

**Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP 2018)
Tokyo, Japan 20 - 24 August 2018**

Daily Summary: Day 4 (Thursday, 23 August 2018)

This session began with a presentation from Germany as Chair of the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) Selection Committee and Dumisani Dladla as Head of the ATT Secretariat on the current status of the VTF.

According to the report presented by Germany, the VTF received contributions worth \$6.5 million from 14 States (Argentina, Australia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) from all regions of the world since its first call for contributions. Germany also provided updates regarding the activities carried out by the VTF committee, including the drafting and testing of the VTF Guidance for the Selection Process, the implementation of an outreach strategy developed in partnership with the ATT Secretariat as well as the decision to hire a part-time consultant at a P2 level which will assist the ATT Secretariat with the administration of the Fund.

The VTF Management Committee put forward for consideration and endorsement by the CSP 2018 the following recommendations that will enable them to further enhance the effectiveness of VTF:

1. Takes note of the VTF Report
2. Adopts the recommended changes to the [VTF Terms of Reference](#)
3. Takes note of the [Guidance for the Selection of Project Proposals](#)
4. The VTF seeks to improve further work through the development of "Guidance for VTF Project Evaluation" Evaluation' and further guidance material for potential VTF applicants.
5. Welcomes further outreach activities in next intersessional period

As this is the last report compiled by the current VTF Selection Committee, a new Selection Committee will be established tomorrow.

There have now been two funding cycles, during which the VTF approved 15 project proposals worth \$1.3 million in 2017 and 10 project proposals worth \$834,000 in 2018. Of these, 20 projects included implementing partners from international organizations (6 projects), regional organizations (2 projects) and nongovernmental organizations (12 projects).

Nineteen governments, the EU and ECOWAS and three NGOs took the floor during this session and commended the VTF on its excellent work. A few states also pledged to provide support to the VTF in 2019: Australia, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Finland, Austria, Mexico. New Zealand, the UK, Norway, Japan and Mexico also expressed interest in remaining involved in or joining the VTF Selection Committee:

Australia raised the importance of cooperation with civil society, and mentioned their support to Control Arms' ATT Monitor project and the Small Arms Survey Transparency Barometer, two important analytical tools for monitoring the Treaty's implementation. Other states, especially beneficiary states including Paraguay, Guatemala stressed the important role that civil society can play as implementing partners. Guatemala, Colombia and Mexico also stressed the role of and assistance from UN regional centers, particularly UNLIREC.

States also lent their support to the changes made to the VTF Terms of Reference (South Africa, Switzerland, Germany and Mexico) and the recommendations put forward by the VTF Selection Committee (South Africa, New Zealand, Switzerland, Germany and Finland), including the [Guidance for the Selection of Project Proposals](#). These States also welcomed the proposal to hire an additional staff to assist the ATT Secretariat with the administration of the Fund.

A few statements, including the intervention made by Control Arms, stressed the importance of avoiding any duplication of work between the VTF, UNSCAR and the EU ATT Outreach Project. Control Arms called on donor States to make additional funds available for ATT implementation directly to civil society organizations as civil society organization are not able to apply to the VTF directly. Control Arms stressed the importance of obtaining feedback from those whose applications were unsuccessful as well as those whose projects were approved and to consider simplifying the current reporting requirements.

The UNDP gave a detailed presentation about the status of the ATT Sponsorship Program, which received funding from 13 states. The Program enabled the participation of 109 representatives, including 8 from civil society this year. UNDP developed a list of lessons learned which is included in the year's [Report to CSP 2018](#).

Matters Pertaining to the ATT Secretariat

Dumisani Dladla as Head of the ATT Secretariat provided an overview of the functions and activities carried out by the ATT Secretariat which included financial management, administrative support, executed the decisions by CSP 2017, support the preparatory process for CSP 2018, provide support to the working groups. A [report](#) was put forward for adoption by the CSP 2018.

Panama presented the [Report of the Management Committee](#) which is formed by Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Panama and Japan. Sweden's mandate on the Management Committee will end after the CSP 2018 and will be replaced by the Netherlands. The activities of the Management Committee over the past year include: development of programme of work for the year, oversaw preparation of invoices, oversight over all aspects of procurement process for IT system, development of detailed proposal for review of arrangements for sponsorship programme, conducted regular oversight of finances in terms of income and expenditure, oversaw the calculation and allocation of uncommitted funds according to the decision of CSP 2017, developed proposal on possible measures to address the problem of unpaid financial contributions.

The President also invited states to consider the provisional budget provided to states in advance of the meeting. The Czech Republic presented the [Management Committee Report on the ATT Sponsorship Program](#) which includes a review of the Sponsorship Program and a recommendation to transfer the administrative responsibility of the Sponsorship Programme to the ATT Secretariat.

