



17 February 2026

Issued by the Working Group on Treaty Universalization

Original: **English**

---

Arms Trade Treaty  
**Twelfth Conference of States Parties**  
Geneva, 24 – 28 August 2026

Dear delegates,

1. In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU), we have the pleasure to introduce the enclosed draft annotated agenda for the CSP12 meeting of the WGTU, scheduled to take place on 18 March 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland. To facilitate delegations' effective preparation for the meeting, the co-chairs wish to recall and emphasize a few points as well as to provide preparatory questions for consideration.

2. Firstly, we remind all delegations that **updates about activities to promote universalization** have consistently been an important part of WGTU meetings and this will continue to be the case. The Co-Chairs will open this session by providing an update on their activities and will welcome updates from all stakeholders. In addition to these updates, we also extend an invitation to signatory States and other States willing to brief the Working Group about steps taken towards ratification or accession or their involvement in universalization activities.

3. Secondly, the co-chairs recall the “**WGTU workplan for ATT universalization efforts**”, welcomed by CSP10 to guide the Treaty universalization discussions and outreach efforts of ATT stakeholders during the CSP11 to CSP13 cycles.<sup>1</sup> As the Working Group is tasked with administering the workplan and monitoring and steering its implementation, we will review progress made and consider possible further initiatives. In line with CSP11's emphasis on regional cooperation and engagement as key instruments to impel States to join the Treaty, the meeting will feature a panel discussion highlighting the role of regional actors in universalization efforts. The participants in this discussion will be announced by the CSP12 President at a later stage. We also draw attention to a crucial element of the workplan requesting all ATT stakeholders to inform the ATT Secretariat well in advance of anticipated bilateral, multilateral and regional universalization efforts, with a discussion scheduled on ways to enhance this exchange.

4. Complementing the workplan, CSP11 also adopted several **recommendations and suggestions contained in the CSP11 President's working paper on “Universalization as a Priority”**.<sup>2</sup> While we encourage delegations to include related activities in their interventions under the item on universalization updates, the WGTU meeting will also serve as an opportunity to explore ideas for the further implementation of the recommendations and suggestions in question, which are reproduced in [Annex A](#) of the attached draft annotated agenda.

---

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 27 (a) of the CSP10 Final Report ([ATT/CSP10/2024/SEC/807/Conf.FinRep](#)). The workplan was welcomed as Annex A of the WGTU Co-Chairs' report to CSP10 ([ATT/CSP10.WGTU/2024/CHAIR/801/Conf.Rep](#)) and is available in all UN languages in the *Tools and Guidelines* section of the ATT website: <https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/tools-and-guidelines.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Contained in document [ATT/CSP11/2025/PRES/825/Conf.WP.UNIV](#). Also see paragraph 23 of the CSP11 Final Report ([ATT/CSP11/2025/SEC/834/Conf.FinRep/Rev.](#)).

5. Finally, the WGTU will continue to conduct **structured discussions on national ratification/accession and domestication practices**, as decided by CSP10.<sup>3</sup> Following the encouragement in the CSP11 Final Report and the call for presentations issued by the CSP12 President on 3 December 2025, the CSP12 President will announce the States Parties and other stakeholders that will deliver presentations at a later stage. The practical ratification/accession and domestication questions for these discussions are reproduced in [Annex B](#) of the attached draft annotated agenda.

**6. In order to enable a meaningful discussion during the 18 March 2026 WGTU meeting, delegations are requested to consider the following questions in preparing their interventions:**

- *Has your delegation undertaken any activities to promote the universalization of ATT since CSP11? Has your delegation planned or does it want to propose such activities?*
- *Does your delegation have information to share within the Working Group about the status of ratification or accession in States that are the focus of ATT universalization efforts?<sup>4</sup>*
- *Does your delegation have proposals to enhance the exchange of information on universalization activities between ATT stakeholders and the ATT Secretariat?*
- *Has your delegation undertaken initiatives to carry forward the recommendations and suggestions in [Annex A](#) or does it want to propose such initiatives?*
- *Would your delegation wish to share practices, challenges, constraints, or opportunities for international cooperation and assistance related to the topic of the structured discussion, “National ratification/accession and domestication practices”, taking into account the practical questions in [Annex B](#)?*

As these questions correspond to different agenda items, delegations should structure their interventions accordingly, ensuring that each intervention addresses the specific topic under discussion.

Delegations intending to submit proposals or suggestions for discussion during the meeting are requested to send them in writing to the ATT Secretariat via e-mail ([info@thearmstradetreaty.org](mailto:info@thearmstradetreaty.org)), by 05 March 2026.

