

## CSP7 Informal Preparatory Meeting

**30 April 2021****Overview of the implementation of the CSP6 decisions**ATT Secretariat's update on the status of the implementation of the CSP6 decisions

During the CSP6 process, 17 decisions were submitted for consideration by the States Parties. Of these, 14 were adopted, and 6 were not.

- On the Working Groups, the agenda for the WGTR was approved, but not the WGETI.
- The DIEF was established. Under the Chair, Mr. Toms Njis of Belgium, the DIEF was to have its first meeting at CSP7. However, progress on this issue had not been possible due to COVID-19.
- The report of the Management Committee was endorsed along with the recommendations on the administration of the Sponsorship Programme. Due to COVID-19, the Sponsorship Programme has been unable to work.
- From May to June 2021, there would be remote consultations to review the documents from the Working Group meetings.
- **CSP7** is scheduled to take place from **30 August to 3 September 2021**. No decision has yet been taken on the format.
- From the decisions that were unresolved at CSP6, the following updates were provided:
  - Decisions 9 to 11 were the subject of a consultative process by the President and eventually adopted.
  - On draft decision 17, Argentina held consultations and has put forward a revised Working Paper.
  - Draft decisions 15 and 16 proposed extension of the Management Committee's mandate; these documents have been revised and will be put forward for adoption at CSP7. A decision was taken that while the Management Committee works on the new guidelines on applying Rule 8(1)(d), no state will be subjected to this rule.

**Progress reports of ATT subsidiary bodies**

The **VTF Chair, Dell Higgle of New Zealand**, reported that since the first call for contributions, more than US\$ 9million had been contributed by 28 states. New Zealand contributed a further NZ\$ 100,000 for projects in the Pacific Islands region. As last year's proposals were submitted before COVID-19, the ATT Secretariat has reached out to participants to ensure that these can proceed as planned. COVID-19 also impacted the New Zealand delegation's ability to hold in-person outreach events. These included the UNGA side event and the practical workshop on the VTF application process. However, this last approach was adjusted and instead, 3 short videos were created on the process of applying to the VTF. These were now available on the VTF website.

In the current VTF cycle, 21 applications have been received. A virtual meeting of the VTF Committee will be convened on 27 May 2021 to consider the applications.

On the financing of the VTF, *the ATT Secretariat* reported that recently Germany and New Zealand provided funding for VTF outreach. Overall the VTF has spent \$5,247,353 on 53 projects around the world. In 2021, 21 applications were submitted, and these would cost approximately US\$1,965,565USD. From these projects, 50% were in Africa, 10% Asia, 30% Americas, 10% Europe and Oceania.

The following delegations spoke on the VTF:

- **Mexico** stressed the need to share conclusions, best practices and lessons learnt from the projects funded by the VTF, which needed to be facilitated by the ATT Secretariat.
- **Chile** announced that in partnership with Colombia, it would be submitting a new project to the VTF that focuses on strengthening competent national institutions mandated to inspect weapons etc. This project is designed to support Colombia's joining the ATT.
- **Colombia** also noted that it was working with Chile and the Small Arms Survey on a project to address the diversion of small arms. Colombia remained committed to joining and implementing the ATT and was also working on a project with Germany.

**The Chair of the WGETI, Ambassador Lim of the Republic of Korea**, reported on the Group's work:

- Articles 6 and 7: The discussions on interpreting key phrases from Articles 6 and 7 were an exercise in collecting good practices. It was not intended that this would result in an agreement on definitions or create new understandings. The Facilitator will begin working on the voluntary guide on Articles 6 and 7. This work will be presented in 2022.
- Article 9: It was important to share national practices on the interpretation and implementation of Article 9. The presentation on UNCLOS emphasised the need to operationalise Article 9. Three states shared their practices on Article 9. Future work in this area might focus on developing a compendium of national practices or a voluntary guide. Future work on Article 9 will focus on transit across the land.
- Article 11: It was noted that delegations had been welcoming of the Facilitator's paper, which provides a comprehensive summary of the discussions to date. In preventing diversion, industry and civil society have an important role. National points of contact were important for the risk assessment process. Documentation sharing and end-use documentation were areas for potential discussion. A paper will be prepared to outline the process of risk assessment on Article 11.

Speaking on the work of the WGETI, **the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA)** emphasised the need to ensure that weapons were delivered to the intended end-user. In this context, import and export documentation is important. ATT States Parties should be careful not to neglect the role of regional organisations. More work is needed on ensuring uniformity on the implementation of the ATT. RECSA strongly supports the work to incorporate gender into all aspects of the ATT's work. A platform should be created to share best practices and cases on implementing the ATT.

