

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

First CSP8 Informal Preparatory Meeting

18 February 2022

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Agenda Item 6: Consideration of the CSP8 draft agenda

Mr. President,

My name is Cesar Jaramillo, executive director of Project Ploughshares, based in Canada, and I speak today in my capacity as Board Chair of the Control Arms coalition. We would like to thank the CSP8 Presidency, the Working Group Chairs and facilitators, the ATT Secretariat and all of the States Parties that took the time to prepare for this week's Working Group sessions.

Over the course of the past three days, we have been encouraged by what seems to be a renewed willingness of States Parties from all regions of the world to engage substantively in addressing critical and persistent challenges related to the international arms trade such as poorly regulated transit and transshipment of arms, the potential for diversion, and the need for comprehensive arms export risk assessment. We welcome this opportunity to submit comments and suggestions regarding the draft agenda for CSP8.

I would like to focus on a single suggestion today – one that has been presented by Control Arms, WILPF and other civil society organizations at CSP7, and that is to add to the annual CSP agenda a standing item or special session that would gauge progress on the thematic focus areas of each preceding CSP cycle. The purpose of this recurring agenda item or special session would be - on an annual basis - to take stock of progress achieved against the recommendations presented by each of the former CSP Presidencies as well as any corresponding commitments agreed to by States Parties in the CSP Final Reports each year.

If time is not set aside year after year to discuss progress made on the various thematic focus commitments, there is a clear danger that, with every new theme, States Parties will lose momentum on the important work that has already been completed in prior years. In preparation for this agenda item or special session, Control Arms encourages States Parties, with input from all ATT stakeholders, to develop clear strategies and mechanisms for ensuring that the outcomes relating to each CSP thematic focus become the basis for concrete action into the future. As a start, Control Arms, with support from Canada, is developing a methodology for tracking progress with the gender and gender-based violence recommendations set out in the CSP5 Final Reports.

With more focused stakeholder engagement on each of these thematic issues, in particular on gender and gender-based violence, together we can work to promote robust ATT

implementation, co-operation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties thereby fulfilling the object and purpose of the Treaty: to reduce human suffering

Thank you for your attention.