



Draft Intervention by South Africa on the Food for thought paper submitted by the United Kingdom on behalf of six States during the Preparatory Meeting of the CSP 10 of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr President,

South Africa wishes to thank you and the secretariat for your efforts in preparing for the CSP 10 Preparatory Meeting.

We thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for the *Food for thought Paper* introduced yesterday on behalf of six States regarding the organization of ATT Working Group meetings. The paper raises a number of issues, which merit careful consideration by States Parties and other stakeholders before any decision could be taken. In this regard, our delegation would like to have more time to consider the paper in detail in terms of its essence and implication for our work and our current working methods. Without prejudice to our future position on the paper, we would like to highlight, on preliminary basis, the following points arising from the paper that we would like to consider further.

- Firstly, the paper was introduced under the Management Committee (MC) agenda item. We are keen to know the rationale behind this, considering that the MC is, as per CSP9 decision, expected to review the revised ATT programme of work currently under trial for one year. We must ensure that the food for thought paper does not preempt the review exercise to be conducted by the MC and the subsequent proposal to be submitted to CSP10.
- Secondly, we understand the ATT Working Groups to have been established to create a continuous platform for information exchange on ATT implementation in a flexible manner conducive for ATT experts to participate freely without the hindrance of rigid rules. We are wondering what has suddenly changed in the WGs sessions to warrant the invocation of the ATT Rules of Procedure (ROPs). We consider that ATT WGs sessions are conducted in the context of informal preparatory meetings determined by CSPs on annual basis. In this regard, we need to discuss how the application of ROPs can be reconciled with decisions of CSPs regarding the informal nature of preparatory meetings including WGs sessions. We further need to discuss the practical implications of applying ROPs in respect of, amongst others, registration of participants, ability of participants to speak freely, and general decision making.
- Thirdly, whilst it is desirable to streamline meeting documentation, such an exercise should be carefully thought through and its implications carefully assessed in terms of the facilitation of WGs discussions, facilitation of decision making by CSPs and development of ATT body of reference material to be used by States in their efforts to implement the Treaty at a practical level.

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Mr President,

Our delegation shall duly respond revert with a formal stance on the paper in due course; however, at this juncture we wished to articulate certain salient points from the paper that warrant meticulous consideration.

Thank you