Arms Trade Treaty

Eighth Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 22 – 26 August 2022

FINAL REPORT

The Final Report of the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, which took place from 22 – 26 August 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, consists of three parts and an Annex as follows:

I. Introduction
II. Organization of the Conference
III. Decisions and Recommendations

Annex List of Documents

I. INTRODUCTION


2. Article 17(1) of the Treaty states that “A Conference of States Parties shall be convened by the provisional Secretariat, established under Article 18, no later than one year following the entry into force of this Treaty and thereafter at such other times as may be decided by the Conference of States Parties”. Article 17(4) (a-g) further states that “The Conference of States Parties shall:

   (a) Review the implementation of this Treaty, including developments in the field of conventional arms;
   (b) Consider and adopt recommendations regarding the implementation and operation of this Treaty, in particular the promotion of its universality;
   (c) Consider amendments to this Treaty in accordance with Article 20;
   (d) Consider issues arising from the interpretation of this Treaty;
   (e) Consider and decide the tasks and budget of the Secretariat;
   (f) Consider the establishment of any subsidiary bodies as may be necessary to improve the functioning of this Treaty; and
   (g) Perform any other function consistent with this Treaty.”

3. In accordance with the provisions of Article 17, the First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth, the Fifth, the Sixth and the Seventh Conferences of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty were held in Mexico, 24 – 27 August 2015, in Switzerland, 22 – 26 August 2016, and 11-15 September 2017 respectively, in Japan, 20 – 24 August 2018, in Switzerland, 26 - 30 August 2019, in written format 17 - 21 August 2020,
and in Switzerland, in hybrid format (with some delegates participating virtually via the virtual platform and other delegates participating in-person) in Switzerland, 30 August – 03 September 2021. The Eighth Conference of States Parties was held in-person with a livestreaming option in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-26 August 2022 in compliance with Article 17. The Conference was held at the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG).

4. To support the implementation of the Treaty at the national level, the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) established under Article 16(3), made further progress through disbursement of funds to Treaty implementation projects at a national level. To date, the VTF has funded 69 implementation projects in different regions. In the short period of its existence, the VTF has presented a useful ATT facility to support practical implementation of the Treaty.

5. The three ATT Working Groups established by the Third Conference of States Parties - the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting and the Working Group on Treaty Universalization - made further progress in their work. In the intersessional period of the Eighth Conference of States Parties, the three ATT Working Groups convened two series of hybrid meetings on 15-17 February and 26-28 April 2022, during which States Parties and other stakeholders exchanged information and views on practices and challenges related to Treaty implementation, transparency and reporting, and universalization.

6. To prepare for this Conference, two informal preparatory meetings were convened alongside meetings of the Working Groups on 18 February and 29 April 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, the seat of the Secretariat to the Treaty.

7. The Secretariat convened the Conference in fulfilment of Article 17(1) of the Treaty. On 20 June 2022, pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat notified States Parties, Signatory States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as depositary of the Treaty, of the Conference, its date and venue. Furthermore, the Conference’s draft provisional agenda was circulated on 22 June 2022 in accordance with Rule 15.1 of the Rules of Procedure and, on 22 July 2022, all the Conference documents were circulated and made publicly available on the Treaty website at https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/conference-documents-csp8. For the first meeting of the ATT Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF), established by the Sixth Conference of States Parties, the Secretariat circulated an invitation to all States Parties and Signatory States on 01 July 2022, in accordance with Rule 9 of the DIEF Terms of Reference. The draft agenda for the meeting was circulated to States Parties and Signatory States on 26 July 2022, in accordance with Rule 10 of the DIEF Terms of Reference.

8. As at 22 August 2022, the opening of the Conference, the Treaty had one hundred and eleven (111) States Parties. Meanwhile the Treaty has thirty (30) Signatory States that have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval. On 18 July 2019, one of those Signatory States – the United States of America – notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, that it does not intend to become a party to the treaty.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

9. The Secretariat to the Treaty made arrangements and provided the necessary services for the Conference, including the preparation of this Report.
The Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, 22 - 26 August 2022 and was attended by 108 States, a number of international and regional organisations and representatives of civil society and industry.

87 States Parties participated in the work of the Conference in accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia.

20 Signatory States participated in the work of the Conference in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure: Angola, Bahrain, Burundi, Cambodia, Eswatini, Haiti, Israel, Kiribati, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nauru, Singapore, Thailand, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

The following State participated in the work of the Conference as observer in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure: Gambia.

