

Arms Trade Treaty
Eleventh Conference of States Parties
 Geneva, 25 – 29 August 2025

**REVIEW OF THE REVISED ARMS TRADE TREATY PROGRAMME OF WORK
 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Summary

This document responds to the task which the Tenth Conference of States Parties (CSP10) gave the Management Committee “to conduct a formal assessment of the revised ATT programme of work after the extended trial for one year, taking into account all relevant elements, and to report its assessment and recommendations, including whether to maintain elements of the trial, previous methods of work or new proposals and the opportunity to supplement the programme of work with informal consultations to the Eleventh Conference of States Parties for a decision”.

***Part I** of the document summarizes the background of this task, from the initial discussions on the overall efficiency of the ATT programme of work during the CSP8 to the Committee’s current mandate.*

***Part II and Part III** set out the Committee’s approach and the parameters by which it was guided in its assessment of the revised elements of the programme of work. These parameters are as follows: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability and inclusivity and participation.*

***Part IV** provides an in-depth analysis of the key elements of the revised programme of work, which were mostly taken from the adopted CSP9 proposal on the review of the ATT programme of work. These key elements are the following: a) centrality of practical Treaty implementation / ATT universalization and implementation objectives; b) configuration and substance of the work in the working groups; c) number and format of ATT Working Groups and CSP preparatory meetings; d) additional means: informal consultations and digital tools; and e) internal support mechanisms.*

Under elements a) and b), the Committee addresses the substantive aspects of the ATT informal preparatory process, focusing on the work conducted in the working group and informal preparatory meetings following their reconfiguration and substantive reinvigoration in the CSP9 and CSP10 cycles.

Under element c), the Committee addresses several formal aspects of the ATT informal preparatory process: i) number of meeting days and allocation; ii) overall number of meeting sessions; iii) scheduling of sessions; iv) use of livestream and hybrid options; v) interpretation; vi) venue of meetings; and vii) management of meetings.

Under elements d) and e), the Committee addresses several mechanisms that intend to support the ATT process, in particular informal meetings, the ATT Information Exchange Platform, the ATT sponsorship programme and the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF).

***Part V** of the document includes a summary of the open feedback which delegations provided during the CSP11 Informal Preparatory Meeting on 20-21 May 2025.*

Based on the Management Committee’s considerations and delegations’ feedback presented in this document, in **Part VI**, the Committee recommends to hold per CSP cycle:

- a. one in-person session of four days of ATT Working Group meetings, with livestream option; and***
- b. one in-person informal CSP preparatory meeting of up to two days, with livestream option, held separately.***

In addition, the Management Committee recommends that the Conference:

- a. Encourages the ATT Secretariat to explore options for: i) more cost-effective interpretation services for working group meetings and informal preparatory meetings, such as remote interpretation; ii) secure venues that ensure stringent security standards and are better suited to typical attendance levels for Working Group and Informal Preparatory meetings; iii) ways to monitor remote participation more effectively;***
- b. Encourage the Secretariat to conduct intersessional briefing sessions for Geneva-based Points of Contact;***
- c. Requests the Management Committee to discuss possible guidelines for informal consultations, including elements such as possible organizers and requesters, intended objectives, timing and venue and level of support by the Secretariat;***
- d. Request all office holders and the Secretariat to continue ensuring the timely circulation of documentation, the streamlining of documents across Working Groups and the inclusion of targeted guiding questions for all agenda items;***
- e. Requests future CSP Presidents and Working Group Chairs to maintain the practice of circulating information about presenters and presentations topics sufficiently in advance of meetings;***
- f. Encourages future CSP presidencies to align their priority themes with the ongoing discussions and objectives of the ATT Working Groups;***
- g. Tasks the Management Committee to keep under review the key elements of the revised programme of work and consider reassessing progress within two years, guided by the parameters and indicators outlined above, and to report to the Thirteenth Conference of States Parties.***

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the Eighth Conference of States Parties (CSP8) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Conference took note of the request by a number of States to reflect on the overall efficiency of the ATT programme of work and the proposal to reduce the number of preparatory meetings by CSP10. Accordingly, CSP8 tasked the Management Committee with reviewing the ATT programme of work in consultation with States Parties and Signatory States, and submitting a proposal to CSP9 for a decision.¹ The Committee was instructed to consider: foreseen ATT universalization and implementation objectives; optimisation of the ATT internal support processes; foreseen financial efficiencies; and the status of the disarmament calendar.

