
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION¹

1. On 31 May 2017, during the second meeting of the Informal Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU) established by CSP2, the Co-chairs of the Working Group - the CSP3 President, Ambassador Klaus Korhonen of Finland, and the CSP2 President, Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe of Nigeria – recommended that CSP3 establishes a standing working group on Treaty universalization. The Co-chairs proposed that the working group operate under a set of terms of reference detailing the mandate of such a group based on the Revised Initial Work Plan and its Annex (*Working Paper Promotion of Arms Trade Treaty Universalization* (ATT/CSP2/2016/WP.4/Rev.1) as well as the outcomes of the WGTU meetings held in 2017.

2. Rule 42.2 of the ATT Rules of Procedure provides that “the Conference shall determine the matters to be considered by each subsidiary body, including its mandate, officers, composition, size, duration and budgetary issues and may authorise the President to make appropriate adjustments in the allocation of work”. In line with these procedural requirements, the following terms of reference are proposed for the standing Working Group on Treaty Universalization.

Mandate

3. The Working Group shall generate and share views and implementation measures on Treaty universalization and where appropriate, place in context vital lessons from other Treaties and Conventions. The Working Group will develop specific activities and targets to realise the Treaty universalization objectives, and submit/recommend them to CSP3 for consideration. The Working Group shall undertake tasks defined by the Conference of States Parties on the basis of recommendations from the Working Group. As a rule, the purpose of the Group’s work shall be to prepare materials and proposals for the Conference of States Parties.

Composition and Membership

4. The Working Group shall be under the chairmanship of the President of the current Conference of States Parties. In addition, a Co-chair of the Working Group may be appointed by the President for a period until the conclusion of the following CSP.

5. Meetings of the Working Group shall be public.

6. At the request of one or more States Parties, on an exceptional basis, and in accordance with Rule 43, a particular session or part of a session of the Group may be limited to States Parties and Signatory States only. Experts may be invited to attend such a session or part of a session, pursuant to Rule 42.2 of the Rules of Procedure.

¹ Annex A of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization Co-chairs’ Draft Report to CSP3 ([ATT/CSP3.WGTU/2017/CHAIR/160/Conf.Rep](https://www.un.org/rukd/dam/rep/2017/CHAIR/160/Conf.Rep)).

Working Methods

7. The standing Working Group shall operate in accordance with the ATT Rules of Procedures with particular reference to Rule 42 and 43.

8. The Working Group shall as a rule hold its meetings in Geneva, where the meetings can be supported by the Secretariat of the Treaty. When possible, the Working Group shall hold its meetings back to back with other ATT meetings for cost saving purposes and to ensure maximum participation.

9. Consultation on any documentation submitted to or under consideration/development by the Working Group shall be conducted by its Chair(s) by posting it on the ATT website and circulation by email, in addition to any consultation held during the Group's meetings, to ensure maximum participation in the work of the Working Group. Material that is related to a topic that is treated by the Working Group in closed session should be posted to the website's restricted area and circulated among States Parties only.

Budgetary Implications

10. Direct meetings costs, such as for technical support, documentation, and any translation and/or interpretation services shall be covered by the resources allocated for the conduct of meetings in the budget of the Conference of States Parties as well as any voluntary contributions that are made available for this purpose. Indirect meeting costs, such as travel and accommodation, shall be borne by participants except to the extent that sponsorship funding is available.
