



Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty Geneva, 17-21 August 2020

Statement on Draft Decision 13

Mr President

As set out in our general statement, Saferworld recognises that the large majority of the draft decisions, currently under silence procedure, are for the purposes of maintaining and rolling-over the existing ATT regime; and we assume most will be relatively uncontroversial. However, in keeping with our concern regarding a general reduction in transparency with respect to the ATT process, we would like to raise reservations with respect to Draft Decision 13, which deals with establishing the Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF).

Saferworld has long been a fierce advocate for more robust Treaty implementation, and we therefore appreciate that the DIEF may be the one area where attempts are being made to move ATT implementation forward, as opposed to 'regime maintenance'. Nevertheless, we have fundamental concerns that the negative implications for transparency of the adoption of Draft Decision 13, as it currently stands, would outweigh any benefits of advancing work on diversion.

Not only are the deliberations of the DIEF set to take place behind closed doors, even the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the DIEF are confidential. Under normal circumstances we would expect the ToR for a forum of this type to be subject to strenuous debate and review during CSP Preparatory weeks, yet States Parties are being asked to nod this through under the silence procedure.

The contrast between this and the treatment of the revised annual and initial report templates – which are being made available now for States Parties *and others* to consider before they are discussed during the next ATT Presidency – is stark.

Saferworld believes, in the case of the DIEF, it would be far better to follow the approach being taken with the reporting templates, both in terms of timing and open access to documents. In support of this, we would like to highlight the value of the substantive input from non-States Parties to the development of the templates. Irrespective of whether proposals of non-States Parties have been accepted, it is clear that the involvement of civil society and other stakeholders in this process has been extremely fruitful.

We therefore urge States Parties to amend Draft Decision 13 such that it mandates States Parties to consider the DIEF ToR – which should be published – for detailed interrogation, possible amendment and adoption at the Seventh Conference of States Parties. At the same time, States Parties should be encouraged to give further thought to developing a process that would allow for proper deliberation and open consultation while the pandemic continues, for example through the possible use of sub-regional mechanisms or fora and/or utilising innovations such as virtual meetings.