2. During the CSP9 cycle, States Parties and Signatory States engaged extensively on this matter, drawing on a background paper by the Management Committee and inputs from stakeholders.² This resulted in a proposal that considered the current status of operation of the ATT in terms of membership, implementation challenges, congested disarmament calendar, constrained capacity of delegations, and rigour of foreseen ATT discussions (“adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review”).³ CSP9 subsequently decided to hold, on a one-year trial basis in 2024:

- a. One in-person session of four days of ATT Working Groups, with livestream option; and
- b. One in-person session of two days of CSP preparatory meetings, with hybrid option, held separately from the Working Group session.⁴

3. Simultaneously, CSP9 also tasked the Management Committee with reviewing this revised

¹ Paragraph 36 of the CSP8 Final Report ([ATT/CSP8/2022/SEC/739/Conf.FinRep.Rev.2](#)).

² Management Committee background paper: Draft elements for consideration on the review of the Arms Trade Treaty Programme of Work ([ATT/CSP9.MC/2023/MC/747/PM1.BackgrPaper](#)) and Management Committee initial draft recommendations (proposal) on the review of the Arms Trade Treaty Programme of Work ([ATT/CSP9.MC/2023/MC/754/PM2.Prop](#)).

³ Management Committee draft proposal on the review of the Arms Trade Treaty Programme of Work ([ATT/CSP9.MC/2023/MC/765/Conf.Prop](#)).

⁴ Paragraphs 35 and 36 of the CSP9 Final Report ([ATT/CSP9/2023/SEC/773/Conf.FinRep.Rev2](#)).

programme of work and reporting its assessment and recommendations to CSP10 for a decision. The assessment and recommendations were to consider whether to maintain elements of the trial, revert to previous methods of work, explore new proposals, as well as the opportunity to supplement the programme of work with informal consultations.

4. Following CSP9, the informal preparatory process leading to CSP10 was conducted in accordance with the revised programme of work, after which the Management Committee carried out its initial assessment. While Committee members agreed at the time that the two sessions of meetings went reasonably well, the Committee concluded that a formal assessment would require additional data and time. This view was widely shared among delegations, and CSP10 therefore decided to extend the trial period by one more year and requested that the Committee conduct a formal assessment following this extended trial period.⁵ Based on this assessment, the Committee was then tasked by CSP10 to submit recommendations to the CSP11, including whether to maintain elements of the trial, previous methods of work or new proposals and the opportunity to supplement the programme of work with informal consultations.

II. APPROACH TO THE ASSESSMENT

5. In its initial discussions on this task during the CSP11 cycle, the Management Committee noted that a formal assessment could only be conducted after the extended trial year ended, i.e. after the CSP11 Informal Preparatory Meeting on 20-21 May 2025. The Committee agreed nevertheless that it was important and necessary to begin its reflections and consultations sooner. This was done informally by Committee members separately.

6. The Committee identified the CSP11 Informal Preparatory Meeting as the key opportunity to hear delegations' views directly. Delegations were invited to provide open feedback on the revised programme of work and their preferred approach for subsequent CSP cycles both verbally and in written form to ensure full comprehension of delegations' views and considerations. This input would then be consolidated along all other relevant factors regarding the assessment, including those already mentioned in paragraph 1.

7. The Committee began the assessment with an analysis of the key elements of the revised programme of work, mostly taken from the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review. These were measured against established parameters and specific indicators included in the adopted CSP9 proposal. Where relevant, the Committee also worked with the ATT Secretariat to substantiate the analysis with relevant data, such as costs and attendance numbers.

8. The Committee then drew conclusions from its analysis and stakeholder feedback and formulated the requested recommendations to the CSP11.

III. ASSESSMENT PARAMETERS

9. The assessment of the revised programme of work was guided by the following parameters:

- a. Relevance: Have the revised elements contributed to the key purposes of the Treaty and the objectives outlined for the revised programme of work?

⁵ Management Committee draft proposal on the review of the revised ATT Programme of Work (on trial for one year) ([ATT/CSP10.MC/2024/MC/797/Conf.Prop](#)) and paragraphs 42 and 43 of the CSP10 Final Report ([ATT/CSP10/2024/SEC/807/Conf.FinRep](#)).

- b. Effectiveness: Have the revised elements been effective in doing this; is the revised programme of work more impactful in terms of practical Treaty implementation?
- c. Efficiency: Have the revised elements produced time and cost efficiencies, with or without impact on the relevance and effectiveness of discussions?
- d. Coherence: Have the revised elements generated coherent, streamlined and complementary discussions in the different Working Groups?
- e. Sustainability: Have the revised elements supported the financial viability of the informal preparatory process?
- f. Inclusivity and participation: Have the revised elements contributed to or undermined inclusivity? Have inclusivity measures such as interpretation, hybrid meetings, informal intersessional consultations and digital tools fostered participation relative to their cost?

