Daily Summary: Day 5 (Friday, 30 August 2019)
The final day of CSP5 began with a first reading of the CSP5 final report, with the aim of approving procedural & substantive paragraphs that have immediate consensus. Disagreement was expected on matters pertaining to financial contributions, and a large portion of the day was reserved for informal consultations for states to reach an agreement. African and Latin American states objected to punitive measures for states who had not paid their financial contributions, arguing that many states have financial and procedural obstacles. Others argued that financial contributions are an essential Treaty obligation. The conference came to an end, on time, after having adopted the final report, by consensus.

There were also two side events, one focused on “Examining end-user documentation and its role in preventing diversion”, hosted by the United Kingdom, European Union, Conflict Armament Research and UNIDIR, and another centered on Situating the ATT in the Global Arms Control Context by Oxfam, SOAS University Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD), and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).

Consideration and Adoption of the Final Report of CSP5
The President invited states to show utmost flexibility in order to complete the discussion on time. Most paragraphs of the draft CSP5 final report were easily adopted. However, a number of States Parties suggested changes to paragraph 22.c (recommendations for WGETI on GBV risk assessment criteria), paragraph 23 (VTF), as well as objections to paragraph 29 - 30 (ATT Sponsorship Programme), paragraph 34 (financial contributions). Concerning paragraph 22, an objection from South Africa, supported by New Zealand and Australia, with regards to sub-paragraph c, led to “gender” being replaced with “GBV” and the word “encourage” being added to “discussion”. With these small amendments, the paragraphs of the draft final report containing recommendations on gender and GBV were agreed.

Regarding paragraph 23 about the VTF report, Guatemala and Costa Rica objected to the use of the words “the conference welcomes”, because it objects to paragraph 18 of the Report on the VTF which notes that states who have not met their financial contributions for 2 or more years are unlikely to be selected for funding, by the VTF committee. These states stressing that they cannot accept any sanctions against those who had not paid their financial contributions, and suggested that paragraph 18 in the VTF report be deleted if the CSP5 wishes to “welcome” it in the final report. Mexico and Germany were in favor of keeping the expression “welcoming the work of the VTF” and suggested keeping the text as is. The President asked the delegates to agree to a compromise in which the CSP5 “take[s] note of its Report (contained in document ATT/VTF/2019/CHAIR/531/Conf.Rep) and the different views expressed thereon”.

In paragraph 29, similar to the disagreement with paragraph 23, Guatemala objected to the word “welcoming” the ATT Sponsorship Programme and suggested the deletion of paragraph 2
from annex A. Draft General Principles for selection of delegates to be sponsored by the ATT Sponsorship programme, which notes that “priority will be given to applicants from States who are in compliance with their financial obligations under the ATT”. The Netherlands noted that the selection criteria for the VTF was a compromise following a number of informal consultations over the year and stressed that the point regarding compliance with their financial obligations was important. The Dominican Republic stated that penalizing countries who didn’t fulfill their financial requirements would lead to the ATT being a very exclusive club.

Similarly, a number of states expressed dissatisfaction with the language in paragraph 34, which expresses “deep concern about the unpaid contributions of States and called on States that have not done so to address their financial obligations in a prompt and timely manner”. Costa Rica urged the ATT Secretariat to look for a feasible solution for States based on their national circumstances. Ghana raised concern over the lack of a clear guidance on implementation of financial contributions, and suggested that clarification should be given regarding how the States can approach the ATT Secretariat and under what circumstance can States be exempted from the contributions. Mexico cautioned not to mix Paragraph 34 with the financial rules, since the paragraph is rather irrelevant to the issues previously discussed.

Although Paragraph 36 had been adopted by consensus, Poland warned that organizing preparatory meetings for CSP6, back-to-back with other disarmament bodies will make it difficult for delegation to prepare adequately. In response, the President noted the limited availability of venues in geneva as well as the issue of increased costs for meetings outside the CSP process. He also pointed to the working paper from Mexico and Costa Rica on working methods and urged the Management Committee to consider the best options going forward.

In adopting Paragraph 38, Ambassador Foradori of Argentina was elected to be the President of CSP6.

After a four-hour consultation, a package proposal was successfully produced. Compromised solutions were proposed for paragraphs which were not previously adopted. Paragraph 23 and Paragraph 30 were modified to strike out the reference to the VTF report, while Paragraph 24, Paragraph 29 and Paragraph 34 remained unchanged. Two new paragraphs concerning financial contributions, Paragraph 35 and Paragraph 36, were added to the Final Report, requesting the Management Committee to prepare guidelines in arrangement with the Secretariat with relation to the discharge of its financial obligations for consideration at CSP6. Paragraph 36 states that "No state shall be prejudiced by rule 8.1(d) in applying for support from the VTF or Sponsorship Programme until CSP6 when this matter will be discussed." Changes were also made in the Terms of Reference of the Voluntary Reserve Fund, such as the rule that the fund cannot be used to cover non-payment of States.

The Final Report was adopted by consensus.

Closure of CSP
In the closure of CSP5, the incoming president from Argentina gave short remarks during which he assured the conference that Argentina is dedicated to the objectives and spirit of the Treaty and stressed that he hopes to advance common objectives. He stated that transparency is key to ensure effective implementation of the Treaty and welcomed the focus on diversion in the following cycle. He also noted that forward to working with industry and civil society to continue advancing the Treaty’s implementation as well as to make the ATT more recognizable and better understood by the general public. Finally, he expressed hope that we not dwell on the difficulties ahead.