

## ATT/Conference of State Parties

Geneva, August 26 2025

Speaker: Ivan Marques, Secretary of Multidimensional Security of the OAS

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### OAS Statement – MCTA/SNL Platform

Thank you, Mister Chair.

It is my privilege to take the floor on behalf of the **Organization of American States (OAS)** to inform States Parties about electronic tools recently developed to support the implementation of the **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**, particularly regarding the transparency and information-sharing obligations under **Articles 7, 8, 11, and 12**.

These tools were created under the **Program of Assistance on Control of Arms and Ammunition (PACAM)**, funded by the European Union, and also promote compliance with the **Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)**. While designed to respond to the specific needs of the Americas, we believe they can also be applied in other regions facing similar challenges in meeting ATT obligations.

**The National License Management System (SNL), launched in April of 2025, is a secure, open-source software designed** to support National Authorities in managing licenses and authorizations for the transfer of firearms and ammunition. The system integrates the highest standards of information security. The SNL addresses a critical need: **half of OAS Member States still rely on paper-based systems or Excel sheets** to manage export control processes. By digitizing and streamlining workflows, the SNL enhances oversight, traceability, and transparency of arms transfers, directly supporting ATT obligations.

The system allows for end-to-end license management, from submission to resolution, including authorization for operators where required. The SNL also allows **customs integration** to monitor shipments and disembarkation flows in real time, improving cooperation between licensing and border authorities. It also centralizes records of operators, applications, and customs clearances into a unified database, enabling more robust oversight. Installed locally to ensure data protection, the system uses end-to-end encryption, offers multi-level access, and is available free of charge in Spanish and English, developed with open-source coding to avoid additional costs.

The SNL is a step of a greater IT solution under development by the OAS: The **Regional Communication Mechanism on Licit Transfers of Firearms and Ammunition** (known as MCTA). At its core, the MCTA is secure communication platform that allows the exchange of information in real time among licensing authorities of participating states.

The MCTA enables real-time notifications on license issuance, denial, and revocation, while also facilitating voluntary information-sharing on diversion cases, trafficking trends, and lists of denied

operators. Its design standardizes data across countries and creates a secure, auditable database, supported by a decentralized, encrypted architecture that ensures only the States involved in a transfer have access to the relevant information. Once operational, the MCTA will significantly improve transparency, enhance cooperation between States, and help prevent diversion, directly supporting the objectives of the ATT and other international arms control frameworks. We are currently working on the development of the tool, which should be piloted at the beginning of next year.

Through these initiatives, the OAS **reaffirms its commitment** to advancing the implementation of the ATT and stands ready to support States that require assistance.

Thank you,