The following ten (9) organisations participated in the work of the Conference as observers in accordance with Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure: European Union, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

The following forty (40) civil society organizations, including NGOs, international coalitions of NGOs, associations representing industry and implementing agencies, participated in the work of the Conference as observers in accordance with Rule 5.1 and 5.2 of the Rules of Procedure: Action Sécurité Ethique Républicaines (ASER), Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD), Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT), Association of European Manufacturers of Sporting Ammunition (AFEMS), Associazione Nazionale Produttori ArmI e Munizioni Sportive e Civili (ANPAM), Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC), Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle (BAFA), Canada's National Firearms Association, Canadian Red Cross, Center for Peace and Development Effectiveness (CEPDE), Centre de Recherche et d'Information Pour le Désarmement et Sécurité (CRIDS), Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (CAVR), Conflict Armament Research (CAR), the Control Arms Coalition with representatives from the following NGOs: 24-0 México, Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, Action on Armed Violence, African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace, Amnesty International, Alliance for the Observatory of Action on Armed Violence in Burundi (AVOABVU), Brarudi, Breaking the Wall of Silence, Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP), Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence (CDRAV), Centre for Peace Research and Advocacy (CPRA), Centro de Estudios Ecuménicos A.C.,

16. In reference to Rule 7.4 of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat circulated a draft List of Participants to all States Parties on 18 August 2022, contained in document ATT/CSP8/2022/SEC/738/Conf.PartList, informing them of the composition of all delegations that have registered as Participants to the Conference under Rules 1 and 2 as well as those that have registered to attend as observers under Rules 3, 4, and 5, and requesting any possible objection by a State Party against the representation of a delegation of a State Party, Signatory State or observer at the Conference to be presented to the President no later than 10:00 local time, Saturday 20 August 2022.

17. At its opening session, the Conference was opened by Her Excellency, Ms. Annalena BAERBOCK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany. Statements were delivered to the Conference by H.E. Mr. Peter MAURER, President, International Committee of the Red Cross; Ms. Melanie REGIMBAL, Head of ODA’s Geneva Office, representing the Under-Secretary-General and UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Mr. Alejandro CASTAÑEDA MEDINA, Disarmament Analyst, Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (Control Arms).

18. The high-level thematic discussion on Post Shipment Controls took place after the opening session. The panel was composed by Mr. Axel KRICKOW, Deputy Head of Division, Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), Germany; H.E. Mr. Simon PLÜSS, Deputy Head: Bilateral
III. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

19. At its first plenary session on 22 August 2022, under item 2, the Conference adopted its Agenda referenced ATT/CSP8/2022/SEC/726/Conf.Agenda.

20. At the same plenary session and in accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference confirmed Mr. Dumisani DLADLA, in his capacity as the Head of the Secretariat, as the Secretary of the Conference.

21. The Conference welcomed the thematic discussion on Post-Shipment Controls, the priority theme for the Conference, that explored how this subject could be articulated in the context of the ATT, and where appropriate to national context. To that end, the Conference considered the recommendations and suggestions contained in document ATT/CSP8/2022/PRES/732/Conf.PostShip submitted by the CSP8 President. Having examined different aspects of post-shipment controls in the context of the ATT, the Conference decided that:

a. States Parties are encouraged to continue discussing approaches and understandings of “post-shipment controls” or “post-delivery coordination” in the context of diversion control.

b. States Parties are encouraged, where appropriate and on strictly voluntary basis, to share their experiences regarding the implementation of post-shipment controls/post-delivery coordination measures within the scope of the ATT, through means such as the Initial Report; the Annual Report; the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation and sub-working group on Article 11; the Diversion Information Exchange Forum; the information exchange platform within the ATT website; and the Conference of States Parties, without setting additional burdens beyond the obligations of the Treaty.

22. Acknowledging the importance of universal adherence to the Treaty, the Conference welcomed all Treaty universalization efforts undertaken, in particular those of the President of the Eighth Conference of States Parties, Ambassador Thomas GÖBEL. To take forward Treaty universalization, acknowledging and building on efforts by successive presidencies, the Conference considered the Working Group on Treaty Universalization Co-Chairs’ Draft Report to CSP8, contained in document ATT/CSP8.WGTU/2022/CHAIR/735/Conf.Rep, and:

a. Welcomed the draft paper “Enhancing the work of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization” (Annex A to the Co-Chairs’ report), and requested Germany to further work on this issue as WGTU Co-chair during the next CSP cycle and to present recommendations to CSP9.

b. Encouraged continued regular exchanges of views between the CSP President, WGTU Co-Chairs, Chairs and Facilitators of the various ATT subsidiary bodies, states and civil society on the promotion of Treaty universalization.
23. The Conference underscored the importance of effective Treaty implementation in advancing the object and purpose of the Treaty, and considered the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation Chair’s Draft Report to CSP8, contained in document ATT/CSP8.WGETI/2022/CHAIR/733/Conf.Rep. In that respect, the Conference noted that draft Chapter 1 (Key concepts) of the proposed Voluntary Guide to assist States Parties in implementing Articles 6 and 7 has been completed (Annex A to the Chair’s report), as a living document of a voluntary nature to be reviewed and updated regularly by the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, as appropriate. The Conference reiterated that when the elaboration of the foreseen draft chapters of the proposed Voluntary Guide to assist States Parties in implementing Articles 6 and 7 is concluded, the proposed Voluntary Guide should be submitted to Conference for endorsement.