The **Co-Chair of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR), Ms. Iulia Vladescu, Romania**, noted that submitting reports that are not publicly available is a cause for concern and undermines the ATT's objectives. The co-Chairs also noted the concern that a number of initial reports had not been updated. Different initiatives were underway to support national reporting, including a call for the CSP President to meet with those State Parties which were lagging behind on reporting. In discussing the proposed adjustments to the national reporting templates, it was stressed that these would facilitate reporting.

The **Co-Chairs of the WGTU, Ambassador Villegas of Argentina and Gberie of Sierra Leone** reported on their joint efforts to promote ATT universalization. They took advantage of key events such as the UNGA First Committee in New York, noted that they continued with bilateral meetings in the interim period. In moving forward on universalization, the Co-Chairs announced that they are planning joint outreach initiatives in the lead up to CSP7. They also encouraged the ATT community to collaborate with the Co-Chairs in this collective effort.

**Management Committee (MC).** The Secretariat made a presentation on the financing of the ATT noting that currently, there is a total of \$5 million in outstanding financial contributions.

Germany presented the proposed guidelines on the issue of arrangements with the ATT Secretariat in relation to the discharge of its financial obligations' (reference Financial Rule 8.1.d) for consideration at CSP7. A key proposal is that for states with outstanding arrears and which have not entered into arrangements to make repayments, their access to the VTF will be limited. The following delegations spoke on this matter:

- **Sierra Leone** opposed linking the payment of the assessed contributions to the VTF, thereby limiting access to the VTF.
- **Mexico** remained concerned about the financial situation of the ATT. It is convinced that the instability in the financing of the ATT affects the confidence of states in the ATT and its administration and a general sense of "equity" among States Parties.
- The **United Kingdom** supports the initiative outlined by Germany, noting that it is essential to create a mechanism that allows states to meet their obligations. The UK believes it is necessary to clarify Articles 11 and 12 regarding non-compliance, and in this connection, they do not see a contradiction between Articles 10 and 12. Ultimately, prompt payment is the only way to ensure the viability of the ATT.
- **China** expressed its willingness to work with all other States Parties on the financial issues in preparation for CSP7. Adequate financial resources are vital. Noted the current financial challenges and expressed the hope that all States Parties will treat this matter as a priority.
- The **Republic of Korea** regards the German proposal as being more precise than the financial rules on the process for entering into financial arrangements with the Secretariat.
- The **European Union** supports the work of the Management Committee in defining a procedure for entering into financial arrangements with the Secretariat. The EU believes that the proposed process as drafted includes all elements necessary and can be

agreed upon at CSP7. It expressed regret at the dire financial situation, which places the ATT at risk.

- **Panama** favoured the proposal presented at CSP6. It has reservations about the changes to points 10 and 13. The current draft seems to imply that the measures would be triggered upon the first condition being met, not both, and Panama disagrees with this approach. Panama understands that once a State Party has reached an arrangement, this should temporarily suspend the measures in the financial rules
- **Switzerland** indicated that the mechanism proposed at CSP6 was solid and only needed a few adjustments. Supports the changes as these have improved the proposal's consistency and welcome the changes as a positive evolution. However, Switzerland preferred a simpler procedure for Articles 12 and 13. Switzerland expressed grave concern about the financial situation despite the efforts which have been made.
- **Ghana** regards the proposals as a first step for moving forward on this matter.
- **South Africa** was generally positive and called on all states to meet their financial obligations.

### **CSP7 Agenda**

The following delegations spoke on the preparations for CSP7:

- WILPF encouraged the President to continue working in a consultative and transparent manner in the lead up to CSP7. It remains a concern for civil society that CSP6 was not held transparently, impacting methods and substance. Transparent ways of working are critical. This is an opportune moment to see how the meetings are contributing to the real-world impact of the ATT. There is a need to build in opportunities to assess outputs of past CSPs to see if they have generated improvements on the ground. The side effect of thematic focus is that we move on too quickly from problems and need to allocate time in CSPs to update on progress on all past CSPs.
- China expressed its commitments to firmly uphold the ATT's objectives and fulfil its obligations. Currently, as the pandemic continues, the CSP prep work is faced with uncertainty. China is ready to work beyond these difficulties to ensure a constructive dialogue. It hoped that due consideration will be given to the COVID situation now and in the future in the planning of CSP7.
- Japan said that it is undeniable that there are still great difficulties in carrying out the work of the ATT due to COVID. It is appropriate that these difficulties be taken into consideration when planning for CSP7 and requires states not to be too ambitious on substantial decisions.
- [Control Arms](#) proposed the inclusion of a special session in the CSP agenda during which ATT States Parties and stakeholders could take stock of the progress made toward commitments adopted at previous CSPs relating directly to the annual CSP Presidency Thematic Focus. For example, this could be the opportunity to build on the Action Plan on Gender, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) endorsed by CSP5.
- Argentina supported WILPF's call to add an item to CSP7 and in the future, to discuss and review the proposals and actions of previous CSPs.