Daily Summary: Day 2 (Tuesday, 27 August 2019)
Day 2 of CSP5 included several sessions: one on the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF), a second that continued the General Debate from Day 1, and a session that began discussions of Treaty Implementation and the work of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation this year. In addition, Day 2 included five side events, covering topics spanning diversion; women, peace, and security; the EU Outreach Programme; the responsibilities of the defense sector; and how to apply for VTF funding.

Financial Assistance: The Voluntary Trust Fund
Tuesday began with a session on financial assistance, focused on the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF). This session was initially scheduled for later in the week, but was moved earlier to accommodate diplomats’ shifting schedules.

The VTF session began with a presentation by Mr. Bruno Paulus, the outgoing chairperson of the VTF. He introduced the Oral Report of the VTF for the 2018-2019 period. He noted that since its establishment, the VTF has received more than USD 8,1 Million, and that the Fund has approved nearly 50 projects to date.

After Mr. Paulus’s presentation, Head of Secretariat Dumisani Dladla reported that 21 states had contributed to the VTF so far, and encouraged more states to contribute. Numerous states spoke up on the importance of all States Parties contributing to the Fund, and Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, the Netherlands, and the European Union raised concerns regarding adequate funding. Several states, including the Netherlands and South Korea, spoke in support of the VTF, noting its importance and renewing their commitments to contribute financial resources to the Fund. Many states praised the VTF’s success to date, including Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and South Africa.

NGOs also spoke in support of the VTF. Mr. Stepen Singo of Security Research and Information Centre, speaking on behalf of the Control Arms Coalition, stressed the importance of VTF contributions in supporting capacity building and technical assistance programs. Control Arms also encouraged the VTC Committee to consider contributing to civil society-led projects not carried out in partnership with governments.

General Debate
The day then moved on to the continuation of the General Debate that began on Monday afternoon. Many more states contributed to the General Debate, and addressed a wide variety of themes.

Many states reiterated their appreciation of CSP5’s thematic focus on gender and gender-based violence.
Several states, including the European Union and Spain, noted their concerns about challenges extending the Treaty’s universalization in certain world regions. Germany and the Netherlands both spoke about the importance of improving the rate at which States Parties comply with their reporting obligations under the ATT, while the Netherlands especially highlighted the importance of public, transparent reporting. Many states, including Singapore, Barbados, Romania, Ireland, and others, specifically noted the importance of transparency in the effective implementation of the Treaty.

A number of states, including Senegal, Nigeria, and Namibia, noted that the implementation of the ATT will result in increased peace and security and recognized that the unregulated trade of weapons negatively affects peaceful societies and fuels organized crime and terrorism.

The European Union and Macedonia mentioned the effect that the proper implementation of the ATT could have on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; several other states echoed the relationship of the ATT to the SDGs.

Several states, including Romania, expressed their regret that some of the biggest global importers and exporters of weapons are not States Parties to the treaty, which serves as a reminder of the importance of universalization for the ATT to reach its full potential.

Several small Pacific island states mentioned the challenges they face in implementing the Treaty given their limited resources, but noted their appreciation for implementation support from other States Parties and reiterated their commitment to the Treaty given the harms of illicit arms transfers to the Pacific region.

Representatives of civil society reminded states that the Arms Trade Treaty sets minimum (not maximum) standards, encouraged states to go beyond the Treaty’s requirements, and stressed the importance of transparency and information sharing in maximizing the treaty’s impact. Alimzhan Akhmetov of Center for International Security and Policy, speaking on behalf of Control Arms, called upon all states to fulfill the ATT’s promise of reducing human suffering. States Parties must adopt the highest possible standards and establish the most rigorous systems for arms transfer control while ensuring faithful implementation of the ATT in its entirety. His statement also welcomed the decision of some states, such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland to restrict their armed exports to warring parties in the Yemen conflict.

**Treaty Implementation**

The Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI) Chair presented this year’s report on Articles 5, 6, 7, and 11 and laid out its recommendations and findings. The Chair noted the substantial progress made by the Sub-Working Group on Article 5, and then noted that the work on Articles 6 and 7 had made progress developing the understanding of gender-based violence and violations of international human rights law.
Several states, including Switzerland and South Africa, expressed their support for closing the world of the Sub-Working Group on Article 5, and recommended continuing work on Articles 6, 7, and 11 while opening a new workstream on Article 9.

All states who made statements during this session praised WGETI and its Sub-Working Groups, noting that though implementation is an inherently national exercise, the Sub-Working Groups are a useful platform to strengthen treaty implementation.

**Side Events**

In addition to the conference sessions, there were also five side events on Monday.

The first, hosted before the day’s conference sessions began by Japan, the Stimson Center, and Conflict Armament Research, was a stakeholders’ session on diversion. Conflict Armament Research provided an in-depth presentation on its efforts to categorize and track suspected and actual diversion of weapons around the world.

The remaining sessions took place during the lunch break.

The first of the lunch sessions, hosted by the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group, Canada, Ireland, Namibia, and UNIDIR, addressed how to increase synergies between the women, peace, and security agenda, on one hand, and arms control and the ATT, on the other hand. Ms. Christine Hoebes, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia, described the Namibian experience in developing a WPS National Action Plan, a comprehensive and wide-ranging plan which considers security threats, including from climate change and technology as well as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Mr. Daniel de Torres of DCAF stressed that women’s participation needs to go beyond bringing women to the table, to allow women’s perspectives to shape the narrative. Ms. Folade Mutota of the Women’s Institute for Alternative Development highlighted the biennial UN General Assembly First Committee resolution on “Women and disarmament, nonproliferation, and arms control” introduced by Trinidad and Tobago, as a guide to those working in arms control for how to explore synergies with WPS, encourage gender equity and gender mainstreaming in disarmament and arms control discussions.

The second, cohosted by the Voluntary Trust Fund Chairperson and the ATT Secretariat, discussed the ATT’s Voluntary Trust Fund in a practical workshop on how to apply for VTF funding.

The third, hosted by the European Union, discussed the EU Outreach Programme and its achievements, challenges, and best practices in supporting other states in implementing the Arms Trade Treaty.

Finally, the fourth event, hosted by Amnesty International, addressed the human rights responsibilities of arms companies and the defense sector. In this event, Patrick Wilcken of Amnesty International noted that the Defence Sector is not yet involved in widely-accepted UNGP although all companies fall within UNGP framework. All human rights violations that companies are linked to, fall within their responsibility to protect also if companies have not caused or contributed to it. Also, state licensing does
not absolve from companies’ responsibility. Companies are yet very evasive about this and their policies do not reflect it. Aymeric Alluin, of Amnesty International France introduced the “Egypt: How French Arms Were Used To Crush Dissent” report. This case study focuses on French arms used in the Rabaa massacre which saw over 1,000 deaths. Tara Van Ho of University of Essex, argued that a company knowingly sells weapons to a state that is widely reported to violate human rights law and international humanitarian law bears responsibility and should contribute to reparation (in a broad sense of the word – it’s wider than just financial compensation). If it’s less flagrant, there is still an obligation by the company.