The Co-Chairs look forward to a substantive and forward-looking discussion in March to further our common commitment to the universalization of the Treaty.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Tsholofelo TSHEOLE, *Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, President of the Twelfth Conference of States Parties*  
 Ambassador Carlos FORADORI, *Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva, President of the Eleventh Conference of States Parties*

**Co-Chairs of the ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization**

\*\*\*

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 27 (b) of the CSP10 Final Report ([ATT/CSP10/2024/SEC/807/Conf.FinRep](#)). The list of practical ratification/accession and domestication questions for these discussions was welcomed as Annex B of the WGTU Co-Chairs’ report to CSP10 ([ATT/CSP10.WGTU/2024/CHAIR/801/Conf.Rep](#)). It is enclosed as [Annex B](#) of the draft annotated agenda and is available in all UN languages in the *Tools and Guidelines* section of the ATT website: <https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/tools-and-guidelines.html>.

<sup>4</sup> These include Asia-Pacific States that have not yet joined the Treaty as well as signatory States in all other regions. A full list of these States is included in [Annex C](#) of the attached draft annotated agenda.



17 February 2026

Issued by the Working Group on Treaty Universalization

Original: **English**

---

Arms Trade Treaty

**Twelfth Conference of States Parties**

Geneva, 24 – 28 August 2026

## **WORKING GROUP ON TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION (WGTU)**

### **DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR MEETING OF 18 MARCH 2026**

*Wednesday, 18 March 2026, 15:00-18:00*

#### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the draft annotated agenda**

*Under this agenda item, delegations will have the opportunity to share remarks on this draft annotated agenda and to propose additional agenda items under AOB.*

#### **2. ATT Secretariat update on the status of ratifications and accessions**

*Under this agenda item, the WGTU will review the **status of participation in the ATT** and assess progress since the last update presented at CSP11. For that purpose, the ATT Secretariat will present the current status of ratifications and accessions.*

#### **3. Update on the WGTU Co-Chairs' activities to promote the universalization of the ATT**

*Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will brief the WGTU on the Roundtable Discussion on the Universalization of the ATT, held on 16 February 2026, organized by the ATT Secretariat in collaboration with the CSP12 Presidency, the WGTU Co-Chairs, and with the support of the European Union. The Co-Chairs will also provide an overview of the other universalization activities they have undertaken since CSP11.*

#### **4. Update on efforts by States to promote the universalization of ATT**

*Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will invite States Parties to brief the WGTU on activities they have undertaken to promote the universalization of the ATT since CSP11. The Co-Chairs also welcome interventions by signatory States and other States willing to brief the Working Group about steps taken towards ratification or accession or their involvement in universalization activities.*

## **5. Efforts by other ATT stakeholders to promote the universalization of ATT**

*Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will invite international and regional organizations, as well as civil society and industry organizations, to brief the WGTU on activities they have undertaken to promote the universalization of the ATT.*

## **6. Implementation of the WGTU workplan for ATT universalization efforts**

*Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will first convene a panel discussion on the role of regional actors in universalization activities.*

*Following this, the WGTU will hold an exchange of views on: i) ways to enhance information exchange about universalization activities between ATT stakeholders and the ATT Secretariat; and ii) initiatives to carry forward the recommendations and suggestions contained in [Annex A](#).*

## **7. Ratification/accession and national domestication practices**

*Under this agenda item, the WGTU will continue its structured discussions on national ratification/accession and domestication practices, as decided by CSP10, taking into account the practical ratification/accession and domestication questions welcomed by CSP10.*

*In general, the WGTU will address the practical aspects of ratification/accession and domestication as a whole. Concretely, the WGTU will look at how States Parties approach the ratification or accession process, as well as the process to assess whether its national laws, regulations and policies are in accordance with the Treaty requirements and, if necessary, the process to ensure conformity with the Treaty. The focal aspects will be the following interconnected topics: **“the role of the executive”, “the role of parliament”, “legislative processes” and “national consultation processes”, all in relation to ratification/accession and national domestication.***

*The Chair will first provide a summary of the topic in question and the practical ratification/accession and domestication questions that are attached to this draft annotated agenda as [Annex B](#). After this, an invited speaker will kickstart the discussion with a presentation on the important role of parliaments in universalization. Following this introductory presentation, States Parties will deliver presentations on **their ratification/accession and domestication practices**, guided by the questions in [Annex B](#). This will then be followed by a **Q&A session and exchanges** about other national practices, challenges and constraints, possibilities for **international cooperation and assistance** and issues that might benefit from further clarification in the WGTU.*

## **8. AOB**

\*\*\*

## **ANNEX A**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING “UNIVERSALIZATION AS A PRIORITY”**

The Eleventh Conference of States Parties (CSP11) decided to:

- a. Encourage States Parties and other interested, where appropriate and on a strictly voluntary basis, to include the ATT in the agendas of bilateral, regional, and sub-regional meetings, as well as to promote peer-to-peer exchanges, information-sharing missions, and best practices on Treaty implementation and universalization. Such exchanges could be facilitated through regional organizations, joint workshops, or targeted outreach initiatives, particularly to non-States Parties in the process of accession or ratification.
- b. Encourage the Secretariat, States Parties, and future Presidents to maintain and strengthen the strategic partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), including through joint advocacy activities to engage parliamentarians on the ATT’s universalization objectives. Such collaboration could focus on raising awareness, supporting legislative alignment, and fostering political will for Treaty ratification and effective implementation. Experiences from recent IPU engagements could serve as a basis for future cooperation.
- c. Encourage the Secretariat and future Presidents, within the limits of available resources, to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns using digital tools, social media platforms, and traditional media to highlight the ATT’s humanitarian impact and achievements. Initiatives such as the "ATT@10" anniversary activities could serve as a model for sustained outreach efforts to diverse audiences, including civil society, academia, and the general public.
- d. Encourage States Parties to continue promoting inclusive engagement with key stakeholders, such as industry, academia, media, and civil society, in support of ATT implementation and universalization. Such efforts could involve multi-stakeholder dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and collaborative initiatives to address challenges related to arms transfer controls.
- e. Encourage States Parties and other stakeholders to promote the leadership and meaningful participation of youth in ATT-related efforts, and to engage with survivors and affected communities as part of inclusive universalization strategies.
- f. Request States Parties and other stakeholders to consider identifying public figures and influential voices to serve as Goodwill Ambassadors or Champions for the ATT in order to expand the Treaty’s visibility, reach new audiences and strengthen public support.

\*\*\*

## ANNEX B

### LIST OF PRACTICAL RATIFICATION/ACCESSION AND DOMESTICATION QUESTIONS

As indicated above, the practical implementation questions are provided to guide delegations' contributions/presentations about national ratification/accession and domestication practices.

#### *Ratification / accession*

1. Can you explain your State's process of ratifying or acceding to the ATT and any challenges your State had to overcome? Which ministries, departments and/or agencies were involved in the process? Who initiated the process? Was there any involvement of civil society or industry in the process?
2. Did ratification or accession require formal involvement of the Parliament?
3. Was your State's ratification or accession conditional on the conformity of your State's national laws, regulations and policies with the Treaty?

#### *Implementation*

4. How were conformity of your State's national laws, regulations and policies with the Treaty and your State's implementation needs assessed? Was a formal assessment process set up? If so, which ministries, departments and/or agencies were involved in this process? Was there also involvement of the Parliament, civil society and/or industry? What was the outcome of this process (e.g. a concept paper, roadmap or action plan)?
5. Did your State's implementation of the Treaty involve the development of new laws and regulations and/or amending existing laws and regulations? Can you explain the steps taken in the legislative process, including the involvement of relevant ministries, departments and/or agencies and consultations of civil society and/or industry?
6. -Did the development of new laws and regulations and/or amending existing laws and regulations include the formal establishment of new institutions to deal with Treaty implementation or formally mandating existing institutions with that task (including the possible provision of inter-agency arrangements)?

#### *International cooperation and international assistance*

7. Are there specific contributions that international cooperation between States (Parties) and/or further discussions within the ATT process could make to facilitate or support ratification/accession and domestication of the Treaty?
8. Is your State in a position to provide assistance to other States Parties on Treaty ratification/accession and domestication? Does your State need assistance on Treaty ratification/accession and domestication or has your State already received assistance on this in the past, via the VTF or another international assistance provider? In case of the latter, could you elaborate on this?

\*\*\*

## ANNEX C

STATES THAT ARE THE FOCUS OF ATT UNIVERSALIZATION EFFORTS<sup>5</sup>

<i>Signatory States in the Asia-Pacific region (10)</i>	<i>Other States in the Asia-Pacific region (31)</i>	<i>Signatory States in other regions (15)</i>
Bahrain	Bhutan	Angola
Bangladesh	Brunei Darussalam	Burundi
Cambodia	DPRK	Comoros
Malaysia	Fiji	Congo
Mongolia	India	Djibouti
Nauru	Indonesia	Eswatini
Singapore	Iran	Haiti
Thailand	Iraq	Israel
Türkiye	Jordan	Kiribati
United Arab Emirates	Kuwait	Libya
	Kyrgyzstan	Rwanda
	Laos	Ukraine
	Marshall Islands	Tanzania
	Micronesia	United States of America <sup>6</sup>
	Myanmar	Zimbabwe
	Nepal	
	Oman	
	Pakistan	
	Papua New Guinea	
	Qatar	
	Saudi Arabia	
	Solomon Islands	
	Sri Lanka	
	Syrian Arab Republic	
	Tajikistan	
	Timor-Leste	
	Tonga	
	Turkmenistan	
	Uzbekistan	
	Viet Nam	
	Yemen	

\*\*\*

<sup>5</sup> See provisions 5 and 6 and the attachment of the WGTU workplan for ATT universalization efforts, available in all UN languages in the *Tools and Guidelines* section of the ATT website: <https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/tools-and-guidelines.html>.

<sup>6</sup> This State has signed the Treaty, but no longer intends to become a State Party.