

The Arms Trade Treaty
Avenue de France 23
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30 June 2021

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: OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE OPTIONS FOR THE FORMAT OF THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

1. I write to provide you with an update on the outcomes of the consultations with respect to the options for the format of the Seventh Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP7) contained in the background paper circulated on 08 June 2021.
2. Following the circulation of the background paper on 08 June 2021, the vice-Presidents held consultations with their regional groups on the options contained in the paper to gauge their views and preferences and all other stakeholders were given an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed options to the President via the ATT Secretariat. On 25 June, a virtual meeting of all ATT Office Holders took place to hear the feedback from the vice-Presidents on their consultations and to discuss with all Office Holders the best option for the format of CSP7. In addition, civil society provided written input on the topic of the process and format of CSP7, which was circulated to and considered by the ATT Office Holders.
3. The outcomes of the consultations can be summarized as follows:

Format of CSP7

4. There was consensus for option 1 of the background paper: a hybrid CSP7 meeting (i.e., a limited number of delegates physically present at the conference venue (CICG) with other delegates participating virtually). This option was considered to offer the most transparent and inclusive format in the circumstances.
5. In terms of the number of delegates that can be physically present in CICG, under the current regulations, the venue can accommodate 229 delegates in total, under social distancing rules. Seating will be allocated in an appropriate and proportionate manner to all delegates registered for the Conference, with priority given to States Parties and Signatory States.

6. There was also general agreement that the President and the ATT Secretariat should make every effort to ensure equal rights and opportunities of interaction to both delegates physically present at the conference venue and those participating virtually.

Meeting times

7. There was general agreement that a hybrid meeting requires an adjustment of time to accommodate all regions to some extent, and a preference was expressed to hold one session per day from 13:00 to 16:00 to ensure to the extent possible the effective participation of capital experts from all regions.

Agenda

8. There is an understanding that the agenda for a CSP7 held in hybrid format will need to be adapted according to the (reduced) length of time available for the sessions. For example, there was general support for the proposal to remove the General Debate from the CSP7 agenda, and instead invite stakeholders to submit their general statements to be posted on the ATT website.

9. Beyond this, a recommendation was made for the Presidency, with the support of the ATT Secretariat, to review the agenda to identify elements where substantive discussion is not required. Accordingly, the ATT Secretariat will draft a provisional agenda in consultation with the President, as per Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure, on the basis of this recommendation. In drafting the agenda, the ATT Secretariat will be mindful of the decisions that need to be made by the Conference, informed by the list of documents included in the Annex to this announcement.

Decision-making

10. All decisions made during the Conference, will be made according to the ATT Rules of Procedure. The President will, with the assistance of the ATT Secretariat, ensure the requisite number of States Parties are present – both physically and virtually – to establish the necessary quorum in accordance with Rule 19, when decisions are being taken by the Conference.

11. If it is not possible to establish consensus on a decision and the matter is put to a vote, the method of voting will be via roll-call as set out in Rule 37(1), since the normal method of voting – a show of hands – may not be feasible with some States Parties participating virtually. If a vote is required, the President will call out the name of each State Party registered for the Conference, ensuring each State Party registered for the Conference is given an opportunity to participate in the vote either in person or virtually.

Recording

12. There was general support for ensuring that all CSP7 sessions are video-recorded and made publicly available on the ATT website, in accordance with the practice adopted by the ATT Secretariat during the CSP7 Preparatory Meetings in April 2021.

Conclusions

13. Based on the inclusive and transparent consultations held with ATT stakeholders, my conclusion is as follows:

- a. CSP7 should be held in a hybrid format (i.e., a limited number of delegates physically present at the conference venue (CICG) with other delegates participating virtually) over five (05) days from 30 August – 03 September 2021, as scheduled;
- b. Daily sessions should be held from 13:00 – 16:00 (CEST) on those dates;
- c. The ATT Secretariat is tasked to draft a provisional agenda in consultation with the President, according to the (reduced) length of time available for the sessions;
- d. Decisions of the Conference will be made according to the Rules of Procedure, with every effort made to ensure the equal participation and concurrence of all States Parties that are registered for the Conference; and
- e. All sessions will be video recorded and made publicly available on the ATT website.

Way forward

14. Shortly after the circulation of this letter to all ATT stakeholders, I will circulate a formal proposal to States Parties for adoption via silence procedure to hold CSP7 in a hybrid format from 30 August to 03 September 2021, with the daily sessions of CSP7 taking place from 13:00 – 16:00 CEST.

15. Through this process, I hope to be in a position to confirm the format of CSP7 to all ATT stakeholders by 06 July 2021.

16. Once the format of CSP7 is agreed upon, registration for the Conference will open and a revised agenda will be circulated.

17. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your active and constructive participation in these consultations, and for your continued support during this exceptional and extraordinary situation.

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

Yours faithfully,



Ambassador Lansana GBERIE
President: Seventh Conference of States Parties to the ATT