10. These parameters were applied in the analysis where pertinent and appropriate, in addition to the more specific indicators for certain elements that were included in the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review and described below. Where relevant, the analysis also addresses these from a forward-looking perspective.

IV. ANALYSIS OF THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK

Centrality of practical Treaty implementation / ATT universalization and implementation objectives

11. The substantive objectives guiding the review of the programme of work were outlined in the CSP8 Final Report and further elaborated in the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review. CSP8 instructed the Management Committee to consider the ATT universalization and implementation objectives in its review. Paragraph 18 of the adopted CSP9 proposal states:

“To meaningfully assist States Parties in the effective implementation of their Treaty obligations, practical Treaty implementation issues at a national level must take a centre stage in the ATT programme of work. In this regard, the content and type of discussions should shift from current model to practical Treaty implementation measures and exchanges on national implementation cases and experiences.”

12. As discussed below, this practical focus has been firmly embedded in the implementation of the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review.

Configuration and substance of the work in the working groups

13. A key component of the review involved the reconfiguration and substantive reinvigoration of the three ATT Working Groups, the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI), the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR) and the Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU). Paragraph 19 of the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review outlines its basic principles. For the WGETI, these basic principles were already elaborated in the adopted CSP9 proposal on WGETI configuration and substance and were further refined during the CSP10 cycle.⁶ For

⁶ Annex D (Proposal on WGETI configuration and substance) of the WGETI Chair’s Draft Report to CSP9 ([ATT/CSP9.WGETI/2023/CHAIR/767/Conf.Rep](#)) and Annex B (Multi-year work plan for the WGETI Sub-Working Group on Exchange of National Implementation Practices) of the WGETI Chair’s Report to CSP10 ([ATT/CSP10.WGETI/2024/CHAIR/799/Conf.Rep](#)).

the WGTR and the WGTU, the basic principles were elaborated during the CSP10 cycle.⁷ This exercise has produced a coherent and complementary process, both in terms of configuration and substance. All three Working Groups now conduct “structured discussions” on practical Treaty implementation, focusing on specific topics within their mandates, guided by multi-year workplans and/or lists of discussion topics and questions. The workplans retain flexibility and each Working Group can still address topics and issues emerging from general discussions or from States Parties’ needs.

14. In light of this and taking into account the Working Groups’ reports to CSP11, the Management Committee assesses that the implementation of the adopted CSP9 proposal—and its practical application during the CSP10 and CSP11 cycles—has been successful across all set parameters, as well the universalization and implementation objectives. The reconfiguration has introduced institutional stability, coherence, and predictability, while preserving flexibility. The substantive reinvigoration, especially through exchanges on national practices, has yielded meaningful, content-driven discussions. Particularly during the CSP11 cycle, the Management Committee also observed positive feedback regarding these aspects. Considering this, the Management Committee underscores that all elements below must continue to accommodate the Working Groups’ workplans and the other discussions conducted under their respective mandates.

Number and format of ATT Working Groups and CSP preparatory meetings

Background

15. This element is addressed after the preceding ones to reflect the primacy of substance over procedural format. Nonetheless, it is important that the programme of work makes efficient use of resources in relation to its objectives. This was underscored in CSP8’s directive to the Management Committee, which identified “foreseen financial efficiencies” as one of its considerations. The adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review also included several other considerations, including the current status of operation of the ATT in terms of membership, implementation challenges, congested disarmament calendar, constrained capacity of delegations, and envisioned rigour of foreseen ATT discussions.

16. The revised programme of work aimed to achieve multiple goals and allow for: i) CSP Presidents to set dates for ATT meetings that account for the disarmament calendar and other UN related main events; ii) CSP Presidents to, in consultation with relevant ATT office holders and the ATT Secretariat, set the number of meeting days and times that suit the agenda for discussions; iii) integration of workstreams of the various ATT subsidiary bodies for purposes of improved efficiency and outcomes; and iv) elimination of duplication of efforts and avoidance of repetition of discussions.

