

## First CSP6 Informal Preparatory Meeting

07 February 2020

The [agenda](#) for the First CSP6 Informal Preparatory Meeting was as follows:

1. Introduction of priority theme for the Argentinian Presidency
2. Overview of the implementation of CSP5 decisions
3. Progress reports of ATT subsidiary bodies (VTF, WGETI, WGTR, WGTU, MC)
4. Status report of the ATT Sponsorship Programme
5. Consideration of the CSP6 draft agenda

### Introduction of priority theme for the Argentinian Presidency

CSP6 President Carlos Foradori opened the meeting by discussing activities undertaken in 2019 including bilateral meetings with non-States Parties, United Nations General Assembly First Committee coordination for the [ATT Resolution](#), and participation in a First Committee side event and [Diversion Workshop](#), both organized by Control Arms.

He continued by discussing the theme selected for CSP6 - “transparency and information exchange to prevent diversion”, arguing that after 5 years, the discussions have achieved a level of maturity that allows for a focused discussion on effective treaty implementation. Outlining the nine Treaty provisions of the ATT involved in facilitating the flow of information and cooperation between States Parties, and proposing a “diversion information exchange forum”, participants were invited to propose feedback on how to better strengthen transparency and information exchange.

States including Costa Rica, Japan, the UK, and the EU welcomed this thematic focus as well as the proposal on a diversion information exchange forum and agreed that information exchange and transparency is critical in not only tackling arms diversion but also effectively implementing the entirety of the ATT. The EU highlighted that the exchange of best practices and import and export data is a valuable source for national export control authorities and can contribute to confidence-building measures as well as to strengthening capacity building.

Japan, having presided over CSP4 which also focused on diversion, welcomed the informal meeting on diversion, and highlighted the importance of harnessing civil society expertise when discussing specific cases of diversion. Japan, echoing Ambassador Foradori, also supported deeper engagement with the online information exchange platform. The UK, on the other hand, stressed the importance of confidential intergovernmental exchanges.

## Overview of the implementation of CSP5 decisions

The ATT Secretariat gave an [overview of the status of implementation of CSP5 decisions](#), noting that they are to be implemented during CSP6 and beyond. The ATT Secretariat touched upon the progress made on gender balance and gender-based violence (GBV), Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) activities, ATT Working Group facilitator appointments, Voluntary Guides and Toolkits, Transparency and Reporting, the ATT Sponsorship Programme, ATT Finances, and the Management Committee. With regards to progress towards the implementation of the Gender and GBV recommendations adopted by CSP5, Mr. Dladla noted that the ATT Secretariat considers gender balance in its sponsorship program selection process and that the Majority of projects funded by the VTF include gender and GBV considerations. He also reminded delegations of progress made towards commitments on the implementation of the GBV risk assessment (Article 7.4) in the WGETI's sub-working group on articles 6 and 7. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was one of the few countries that took this opportunity to stress the importance of implementing the CSP5 decisions on gender and GBV. WILPF reminded participants that the CSP5 decisions on gender diversity were not just meant to increase the number of women, but aimed to ensure meaningful participation allowing for "contribution to policy development, to lead, and to be heard."

Mr. Dumisani also noted that the following documents are now available on the ATT Secretariat [website](#), in the five UN languages

- the [Basic Guide on Establishing a National Control System](#);
- [The List of Possible Reference Documents to be Considered in conducting Risk Assessment](#);
- the [Updated Reporting Guide: Questions & Answer](#);
- [the ATT Universalisation Toolkit](#);
- the [Welcome Pack for New States Parties to the ATT](#)

The Chairperson of the VTF Selection Committee and the ATT Secretariat reported on [the status of operation of the VTF](#) including an update on funded Treaty implementation projects and applications for the 2020 project cycle. The VTF received 26 applications for the 2020 funding cycle, submitted by 20 states, 15 of which are from the African region. It is expected that the VTF Selection Committee, chaired by Ambassador Dell Higgie of New Zealand, will make their selection on 21 April 2020. The ATT Secretariat also announced that 19 projects have been implemented during the 2019 cycle and that currently there are approximately 4.8 million USD available in the fund.

