

Brazil and France Working Paper

Regional and sub-regional meetings on diversion information exchange

Submitted by:

1. One of the core objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade of conventional arms and prevent their diversion. ATT CSP6 established the Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF) to enable States Parties and signatories “to share and exchange, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations, data concerning concrete cases in which they prevented or identified diversion that they consider useful for other States Parties and signatory States”.¹
2. The first DIEF meeting took place on 24 August 2022 during ATT CSP8.² ATT CSP7 and ATT CSP8 decided to review the usefulness of the DIEF, with the chair requested to submit a report ATT CSP10 for a decision.³ During a meeting of the DIEF on 22 February 2024, delegations participated in a review exercise to evaluate the DIEF and its operation. While delegations noted that there had only been three meetings of the DIEF, they recognized the DIEF’s unique and valuable role for facilitating operational exchanges on diversion and underlined their commitment to make the DIEF a success.
3. The DIEF serves as a unique platform for exchanges of operationally relevant information to counter the diversion of conventional arms between States from different parts of the world. At the same time, the ATT CSP10 review exercise indicated that not all ATT States Parties and signatories are in a position to be able to share operationally relevant information on either ongoing or concluded diversion cases in DIEF meetings in Geneva, either because the relevant experts cannot travel to Geneva, or they are not confident enough to share information to the whole ATT constituency. At the same time, diversion dynamics can be different from one region to another. Therefore, one of the proposals shared during the review exercise to increase information-sharing related to the organization of regional operational exchanges on diversion.⁴
4. ATT stakeholders could consider encouraging the convening of regional, sub-regional and bilateral meetings for diversion information exchange, which would provide an opportunity to build confidence at the regional or sub-regional level on the sensitive issue of countering diversion. Such meetings could provide an

¹ ATT CSP6, Draft Decision 13: Establishment of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum, 29 July 2020, ATT/CSP6.DIEF/2020/CHAIR/629/Decision.DIEFToRs.

² Final Report of the Eight Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, 26 August 2022, ATT/CSP8/2022/SEC/739/Conf.FinRep.Rev 2

³ Final Report of CSP7; ATT/CSP7/2021/SEC/681/Conf.FinRep.Rev1; Final Report of CSP9, ATT/CSP9/2023/SEC/773/Conf.FinRep.Rev2

⁴ ATT Diversion Information Exchange Forum: Chairs Report to CSP10, 19 July 2024, ATT/CSP10.DIEF/2024/CHAIR/802/Conf.Rep.

opportunity for information exchanges on diversion dynamics and effective measures and practices to prevent, detect, and address diversion.

5. These meetings could enhance understanding of the challenges for countering diversion, and opportunities provided by the ATT and regional and subregional cooperation for tackling diversion, thus also promoting universalization of the ATT.
6. Such meetings could help States to:
 - a. Share lessons learned and operationally relevant information from concrete cases of diversion of conventional arms;
 - b. Determine effective systemic and practical measures to prevent, detect and address diversion and that could be incorporated into tools and guidelines to support effective ATT implementation and counter diversion; and
 - c. Identify initiatives and projects for strengthening counter-diversion policies and practices at the national, regional or sub-regional level, which could be supported by the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF).
7. States parties and signatories would be encouraged to subsequently present these elements on a voluntary basis during meetings of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum in Geneva. These meetings could enhance national and regional awareness and ownership over the DIEF and more generally diversion, foster regional and tailored-made responses, and still benefit the whole ATT community.
8. Those regional or sub-regional meetings should consider bringing together national officials that are directly engaged in preventing, investigating and addressing conventional arms diversion cases.
9. Such meetings could be supported by existing funding mechanisms, *such as* :
 - a. submitting a proposal to convene a regional or sub-regional DIEF meeting to the ATT VTF. The terms of reference (TOR) for the ATT VTF would not need to be changed to enable the exercise of this option.
 - b. extrabudgetary resources to the ATT Secretariat, as appropriate and in consultation with States that are willing to actively participate in such an initiative.