17. The proposed two sessions were also intended to offer the following advantages: i) built-in flexibility to accommodate changes in circumstances, ATT priorities, topics for discussion and level of participation; ii) timely circulation of meetings documentation; iii) possibility for delegations to use time at their disposal to prepare adequately for meetings, and to encourage (more) capital experts involved in the practical implementation of the Treaty to attend the meetings, in particular those of the ATT Working Groups; iv) possibility for ATT office holders to conduct intersessional informal consultations, as appropriate, virtually and/or through the Information Exchange Platform; and v) realisation of efficiencies in resource allocation and utilisation.

⁷ Attachment A (Multi-year work plan for the WGTR exchange of national implementation practices regarding transparency) of the WGTR Chair’s Report to CSP10 ([ATT/CSP10.WGTR/2024/CHAIR/800/Conf.Rep](#)) and Annex B (List of practical ratification/accession and domestication questions) of the WGTU Co-Chairs’ Report to CSP10 ([ATT/CSP10.WGTU/2024/CHAIR/801/Conf.Rep](#)).

18. **Overall, the Management Committee finds that these objectives and expected advantages have largely been realised and that the revised framework aligns well with the substantive elements discussed earlier. This is described in detail below regarding the different aspects of the revised framework.**

Number of meeting days and allocation

19. Under the revised programme of work, the number of meeting days was reduced from eight to six. Previously, there were two three-day sessions of Working Group meetings, each followed by a one-day Informal Preparatory Meeting. The revised format comprises one four-day session of Working Group meetings and a separate two-day Informal Preparatory Meeting. In line with the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review, the WGETI received the majority of the available Working Group time.

Working Group meetings

20. The Management Committee has a positive assessment of the single four-day Working Group session as implemented in the CSP10 and CSP11 cycles. All Working Groups conducted relevant and effective discussions, and the streamlined approach and documentation provided efficiency. The four-day session also allowed the WGETI in particular to cover several topics despite the single session format. While acknowledging the associated workload, the Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the Working Groups can not only conduct their “structured discussions”, but also retain the capacity to address issues arising from those discussions or earlier Conference decisions and issues which delegations have raised ad hoc.

21. **Accordingly, the Management Committee sees no reason to increase or reduce the number of Working Group meeting days. The Management Committee thereby takes into account the substantial workload of each Working Group—especially WGETI—and the potential for DIF meetings to take place during the Working Group session. At the same time, it is noted that some of the Working Groups’ workload is now addressed in the Informal Preparatory Meeting, which now deals with the follow-up the Working Group’s work in a comprehensive manner (see further below).**

22. **The latter is also why the Management Committee considers one session of Working Group meetings sufficient, as the interplay with the Informal Preparatory meeting has proven that efficient use of discussion time and effectiveness go together. The Management Committee further believes that having only one session of Working Group meetings has also contributed to more focused discussions in the Working Groups.**

Informal Preparatory Meeting

23. The Informal Preparatory Meeting has two components: i) progress reports from ATT subsidiary bodies; and ii) CSP preparatory arrangements.

24. The role of the first component has expanded significantly under the revised programme of work. With only one session of Working Group meetings, the decoupled Informal Preparatory Meeting now serves as a forum for follow-up on ongoing work in the Working Groups in the run up to the CSP. Delegations now can discuss the Working Groups’ draft reports and their draft recommendations and deliverables in the Informal Preparatory Meeting. The growing relevance of this follow-up function was recognized in paragraph 5 of the Management Committee’s CSP10 proposal, which noted:

“The Working Group meetings in February and the CSP10 Informal Preparatory Meeting in May demonstrated the need to continue to address Working Group-related issues during the CSP informal preparatory meeting, in order to allow proper follow-up in the run up to the CSP”.

25. It is because of this that the discussions on the progress reports from ATT subsidiary bodies now occupies the majority of the Informal Preparatory Meeting's time. In contrast, the CSP preparatory arrangements rarely prompt lengthy discussions, except in the case of non-recurring issues, such as the current review of the programme of work. The only recurring item that consistently generates substantive input is the Presidency's priority theme, which is traditionally presented during the Informal Preparatory Meeting. The Management Committee notes, however, that under the revised programme's emphasis on coherence and effectiveness, presidential themes should ideally align with the ongoing discussions and objectives of the Working Groups and be integrated in their work. This alignment was largely achieved in the CSP11 cycle, where the Argentinian Presidency's theme, "*Universalization as a Priority*", aligned closely with the work of the WGTU and was partly discussed in that Working Group.

