies to engage in universalization activities, such as UN agencies, regional organisations, parliamentarians, and civil society. It also involves identifying and grouping the states that have not ratified the Treaty according to their levels of support for and interest in the ATT, and designing and implementing universalization outreach activities and strategies according to the different groupings identified.

The WGTU is still in an exploratory phase of its work. One of the considerations that needs to be factored into its work and deliberations is how to ensure the continuity and sustainability of universality efforts throughout the life of the Treaty.

In attachment 4, the Co-chairs' attempt to capture the result of the discussion held on the work of the WGTU is presented in the form of a revised Initial Work Plan.

Process forward

The Co-chairs will circulate the draft work plan for comments prior to the next meeting of the WGTU. A final draft incorporating any comments received will be circulated prior to the next meeting of the WGTU.

In the Co-chairs' assessment, it would be desirable to hold a second meeting of the WGTU before the CSP3 Informal Preparatory Meeting to be held in Geneva on Thursday 1st June. This meeting would be devoted to the discussion of the draft work plan that will be circulated by the Co-chairs prior to the meeting and finalizing a proposal for a CSP3 decision covering the WGTU's work in the period between CSP3 and CSP4. An exact meeting date will be announced by the Presidency of CSP3 against the background of the overall demand for meeting time.
