



27 August 2019

Submitted by: **Costa Rica and Mexico**

Original: Spanish and English

Arms Trade Treaty

Fifth Conference of States Parties

Geneva, 26 – 30 August 2019

**WORKING PAPER PRESENTED BY COSTA RICA AND MEXICO: REFLECTIONS ON THE PROCESS OF
THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES**

Costa Rica and Mexico are very pleased with the fifth year of operation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Since the First Conference of State Parties (CSP), significant progress has been made as it regards to the implementation of the Treaty, as well as to the consolidation of its institutional architecture.

Moreover, we consider that the practice followed to unfold the CSP processes has been useful, and it has allowed the regime to be strengthened. However, the following elements may be considered to improve the "deliverables" or results of the CSP:

1. The meetings of the preparatory process should be scheduled so as to permit for a more periodic and regular exchange in between sessions. A better distribution of meetings throughout the calendar year will allow for: a deeper analysis of the documents and proposals, further sharing of views among the different actors at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels, and with other delegations. Although it is understood that the dates of the intersessional meetings depend largely on the financial situation, the availability of rooms, and the occurrence of other official events, including in the disarmament agenda.
2. We recommend maintaining the practice where the Presidency promotes a specific topic during its tenure. This allows us to substantively reflect on cross-cutting issues, and to produce concrete deliverables for the integral implementation of the Treaty.
3. The thematic WGs, in accordance with the decisions of the CSP, should continue to address specific thematic and/or emphases, with the possibility of rotating them. We suggest that the work of the WGs achieves a delicate balance between the technical presentations, and the presentation of experiences and practices coming from the different stakeholders, including States, and focus the work on the development of deliverables. These "deliverables" may include: manuals, guiding documents, compendiums of best practices, and others, thus constituting a robust set of voluntary instruments and/or decisions to be considered by CSP, to strengthen common approaches and widespread application.
4. We encourage the coordinators of the WGs and facilitators, to continue innovating in the methodology and format of the intersessional work sessions, to give a vigorous impetus to the three pillars of work, namely: implementation, reporting and transparency, and universalization. This type of exchanges, including among States, with specialized agencies

and organizations of the United Nations, NGOs and academia, should be flexible, and customized to the regional differentiated needs of the States.

5. We find it necessary to maintain the "pace and cadence" of the work in the intersessional period. One step in this direction would be the development of informal consultations among sub-regional and regional groups, with the support of the vice-presidencies, which would result in systematic and transparent exchanges in order to advance relevant aspects of implementation, cooperation and decision-making. For this purpose, and in the framework of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we could take advantage of IT platforms and tools to meet virtually.
6. We consider necessary to re-consider the name given to the Latin America and Caribbean region in the webpage of the Secretariat, and we suggest to modify "Americas" for "Latin America and the Caribbean" (LAC), as this term is more appropriate.