26. **Given the Informal Preparatory Meeting's function of monitoring the progress of the Working Groups' work and facilitating effective preparation of Conference outcomes, the Committee considers that decoupling the Informal Preparatory Meeting has proven to be a highly efficient alternative to holding a second session of Working Group meetings. Nevertheless, given the limited discussions on the component of CSP preparatory arrangements, the Conference could consider retaining some flexibility to hold a one-day or two-day Informal Preparatory meeting, depending on the extent of the anticipated discussions.**

Overall number of meeting sessions

27. The decision to decouple the Informal Preparatory Meeting from the session of ATT Working Group meetings was made to avoid duplicative discussions. Under the previous programme of work, the Informal Preparatory Meeting was held immediately after the Working Group meetings and largely served to summarize discussions that had just concluded. In contrast, under the revised format with only one Working Group session, the Informal Preparatory Meeting now serves a distinct and essential role: it functions as a follow-up forum to address Working Group-related outputs and to prepare materials for the Conference. This role is particularly relevant when substantive deliverables are being developed.

28. This evolution underscores the ongoing relevance of the Informal Preparatory Meeting and reinforces the rationale for keeping it separate from the Working Group meetings, rather than scheduling it back-to-back. Maintaining the Informal Preparatory Meeting as an in-person meeting is also important to sustain momentum and commitment to the ongoing work in the ATT process, as well as fostering engagement among stakeholders. **The Management Committee suggests that any (financial) efficiencies regarding the Informal Preparatory meeting, should rather focus on its duration and/ or the aspects addressed in the subsequent sections.**

Scheduling of sessions

29. With respect to scheduling, the revised programme of work was designed to allow setting ATT meetings dates that account for the disarmament calendar and other UN related main events. To support this objective, the ATT Secretariat has liaised with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) during recent CSP cycles to identify suitable dates for ATT meetings. Avoiding overlap with other disarmament-related meetings is important for maximizing the effectiveness and inclusivity of participation across all relevant processes. In this context, all ATT stakeholders should consider the current pattern for ATT meetings —holding the four-day session of Working Group meetings between late February and mid-March, followed by a one-day or two-day Informal Preparatory Meeting in May— as the default option for their future planning and this should be communicated to UNODA for consideration in the preparation of its meeting calendar.

30. The timing of sessions is, of course, also dependent on the availability of an appropriate venue. This is therefore one of several additional aspects the Management Committee considered in light of their impact on the sustainability, participation and inclusivity of the ATT process. Other aspects are the use of livestream and hybrid options, interpretation, and the management of meetings.

Format: Use of livestream and hybrid options

31. Under the revised programme of work, the Working Group meetings were conducted with a livestream option, while the Informal Preparatory Meeting was held with a hybrid option.⁸ For clarity, the livestream option allows delegates to follow proceedings online without the ability to intervene, while the hybrid option allows delegates to actively participate in proceedings (both via the Zoom platform).

32. The adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review introduced the hybrid option for the Informal Preparatory Meeting to enhance inclusivity, particularly for capital-based delegates who might not be able to travel to Geneva for a two-day meeting. The expectation was that this option would enable broader and more equitable participation. However, the Management Committee observed that the hybrid option was hardly used during both the CSP10 and CSP11 informal preparatory meetings. At the CSP11 informal preparatory meeting, no State participated actively via Zoom, and only three delegations intervened virtually. This suggests that the hybrid option may not be fulfilling its intended purpose. One possible explanation for the low usage is that the Informal Preparatory Meeting is typically attended by Geneva-based representatives, who also tend to lead the interventions given the nature of discussions at that meeting. This leads the Management Committee to conclude that the additional cost of the hybrid option may not be required, and that the livestream option alone may be sufficient to maintain broad and inclusive participation.

33. An alternative to either format would be to conduct meetings entirely virtually. However, as noted in paragraph 28, the Management Committee does not currently consider this to be a preferable arrangement for the Informal Preparatory Meeting (and the Working Group meetings). That said, fully virtual formats might be better suited for possible informal intersessional consultations (see paragraph 43 et seq.).

Interpretation

34. Both the working group meetings and the informal preparatory meetings have consistently benefited from interpretation in all official UN languages of States Parties. While rule 47 (1) of the ATT Rules of Procedure provide that “*during formal meetings of the Conference, interpretation services shall be limited to those official languages of the Conference that are official languages of a State Party*”, the Terms of Reference of the different Working Groups provide that “*direct meetings costs, such as for [...] interpretation services, shall be covered by the resources allocated for the conduct of meetings in the budget of the Conference of States Parties as well as any voluntary contributions that are made available for this purpose*”⁹ and the Conference systematically decides that “*costs for the meetings of the Working Groups and the informal preparatory meeting shall include costs for document translation and in-session interpretation*”.

