

The Republic of Korea's comments to the President's draft working paper
“Strengthening efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons
and ensure efficient stockpile management”

Mr. President,

Thank you very much for convening this consultation which is all the more precious during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful that your paper has been updated mainly on the linkage between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and also on the impact on gender-based violence (GBV). We generally support your ideas.

The Republic of Korea believes that the recommendations in the President's working paper should be incorporated into the current or coming work plans of the sub-working groups of Effective Treaty Implementation with its adoption at CSP7. Therefore, the recommendations must be realistic and building on the current sub-WGETI works.

We believe that the second recommendation (i.e., the “possible output” in the draft working paper), which is to have formal discussions on post-delivery cooperation experiences with both exporters and importers and to develop guidelines on cooperation and assistance for compliance with export documentation, is relevant and can be explored in the coming sub-WGETIs.

For the fourth recommendation, which is a new recommendation by the President, the Republic of Korea is of the view that the discussion on the national practices regarding “mitigating measures” in Article 7(4) does not need to have a particular focus on SALW or stockpile management, even though we believe that the mitigating measures in the context of Article 7(4) are entitled to further discussion since they have not been fully discussed during CSP6 in part due to COVID-19 and the change in working method.

Lastly, for the fifth recommendation, the Republic of Korea believes that States parties, in general, are better placed than WGETI for the consideration of identification and compilation of a list of assistance programmes within and outside the ATT for addressing the illicit trade of SALW and stockpile management, since we cannot identify directly which sub-group of the existing WGETI can deal with the matter.

I thank you, Mr. President.