WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING
DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR MEETING OF 6 FEBRUARY 2020

Annex: introductory paper of the WGTR co-chairs

Opening and adoption of the draft annotated agenda

Under this agenda item, WGTR participants will have the opportunity to share remarks about this draft annotated agenda and to propose additional agenda items under AOB.

1. State of play of compliance with reporting obligations

Under this agenda item, the ATT Secretariat will give a general overview of the reporting status, and of the progress that has been made in comparison to the previous status update. Subsequently the co-chairs will invite WGTR participants to share their views.

2. Challenges concerning reporting

Under this agenda item, WGTR participants will first have the opportunity to share any challenges to submitting timely and accurate initial and annual reports they are facing, and to discuss means to support States Parties in addressing those challenges. Particularly States Parties that have not yet (completely) complied with their reporting obligations are urged to share the obstacles that have kept them from reporting.

Subsequently, the ATT Secretariat will brief participants about the development of a system of voluntary practical bilateral and regional assistance with reporting (peer-to-peer).

Concerning the “Outreach strategy on reporting”, first the CSP President will brief participants on his efforts to remind States Parties that are in arrears with their reporting obligations. Subsequently, the ATT Secretariat will brief participants about their outreach on reporting. A number of States Parties will then present their implementation of VTF projects that are focused on compliance with the reporting obligations (to be confirmed). Finally, all other States Parties, civil society and regional organizations will be asked to brief WGTR participants about any informative sessions or promotion events on reporting that they have held since, and about any other initiative focused on enhancing compliance with the reporting duties.

Concerning the ‘FAQ’-type guidance document on the annual reporting obligation, WGTR participants will have the opportunity to discuss submitted proposals for alterations or additional questions and answers.

Concerning the reporting templates, WGTR participants will be asked to consider adjustments to the reporting templates deemed necessary to address uncertainties and inconsistencies, to ensure compatibility between the online reporting tool and the proposed public searchable database that allows for queries and extracting data, also taking into account the issue of the comparability of data in annual reports (see also agenda item 6). To that end, the WGTR co-chairs will present the inventory of comments and suggestions in Annex A to the WGTR co-chairs’ report to CSP5, and the ATT Secretariat will present a document identifying the adjustments that they deem necessary.
Concerning the document “National-level Measures to Facilitate Compliance with International Reporting Obligations & Commitments”, WGTR participants will be asked to consider the further development of this document.

3. Substantive reporting and transparency issues

Under this agenda item, WGTR participants will first have the opportunity to raise and discuss substantive issues concerning the Treaty’s reporting obligations that could benefit from consideration by the WGTR.

Concerning the project to facilitate the identification of the conventional arms in Article 2 (1) of the Treaty in the Harmonized System on the customs classification of goods, the WGTR co-chairs will brief participants on the steps taken since CSP5.

Concerning the issue of the comparability of data in annual reports, participants will have the opportunity to share any proposals to facilitate comparing and analysing data in annual reports.

4. Organizational means for information exchange

Under this agenda item, WGTR participants will have the general opportunity to propose and discuss mechanisms, processes or formats facilitating the information exchanges that are required, or encouraged, by the Treaty, both on the policy level, as well as on the operational level (see also agenda item 6).

Concerning the information exchange platform in the Restricted Area of the ATT website, the WGTR co-chairs will present the proposed substantive purposes of the platform and subsequently invite participants to share their views.

Concerning the three-tier approach to sharing information on diversion, the WGTR co-chairs will brief participants on its general implementation and will report on the outcomes of the second informal meeting among interested States Parties and signatory States to discuss concrete cases of detected or suspected diversion.

5. Harnessing information generated by mandatory reporting

Under this agenda item, WGTR participants will have the opportunity to present or propose projects to harness information from the initial and annual reports in a manner that allows follow-up on these reports, taking into account the functionalities on the IT platform that are under development (see also agenda item 6).

6. IT platform: reporting and transparency functionalities

Under this agenda item, the ATT Secretariat will give an update about the following topics concerning the ATT website:

- the use of the online reporting tool;
- instructions on the use of the information exchange platform;
- the informal consultative group of WGTR participants; and
- the searchable database with the information generated, especially through the annual reports, that allows for queries and extracting data.

Subsequently the co-chairs will invite WGTR participants to share their views.

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