35. As the provision of interpretation services for working group and informal preparatory meetings in general has not been questioned before or during the review of the programme of work, the Management Committee acknowledges its importance in ensuring inclusive participation and refrains

⁸ For clarity, the Conference itself is held with a livestream option.

⁹ The DIF Terms of Reference includes the same sentence, except for the phrase regarding voluntary contributions.

from further assessment. However, in light of observations regarding meeting venues and possible financial efficiencies, the Management Committee does propose exploring more cost-effective interpretation services for working group meetings and informal preparatory meetings, such as remote interpretation.

36. Regarding possible informal intersessional consultations (see paragraph 43 et seq.), the Management Committee notes that those have consistently been conducted in English only. Noting the informal nature of such arrangements, the Management Committee believes that this established practice can remain the default option and that other languages should only be used if the organizer, the requesting party of an informal consultation, or the participating delegation in question is willing to provide interpretation from that language into English and *vice versa*.

Venue of meetings

37. The choice of meeting venue impacts both financial sustainability and the inclusivity of the ATT process. To date, nearly all ATT meetings have been held in the large halls of the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG). While such large halls are necessary for CSPs, where high levels of participation require large meeting rooms, attendance at Working Group and Informal Preparatory Meetings tends to be significantly lower. Accordingly, smaller and potentially more cost-effective venues could be considered for these sessions. **The Management Committee therefore recommends exploring alternative venues, taking into account both availability and rising costs at the CICG. Smaller meeting rooms may also create a more conducive environment for interactive discussions.** One factor to consider in that respect, however, is the availability of interpretation facilities. Not all venues may support *in situ* interpretation. As *in situ* interpretation is not strictly required, alternative options, such as remote interpretation, could nevertheless be explored (see paragraph 35).

38. Similarly, for informal consultations (see paragraph 43 et seq.), the Secretariat could explore the possibility of hosting small group meetings of interested delegates in partnership with relevant organisations. At the same time, the organizer or requesting party of an informal consultation could be requested to provide or identify a venue, if feasible.

Management of meetings

39. Some of the anticipated advantages of the revised programme of work relate to the management of meetings, in particular the timely circulation of meetings documentation and the ability of delegations to prepare thoroughly in advance. The Management Committee notes that, starting with the CSP10 cycle, a new standard has been set: documents are circulated approximately one month in advance. Additionally, documentation for the three Working Groups has been streamlined. In addition to the fixed lists of guiding questions for the Working Groups' "structured discussions on practical Treaty implementation (see paragraph 13), the documentation also consistently includes guiding questions regarding all other agenda items. Moreover, during the CSP11 cycle, the CSP President issued a communication one week prior to the Working Groups meetings, informing delegations about which States Parties and other stakeholders would give presentations under each agenda item. It also clarified that speakers are selected by the relevant office holders, in cooperation with the ATT Secretariat, either by invitation or based on a proposal by the prospective speaker. To further enhance the efficiency of proceedings, the Working Group meetings were conducted on a rolling basis. This approach allowed agenda items and meetings to begin immediately following the conclusion of the preceding item or meeting, irrespective of the tentative schedule, and a more efficient use of meeting time.¹⁰

¹⁰ It is nevertheless noted that implementing a fully rolling agenda is often constrained by practical considerations.

40. **The Management Committee considers that these measures—implemented since CSP10—have effectively addressed concerns previously raised by States Parties and other delegations. They have improved the quality, structure, and efficiency of ATT meetings, and should be maintained.**

41. One additional issue regarding the management of meetings is security. In accordance with their informal nature, working group and informal preparatory meetings have generally been organized with open attendance. Registration processes are applied only for specific reasons (e.g. venue requirements, monitoring of gender representation) and do not involve the submission of official documentation. Unlike for Conferences, for in-person working group and informal preparatory meetings, no security measures such as badges and access control are applied. For meetings where delegates can follow or participate in the proceedings remotely via livestream or hybrid options, there is limited control over access to the Zoom platform. While the Management Committee remains supportive of the informal nature of the working group and informal preparatory meetings and is conscious of the cost of the forementioned measures, it considers it appropriate to systematically take the security aspect into account when exploring venues for working group and informal preparatory meetings (cf. paragraph 37) and to explore ways to monitor remote participation more effectively.

