



Arms Trade Treaty
5th Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 26–30 August 2019

Agenda Point 4: Thematic discussion on Gender and Gender-Based Violence

Mr. President,

Let me first express Switzerland's appreciation for your efforts to advance the discussion on gender and gender-based violence in the context of the ATT. We wish to also thank the panellists, Here Excellency Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Here Excellency Christine Hoebes, Mr. Carbonnier, Here Excellency Izumi Nakamitsu and Ms. Matundu Mbambi for the important contributions and the powerful testimonies we have just heard. They provide the necessary foundation to bring our common work within the ATT forward. We hope that this panel discussion combined with the draft decisions at hand will be a first step towards an appropriate consideration of gender aspects in the arms trade context and that it will lead to a measureable impact.

Mr. President,

Switzerland associates itself with the statement to be read by Ireland and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity:

Switzerland welcomes **draft decision 1**. We particularly appreciate your introductory mention of women's meaningful participation. We fully agree that equal representation should not only be seen in quantitative terms. We see this draft decision in the spirit of fostering a constructive working environment for mixed delegations. In this same spirit, we agree that gender considerations should be part of the selection criteria for sponsorships provided that this fosters substantive contributions of women in our deliberations.

On that note, Switzerland would like to emphasize again that meaningful representation requires systematic "feeding of the pipeline" through education and training. A special emphasis should be placed on young women in order to facilitate their access to a field, which is still predominantly male. The joint OSCE-UNODA Scholarship for Peace and Security Training programme, that Switzerland supports, is an excellent example in this regard.

We also support **draft decision 2**. We agree that collecting gender-disaggregated data enables us to better understand the gendered impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT. We further consider the exchange between gender experts and arms trade experts useful and welcome the contribution of civil society to that effect.

Draft decision 3 provides a solid basis for future work of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation. In our understanding, the decision reflects the idea that the Working Group will ensure that in its main discussions on the key terms of art. 6 and 7 – in particular "serious", "facilitate" and "overriding risk" – gender is considered appropriately.



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In order to provide clarity for the Working Group, we would see merit in reflecting draft decision 3 in the Working Group's mandate

We find draft decision 3.5 interesting, yet greater clarity is required. We are wondering what specific question would be asked in the Annual Reports since they address imports and exports of conventional arms from a quantitative perspective. Maybe the initial report could be another option to consider, if we are interested in the question how States Parties implement art. 7(4). Such questions could be best addressed in section 3.D. of the Initial Report. Before taking a decision on point 3.5, we would therefore appreciate more clarity.

Finally, Mr. President, we fully support **draft decision 4 and 5**. It may be useful encouraging work on gender and gender-based violence within projects supported by the VTF provided that it fits the project's context and furthers the objective and the purpose of the ATT.

Mr. President,

Let me again thank you for your able leadership and inclusive approach in the development of the draft decisions. Switzerland is convinced that this focus contributes to advancing gender equality and ensuring effective prevention of sexual- and gender-based violence related to arms trade.