24. Regarding the activities of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation to be undertaken in the intersessional period of the Ninth Conference of States Parties, the Conference noted that the Facilitator of the Sub-working Group on Articles 6 and 7 will begin his work on a list of possible draft elements for Chapter 2 (Article 6 – Prohibitions), deriving from views exchanged during discussions held in the CSP8 cycle, for presentation to the first meeting of the Sub-working Group in the CSP9 cycle in 2023. Following this presentation, the Facilitator will commence focused discussions on the relationship between Article 6 and other Articles, and thereafter proceed to mitigations measures as contemplated in the multi-year workplan.

25. Concerning the Sub-working Group on Article 9, the Conference noted that the Facilitator will begin his work on draft elements for a possible voluntary guide on the implementation of Article 9, deriving from the views exchanged during discussions thus far. He will present these draft elements to the first meeting of the Sub-working Group in the CSP9 cycle in 2023, and thereafter commence focused discussions on the relationship between Article 9 and other Articles, as contemplated in the multi-year plan.

26. With respect to the Sub-working Group on Article 11, the Conference noted that the Sub-working Group has reached the end of its multi-year workplan that was agreed by States Parties. Considering this, the Conference endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group Chair to extend the work of this Sub-working Group by one additional year to enable it to focus on the topic of post-delivery cooperation.

27. The Conference emphasized the significance of transparency and reporting as highlighted in the overview presentation by the ATT Secretariat on the current status of reporting under the Treaty. The Conference considered the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting Co-chairs’ Draft Report to CSP8, contained in document ATT/CSP8.WGTR/2022/CHAIR/734/Conf.Rep, and:

   a. Recalled that transparency is a key provision of the Treaty and as such, the WGTR must ensure that transparency is reflected in all its processes, discussions and proposals aimed at the fulfilment of the objectives of the Treaty;
   b. Reiterated that reporting is a fundamental obligation of the ATT, and submitting initial and annual reports is an indicator of the commitment of a State Party to the Treaty;
   c. Expressed its concern for the low rate of compliance with the reporting obligations;
d. Urged States Parties that are not fully compliant with their reporting obligations to submit their reports or, in case of difficulty to do so, to make use of the available assistance mechanisms in order to achieve full compliance with the Treaty’s reporting obligations;

e. Encouraged all relevant stakeholders to continue to implement the Outreach Strategy on Reporting that was adopted at CSP4, and to use all available means to actively engage with States Parties that are not fully compliant with the reporting obligations, in order to raise awareness on the mandatory nature of reporting and to provide assistance upon request;

f. Encourages States Parties and Signatory States to register online for access to the IT platform and make use of the information exchange platform;

g. Endorsed the revised ‘FAQ’-type guidance document on the annual reporting obligation, as contained in Annex C of the Co-Chairs’ report; and

h. Endorsed the WGTR mandate for the WGTR in the period between CSP8 and CSP9, as included in Annex A of the Co-Chair’s report.

28. The Conference welcomed the inaugural meeting of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF) as a first opportunity for States Parties and Signatory States to exchange information on concrete cases of detected or suspected diversion and share concrete, operational diversion-related information as contemplated in Articles 11 and 15 of the Treaty. The Conference noted the oral briefing by the DIEF Chair regarding the first meeting of the Forum, commended the States Parties and Signatory States that shared information, and encouraged all States Parties and Signatory States to present cases of diversion at forthcoming DIEF meetings to be organized by the CSP9 President in accordance with the DIEF Terms of Reference.

29. Recognising the importance of the ATT Sponsorship Programme in facilitating broad participation in Conferences of States Parties and meetings of the Working Groups, the Conference welcomed the report on the state of operation of the ATT Sponsorship Programme, as contained in document ATT/CSP8/2022/SEC/731/Conf.SponProgRep. The Conference expressed appreciation to the States that have made voluntary financial contributions to the Programme.