Additional means: informal consultations and digital tools

42. This element is addressed separately to give it the attention it warrants. Paragraph 22 of the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review states the following regarding this element:

“To allow for inclusive, collaborative, efficient, and broad participation in ATT discussions, the proposed two sessions of ATT meetings could be supplemented, if necessary, by informal intersessional consultations that could include small group meetings of interested delegates and regional meetings. In this regard, informal intersessional consultations should take place, as appropriate, virtually or using the Information Exchange Platform located in the restricted area of the ATT website.”

Informal consultations

43. The inclusion of informal intersessional consultations in the revised programme of work was intended to allow office holders to convene informal intersessional consultations in their workstreams on selected topics that require further discussion.

44. During the CSP10 and CSP11 cycles, some informal intersessional consultations were held. These were convened to address comments on draft Conference documents following the informal preparatory meeting or to address specific proposals by States Parties. These consultations were initiated by the relevant office holder or State Party and were facilitated by the ATT Secretariat via its Zoom platform in a virtual format. However, no *“small group meetings of interested delegates and regional meetings that supplemented the work of the ATT Working Groups”* were convened. Furthermore, the Information Exchange Platform in the restricted area of the ATT website was never used for this purpose.

45. The absence of any other informal intersessional consultations might be due to the lack of any guidelines on informal consultations, such as who may convene them, for what purpose, when and

Chief among these is the availability of relevant office holders and scheduled speakers, whose participation is sometimes tied to specific times. In some instances, limitations also arise from the nature of the meeting itself. For example, DIF meetings, which are restricted to States Parties and signatory States, must commence at a fixed time to ensure proper access control. Additionally, DIF meetings ending early does not allow for the resumption of the open meeting as doing so could compromise the inclusivity of the open meeting. In any case, major deviations from the published schedule would not be advisable, as maintaining a degree of predictability remains important to ensure broad participation.

where could they be held and with what level of support. The Management Committee notes that this need for clarity was already flagged in early discussions on the review of the programme of work.¹¹

46. Given the limited meeting time of the Working Groups, the Committee nevertheless continues to see value in retaining the flexibility to organize informal consultations supporting the ATT process, in line with the guidance in the adopted CSP9 proposal, if need be. For example, they could include deeper dives into select issues that are discussed in the Working Group, or to work out technical details, potentially involving subject-matter experts. They could also offer delegations an opportunity for informal dialogue with office holders, to provide input on concrete deliverables that are to be developed. Additionally, it may be useful for the ATT Secretariat to organize intersessional briefing sessions for Geneva-based ATT Points of Contact to provide updates on ongoing developments.

47. Paragraphs 31-38 address the aspects of format, interpretation and venue for all meetings, including informal consultations. Practice shows that the virtual format is often very suitable for such consultations, although this should not be an absolute rule. As noted in paragraph 38, time, the organizer or requesting party of an informal consultation may also assist in securing a venue for in-person consultations where needed.

Digital tools

48. Regarding the use of the Information Exchange Platform in the restricted area of the ATT website and information exchange more broadly, the Management Committee notes that these are currently under consideration in the WGTR. The Management Committee expresses its support for the recommendations in the WGTR Chair's draft report to CSP11, which advocate continued work in the CSP12 cycle work on tools to facilitate the exchange of information.

Internal support mechanisms

49. The directive from CSP8 instructed the Management Committee to consider the "*optimisation of the ATT internal support processes*" in the review of the programme of work. In this context, particular attention is given to the ATT sponsorship programme and the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF).

50. The sponsorship programme is inherently designed to promote inclusivity, enabling delegates to attend ATT meetings who might otherwise be unable to do so due to resource constraints. Over time, the programme has evolved into a valuable tool to support the ATT process. For example, sponsorship has been used to facilitate the participation of potential office holders or presenters/panellists in order to ensure diversity in terms of geography and export/import profile. This has undeniably enriched discussions in the Working Groups.

51. Regarding the VTF, all three ATT Working Groups give attention to available opportunities of international assistance, in line with adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review. They all have incorporated references to the VTF in their lists of guiding questions for their structured discussion on practical implementation topics. These help ensure the visibility of the link between implementation challenges and available support mechanisms like the VTF.

52. Both mechanisms are also addressed in the WGTU Workplan for universalization efforts. The workplan instructs all ATT stakeholders to promote the VTF as well as the sponsorship programme to potential new States Parties (with a clear and unambiguous political commitment to accede). It also instructs the ATT Secretariat to examine proactively whether sponsorship can be granted for participants in universalization activities organized by regional universalization champions in the

¹¹ See paragraph 13 of the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW.

margins of ATT meetings.

