

The Arms Trade Treaty
23 Avenue de France
CH-1202 Geneva
18 March 2020

To : Representatives of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of Signatory States to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of Observer States to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of International and Regional Organizations.
: Representatives of Civil Society, NGOs and Industry.

Dear Distinguished Representatives,

ANNOUNCEMENT: CANCELLATION OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND 2ND CSP6 INFORMAL PREPARATORY MEETING: 14 – 17 APRIL 2020

1. In my capacity as the President of the Sixth Conference of States Parties (CSP6) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), I write to inform you that, in light of the developments regarding COVID-19, the ATT Working Group meetings and 2nd CSP6 Informal Preparatory meeting scheduled to take place from 14 – 17 April 2020 are **cancelled**.

2. I have been monitoring the situation closely and have held consultations with the ATT office holders and the ATT Secretariat on the matter. We all share the view that, in light of the developments regarding COVID-19, including the guidelines established by the United Nations governing its meetings and those of the Swiss Government, it is clear the meetings cannot continue as originally scheduled nor can they continue in a downscaled format. In light of the uncertainty of how long the current crisis will last and the impossibility of being able to schedule a postponed version of the meetings, it is also clear that it is not possible to postpone the meetings to a later date. Accordingly, the only option open to us is to cancel the April meetings altogether.

3. The ATT office holders, the ATT Secretariat and I are mindful that there is important ATT work to be carried forward by the ATT Working Groups and the Management Committee in particular in the lead up to CSP6 itself, due to take place from 17-21 August 2020. We are working on a plan that will allow our work to continue remotely in the intersessional period to ensure necessary decisions can be taken by CSP6 guiding the work of the next CSP cycle. I will notify you of the proposed plan and way forward early next week, commencing 23 March 2020.

4. I look forward to continuing to work with you all – albeit remotely - in the weeks and months ahead towards a successful CSP6, and I wish you and your families good health.

5. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,



Ambassador Carlos FORADORI
President: Sixth Conference of States Parties to the ATT