



Arms Trade Treaty
Working Group Meetings
May 2023

Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI)

DISCUSSION ON FORTHCOMING TOPICS AND WORKING METHODS (10 May 2023, 10:00-13:00): Draft proposal on WGETI configuration and substance

Mr. Chair,

The Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation is a central element in the machinery put in place by ATT States Parties to support treaty implementation. Its work programme has developed organically and it makes sense to restructure it, as the treaty gets closer to its 10th anniversary to review the way it approaches its mandate. In this context, Switzerland welcomes the draft proposal submitted by the Working Group's Chair and broadly supports the suggested approach to be followed for the coming years. In our view, the discussions of the Working Group should focus on practical Treaty implementation issues at national level in order to assist States Parties to fulfil their Treaty obligations. Restructuring these discussions along the lines of the different implementation phases of the Treaty is consistent with this goal.

Also, by linking these different phases with corresponding support opportunities offered by cooperation amongst States Parties or the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund, the proposed reconfiguration of the Working Group will help to streamline and promote support mechanisms that are available to States Parties.

Now, a number of elements in the proposal may benefit from further clarification or consideration:

- First, greater clarity may be useful regarding a calendar linked to the proposed approach. If we maintain the eight stages foreseen, addressing one issue per year would mean that we would need eight years to go through a cycle, which may be too long. This question is also obviously linked to the time available to the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation each year.
- Second, as mentioned in the proposal, it would be important that presentations to inform discussions on the implementation stages are made by States from different background. It could be useful to consider how to best meet this challenge, including leveraging instruments available such as technical means and the sponsorship programme. If mechanisms that have been developed under some conventions to have a more systematic approach in this respect may not be applicable to the ATT, seeking to achieve greater ownership as part of these discussions would be worthwhile.



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- And third, we would also consider that space should be maintained in the work programme of the Working Group to address specific implementation issue. If it appears in discussing the different stages of implementation that a specific or cross-cutting issue poses a clear challenge, the Working Group should have the capacity to discuss it in more detail.

Finally, we would like to underline that the proposal in itself is not a guarantee that its goals will be met. We have observed over the past years a diminution of active participation by States Parties. Without a strong will by all States Parties to engage during the Working Group discussions, its reconfiguration might not lead to the desired outcome. We therefore encourage all delegations to engage actively and constructively in the discussions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.