30. The Conference re-emphasized the importance of the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF), a facility established under Article 16(3) of the Treaty to give effect to international assistance in support of Treaty implementation at a national level. The Conference welcomed the work of the VTF undertaken in the 2021/2022 period, and took note of its Report contained in document ATT/VTF/2022/CHAIR/736/Conf.Rep. The Conference again expressed appreciation to the States that have made voluntary financial contributions to the Fund and encouraged all other States, in a position to do so, to contribute to the Programme.

31. Following deliberations regarding the selection of projects for VTF funding by the VTF Selection Committee and in reference to decisions of previous Conferences of States Parties, the Conference decided that in selecting VTF projects, the VTF Selection Committee will continue to be guided by the VTF Terms of Reference.

33. The Conference also approved the ATT Secretariat provisional budget for the year 2023 as contained in document ATT/CSP8/2022/SEC.FIN/725/Conf.2023Bud.


35. In reference to decisions of previous Conferences of States Parties regarding ATT financial contributions, the Conference, again, expressed deep concern about the unpaid contributions of States and called on States that have not done so to address their financial obligations in a prompt and timely manner, and make use of the financial mechanism for the settlement of arrears. The Conference highlighted the risks that the ATT process and its essential activities, including the organization of future ATT meetings, will face if the situation is not addressed. The Conference welcomed the first voluntary financial contribution from Germany to the ATT Reserve Fund that will help guarantee the work of the ATT Secretariat in cases of financial liquidity challenges.

36. 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 the Tenth Conference of States Parties. Accordingly, the Conference decided to task the Management Committee to review the ATT programme of work, in consultation with States Parties and Signatory States, and to submit a proposal to the Ninth Conference of States Parties for a decision. In undertaking this task, the Management Committee is directed to take into account the following: foreseen ATT universalization and implementation objectives; optimisation of the ATT internal support processes; foreseen financial efficiencies; and the status of the disarmament calendar.

37. The Conference decided to hold its next formal annual session, the Ninth Conference of States Parties, in Geneva, Switzerland on 21 – 25 August 2023, at the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG), a venue generously provided for by the Swiss government. Furthermore, the Conference decided that the informal preparatory meetings and the meetings of the Working Groups will also be held in Geneva, Switzerland, with dates to be confirmed by the President of the Ninth Conference of States Parties.

38. Pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Treaty, the Conference adopted the budget for the Ninth Conference of States Parties, submitted by the ATT Secretariat as contained in document ATT/CSP8/2022/SEC.FIN/725/Conf.2023Bud, including costs for the informal preparatory meetings and meetings of the ATT Working Groups. The Conference further decided costs for informal preparatory and Working Groups meetings shall include costs for document translation and in-session interpretation. The Conference emphasised that any indirect meeting costs, such as for travel and accommodation, shall be borne by participants.

39. Pursuant to Rule 9.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference elected, by acclamation, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the Conference on Disarmament as the President of the Ninth Conference of States Parties.

40. Pursuant to the same Rule, the Conference elected, by acclamation, Australia, Latvia, Uruguay and South Africa as the four (4) vice-Presidents for the Ninth Conference of States Parties.
41. Pursuant to Article 6 of the VTF Terms of Reference, the Conference appointed Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Madagascar, Mexico, Panama, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to serve on the VTF Selection Committee for two years, from the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Tenth Conference of States Parties.

42. Pursuant to Section 3 of the Management Committee’s Terms of Reference, the Conference appointed China designated by the Asia-Pacific group, to replace the Republic of Korea as a member of the Management Committee to serve for a period of one year up to the Ninth Conference of States Parties.

43. Pursuant to Article 17(4)(f) of the Treaty and Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference mandates the President of the Ninth Conference of States Parties to appoint the Chairs of the ATT Working Groups for a period until the conclusion of the Ninth Conference of States Parties.

44. The Conference warmly thanked Ambassador Thomas Göbel of Germany for his dedication and for the outstanding work done as President of the Eighth Conference of States Parties in advancing the interests of the Treaty, supporting States, and skilfully leading the intersessional work, which, together with his chairmanship, resulted in a successful Conference.


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## ANNEX

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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<td>ATT/CSP8/2022/PRES/732/Conf.PostShip</td>
<td>Draft Working Paper: Post-shipment controls and coordination effective export verification and good-faith cooperation between exporters and importers, presented by the President of the Eighth Conference of State Parties to the ATT</td>
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<td>ATT Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation - Chair’s Draft Report to CSP8</td>
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Other papers
Paper submitted by Argentina on GBV (for information only)

Documents submitted under Rule 5.1
Taking Stock of the ATT: A synopsis prepared for CSP8 by Germany in co-operation with Control Arms, SIPRI, and The Stimson Center