

# **PROPOSED Joint Statement on Gender and the ATT**

## **ATT CSP 5**

26 August 2019

Mr President,

I take the floor on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Uruguay, Zambia and my own country, Argentina.

We welcome the focus on gender and gender-based violence as the thematic priority of your Presidency. This theme draws on one of the unique elements of the ATT, that in exporting conventional weapons State Parties assess the risk of their being used to commit or facilitate gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and girls. This significant aspect of the Treaty has been effectively highlighted by the Latvian Presidency this year, including in your draft decision paper. Indeed, we believe the draft decision is a good basis for practical, tangible work to increase gender equality, and reduce gender-based violence.

The remarks from the distinguished panellists have convincingly described the importance of gender perspectives and gender-based violence risk assessments within the ATT. In this context, we are encouraged by the high-level of support for gender considerations during our two informal preparatory meetings for this conference, as well as the increase in statements and side-events where gender perspectives are applied and discussed. Gender perspectives are fundamental to our policy-making and programming, and underpin the importance of disarmament work within the broader framework of global peace and security efforts.

Complementary to the outward positive dimension of our work on gender in the ATT is the concrete value of striving for gender balance in delegations, panels and events. As other speakers have said, our discussions and actions are enhanced when all of us can participate. Gender equality should be achieved at all levels including in terms of seniority of representation in delegations, not only numbers of women in the room. We look forward to continuing reports on progress on this subject by the ATT Secretariat.

The evidence is clear, when examining security challenges and weapons-related issues, gendered impacts must be assessed: women, men, girls and boys experience different threats during and after conflict, as well as being differentially impacted by weapons and their

flows in non-conflict environments. The collection and sharing of sex-disaggregated data on victims of armed violence and conflict is central to such efforts

We agree that it will be helpful for the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation to further discuss States' practice in implementing Article 7 in relation to risk assessment of gender-based violence. Further we support the encouragement for States to share information on their national practices with regard to mitigating measures, and for risk assessment.

A voluntary training guide on gender-based violence risk assessment could be very useful for States Parties, and we believe that the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation should begin work on such a guide after the Draft Action is approved.

Civil society organizations have had a powerful influence on the expansion of gender perspectives throughout the development of the ATT. They have offered ideas, knowledge, encouragement and constructive criticism of States' efforts – notably on gender-based violence risk assessment. They have also organised and participated in training programmes to help States explore and apply gender-based violence concepts. We welcome their commitment and look forward to on-going partnerships and collaboration.

To conclude, this year's focus on gender and gender-based violence has been a positive one. We agree this should be an issue of on-going exploration, and we offer our support to subsequent presidencies in addressing this. Let us build on this momentum in order to match words with actions.

Thank you.