Nine States took the floor during this session. Six countries (Costa Rica, Switzerland, Latvia, Japan, South Africa, New Zealand) as well as Control Arms supported the proposal to transfer the responsibilities of the Sponsorship Fund to the ATT Secretariat. As Mexico and Guatemala expressed concern over the burden this additional workload would place on the ATT Secretariat, the CSP 2018 President emphasized that as the ATT Secretariat is mandated with organizing ATT-related meetings, having a role in the Sponsorship Programme is a natural progression.

Regarding the budget presented by the Management Committee, Japan stressed the importance of accountability and welcomed the first external audit while Mexico stressed that more rigidity in the management of funds is need and recommended that minutes from the meetings of the Management Committee be circulated with States Parties.

Financial Matters

Dumisani Dladla provided an overview of the financial contributions as well as a budget estimate for the year ahead which comes to USD 975,927.

Sweden presented a “draft proposal on unpaid contributions” which recommends that a reserve fund is considered in the upcoming period. Recommendations include tasking the ATT Secretariat and the Management Committee with the implementation of the administrative measures to address some of the causes of delay and non-payment of contributions; explore the feasibility of establishing a reserve fund during the CSP 2019 and mandate the Management Committee to undertake further work and prepare a detailed proposal to address the problem of financial contributions including possible sanctions for delay and non-payment to be addressed at CSP 2019.

15 governments as well as the European Union took the floor to express their concern about the fact that a significant number of States Parties have not met their financial obligations. The EU stressed the importance of having the right skills and knowledge to help in this context and recommended solutions that would build the capacity of the Management Committee including its enlargement. Belgium welcomed the proposal but expressed concern about the flexibility on the exchange rate and states’ ability to pay in their national currency which might create structural deficits. Belgium recommended increased outreach efforts, not only to administrative people but to those with a political role as well. The UK noted that it cannot support the proposal for a reserve fund as it might create a disincentive for states to pay. France, Switzerland were in

favor of applying sanctions in those states that have not made their financial contributions while South Africa, Guatemala, Brazil and Mexico oppose the proposal.

Side Events

Five side events were held during the 4th day of the CSP. No side events will be held tomorrow.

In the morning, PAX, the Stimson Center and UNIDIR held a side event on “The Arms Trade Treaty and Armed Drones: Transparency and Control”. This event discuss how the ATT includes drones and whether current risk assessments, control lists, and definitions are sufficient to ensure proper controls over unmanned technologies. The event launched a new report produced by the Stimson Center on the ATT and drones as well as the PAX report "Unmanned Ambitions" on upcoming military drone producers and proliferation.

During lunchtime, Control Arms and the government of Cameroon which discussed “Opportunities and Challenges in the Implementation of the ATT”. The panelists share information about recent activities and events which aimed to support the effective implementation of the ATT around the world. Ana Yancy Espinoza of Arias Foundation provided information about two capacity building workshops for Latin American and Caribbean states. Similarly, Eugene Ngalim of Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace provided information and lessons learned from his successful VTF-funded work in Cameroon. Elizabeth Kirkham of Saferworld introduced the ATT Informal Expert Group briefing on “Undertaking an arms transfer risk assessment”. Scarlet Chemarum from the Kenya National Debate Council discussed the role of youth in the implementation and promotion of the ATT in East and Horn of Africa.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy organized a side event titled “Post-shipment verifications – a new instrument of weapons export control” during which it presented its selective post shipment verifications/control. This a novel approach to the implementation of the ATT aims to bring clearer regulations in Germany’s arms export control system and promote more transparency in the global arms trade.

Hosted by Belgium, Flemish Peace Institute and CAR the “Strengthening ATT implementation by better understanding diversion risks” side event began with the Flemish Peace Institute sharing work that analysed variations in EU member states use of end user certificates and non re-transfer agreements, and the implication of this in relation to diversion. Key findings of the CAR report “Weapons of the Islamic State” were presented. This report was the result of more than three years of field investigation into Islamic State supply chains. It presents an analysis of more than 40,000 items recovered from the group between 2014 and 2017. The final presentation looked at illicit gun markets and firearms acquisition of Terrorist Networks in Europe. “Triggering Terror” was published by the Flemish Peace Institute in April 2018.

The side event on “Exploring Synergies between the Implementation of the ATT and UN Arms Embargoes” organised by United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR),

control arms

Argentina, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Conflict Armament Research (CAR) discussed potential synergies between the implementation of the ATT and United Nations arms embargoes. Panelists from Germany, Japan, Argentina, Switzerland shared information about their national policies and processes regarding arms embargoes. UNIDIR and CAR shared case studies and provided recommendations including enforcement of arms embargoes, ensuring safeguards as well as verification mechanisms.