53. **The Management Committee views these developments as positive and recommends that these practices be continued in the next CSP cycles. It also notes that the sustainability of both the sponsorship programme and the VTF depends on voluntary financial contributions of States. Accordingly all States Parties in a position to contribute should be encouraged to do so in order to take the set implementation and universalization objectives forward.**

V. OPEN FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

54. As noted in paragraph 6, the Management Committee asked for open feedback on the revised programme of work and on delegations' preferred approach for subsequent CSP cycles during the 20-21 May 2025 Informal Preparatory Meeting. While delegations were also invited to provide written input, no such input was received. Delegations will, of course, have an opportunity to provide final feedback during CSP11.

55. During the meeting, there was consensus among intervening delegations that the revised programme of work had proven effective and met its intended objectives. Many delegations acknowledged the improved efficiency and productivity of discussions and the high level of participation. The Management Committee was encouraged to continue leveraging the benefits of the current model.

56. Some delegations shared specific remarks on the approach to the assessment. A few expressed the view that the extended trial period had provided sufficient time for delegations to meaningfully evaluate the revised programme of work. One delegation, however, expressed regret that no broader review of the overall ATT process had been undertaken.

57. On the configuration and substance of Working Group discussions, one delegation highlighted the value of multi-year workplans in generating meaningful discussions, while another commended the informative panel discussions. A further delegation reiterated the usefulness of the structured discussions format.

58. Regarding the number and format of meetings and -related aspects, all intervening delegations expressed support for the current model of one four-day session of Working Group meetings and a separate two-day Informal Preparatory Meeting, with some delegations citing the increasing constraints on financial and human resources. No delegation advocated a return to the former model involving two sessions of Working Group meetings and Informal Preparatory meetings. One delegation raised the question whether the Informal Preparatory meeting should be held back-to-back with the Working Group meetings in the same week. At the same time, some delegations cautioned against the risk of diminishing political attention and interest in the ATT process and urged all delegations to remain actively engaged and committed to sustaining substantive discussions. Regarding scheduling, one delegation stressed that the ATT should not be "sacrificed" or deprioritized due to the congested disarmament calendar.

59. Several delegations commended the management of the meetings, in particular the streamlined documentation, the targeted guiding questions, and the timely circulation of documents. The use of rolling agendas covering all sessions was also widely welcomed.

60. It is noted that no specific remarks were made during the meeting concerning informal consultations, digital tools, or internal support mechanisms. However, the Management Committee

recalls that digital information exchange tools are currently under consideration in the WGTR (see paragraph 47).

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

61. Based on the detailed considerations presented above, the Management Committee concludes that the revised programme of work has largely met the expectations and evaluation parameters established for the review. These include relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability, and inclusivity, as well as the more specific indicators set out in the adopted CSP9 proposal on the PoW review.

62. Furthermore, the Committee considers that these findings are fully aligned with the open feedback received from delegations during the 20–21 May 2025 Informal Preparatory Meeting.

63. *Accordingly, the Management Committee recommends to hold per CSP cycle:*

- a. one in-person session of four days of ATT Working Group meetings, with livestream option; and*
- b. one in-person informal CSP preparatory meeting of up to two days, with livestream option, held separately.*

64. *In addition, the Management Committee recommends that the Conference:*

- a. Encourages the ATT Secretariat to explore options for: i) more cost-effective interpretation services for working group meetings and informal preparatory meetings, such as remote interpretation; ii) secure venues that ensure stringent security standards and are better suited to typical attendance levels for Working Group and Informal Preparatory meetings; iii) ways to monitor remote participation more effectively;*
- b. Encourage the Secretariat to conduct intersessional briefing sessions for Geneva-based Points of Contact;*
- c. Requests the Management Committee to discuss possible guidelines for informal consultations, including elements such as possible organizers and requesters, intended objectives, timing and venue and level of support by the Secretariat;*
- d. Request all office holders and the Secretariat to continue ensuring the timely circulation of documentation, the streamlining of documents across Working Groups and the inclusion of targeted guiding questions for all agenda items;*
- e. Requests future CSP Presidents and Working Group Chairs to maintain the practice of circulating information about presenters and presentations topics sufficiently in advance of meetings;*
- f. Encourages future CSP presidencies to align their priority themes with the ongoing discussions and objectives of the ATT Working Groups;*
- g. Tasks the Management Committee to keep under review the key elements of the revised programme of work and consider reassessing progress within two years, guided by the parameters and indicators outlined above, and to report to the Thirteenth Conference of States Parties.*