Several states emphasized their commitment to the VTF and encouraged others to contribute donations, stressing that the funds act as an effective tool to further implement and encourage universalization. Namibia, who received funding from the VTF in 2019 for the [ATT Academy in](#)

[southern Africa](#), a project implemented with support from Control Arms, encouraged other states to seek assistance from the VTF.

#### Progress reports of ATT subsidiary bodies (VTF, WGETI, WGTR, WGTU, MC)

The three chairpersons of the ATT working groups on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGTI), Transparency and Reporting (WGTR), and Treaty Universalisation (WGTU)) provided an overview of discussions that took place over the previous three days.

The chair of WGETI noted that gender and GBV will be further explored as part of the sub-working group on Articles 6 and 7. He also stressed that the facilitator of the sub-working group on Articles 6 and 7 will prepare a revised version of the methodology template which will be circulated to states for input. The facilitator of the sub-Working Group on Article 9 announced a draft a multi-year work plan to be presented during the April meeting while the facilitator of the sub-Working Group on Article 11 reported on the draft paper planned to be presented in April which will outline elements for assessing risks of diversion.

France and the UK agreed that implementation of Articles 6 and 7 is a national prerogative, that unpacking key concepts is not without risk, and warned against setting prescriptive ‘blanket’ definitions or unduly standardized practices.

The chair of WGETI announced that at the next meeting, he will present a draft paper on the proposed project of ensuring that the conventional arms contained within in Article 2 (1) of the Treaty are included in the “Harmonised System” of the World Customs Organisation.

Several states were pleased to see progress being made regarding the formalization of a standardized online reporting tool. Japan, however, voiced concern over the financial costs associated with the operationalization of a diversion information exchange tool citing limited financial resources. The UK emphasized the voluntary nature of the reporting tool and stressed the need to respect the flexibility of reporting in the Treaty, stating that State Parties were obliged to choose their own methods of reporting and underlining that the Treaty does not specify analytical output.

During the WGTU report back, Japan shared that bilaterally, some States expressed interest in an ATT brochure. Guatemala asked for information about the number of importers vs exporter States Parties? Such information, Guatemala argued, would improve ATT implementation. The WGTU Chair responded that the universalization strategy does not target countries based on key variables, rather that, no matter the quantity of exports, all countries are welcomed to join the ATT.

Japan and South Africa introduced the Management Committee’s updated [draft evaluation matrix](#), and the ATT Secretariat gave a comprehensive review of the status of ATT finances,



including topics such as sources of income, management of uncommitted balance of appropriations, and CSP5 decisions on finances.

Mr. Dumisani of the ATT Secretariat provided an overview of the [ATT finances](#). The EU, Mexico, Japan among others expressed critical concern over the fact that nearly one-third of State Parties had not yet paid their assessed contributions to the Treaty. They warned that lack of financial stability can threaten the stability and overall functionality of the ATT process. As a result, and building on the discussions that took place at CSP5, two members of the Management Committee, Costa Rica and Germany introduced [draft elements](#) for a Secretariat's procedure regarding ATT Financial Rule 8(1) D, which offered a potential path forward after having looked at existing rules and procedures of the UN General Assembly and other existing conventions. The UK expressed that as drafted, the text does not go far enough in defining what constitutes arrangements and consequences linked to noncompliance with arrangements, while France cautioned against giving States Parties the possibility of eluding financial rules simply by sending official documentation to the ATT Secretariat.

#### Status report of the ATT Sponsorship Programme

The ATT Secretariat reported on the status of operation of the ATT sponsorship program, which sponsored 23 delegates to the ATT meetings in February 2020 and included a half-day briefing ahead of the meetings. Control Arms [welcomed](#) the ATT Sponsorship Fund and used the opportunity to also call for support that would enable civil society from all regions, particularly those affected by the proliferation and misuse of arms, to attend these meetings. Benin and Haiti thanked the program for supporting their participation.

The meeting ended with an undisputed consideration of the CSP6 draft agenda.