

Arms Trade Treaty
Sixth Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 17 – 21 August 2020
(By written procedure)

**ATT WORKING GROUP ON TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION
CO-CHAIRS' DRAFT REPORT TO CSP6**

Introduction

1. This draft report to the Sixth Conference of States Parties (CSP6) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is presented by the Co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU) to reflect the work conducted by the WGTU since its establishment and to make recommendations on steps to be taken with respect to Treaty universalization beyond CSP6.

Background

2. The Third Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP3) endorsed the ATT WGTU Co-chairs' Draft Report to CSP3 (ATT/CSP3.WGTU/2017/CHAIR/160/Conf.Rep), including Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Treaty Universalization and the Working Group on Universalization Initial Work Plan, Rev. 3. Furthermore, the Initial Work Plan, Rev. 3 suggests that "The Working Paper Promotion of Arms Trade Treaty Universalization (ATT/CSP2/2016/WP.4/Rev.1) will serve as a basic document for WGTU work at least until CSP4". The documents mentioned above established a solid basis for the work of the WGTU between CSP3 and CSP4.

3. The Fifth Conference of States Parties (CSP5) to the Arms Trade Treaty considered the ATT WGTU Co-chairs' Draft report to CSP5 (ATT/CSP5.WGTU/2019/CHAIR/532/Conf.Rep), and:

- a) Adopted the ATT Universalization Toolkit (Annex A to the Co-Chairs' report) as well as the 'Welcome Pack for New States Parties to the ATT' (Annex B to the Co-Chairs' report), as living documents of a voluntary nature to be reviewed and updated regularly by the Working Group, as appropriate, and encouraged ATT stakeholders to utilize the materials in their bilateral, multilateral, and regional meetings and workshops when appropriate.
- b) Encouraged ATT stakeholders, to the extent possible, to translate the two documents to target languages (other than UN official languages) to promote understanding of the Treaty. To that end, the Conference welcomed the offer of the Republic of Korea to translate the ATT Universalization Toolkit as well as the 'Welcome Pack for New States Parties to the ATT'.
- c) Requested the ATT Secretariat to upload both documents and available translations to the resources section of the ATT website and to mention the link in the welcome letter sent to new States Parties upon becoming States Parties to the Treaty.
- d) Requested the ATT Secretariat to continue to analyse the trends and pace of universalization of the ATT and report annually to the CSP.

- e) Encouraged continue regular exchanges of views among the CSP President, Co-Chairs of the WGTU, the VTF Chairperson and civil society representatives on the promotion of ATT universalization.
4. The decision of CSP5, derived from the draft report of the WGTU Co-Chairs for CSP5 mentioned above, established a solid basis for the work of WGTU in the lead up to CSP6.

Appointment of WGTU Co-chairs

5. CSP5 mandated the CSP6 President with the responsibility of facilitating the work of the Working Group until the next annual ordinary session of the Conference (CSP6). On 30 October 2019, the CSP6 President appointed Ambassador Jānis KĀRKLIŅŠ (Latvia, CSP5 President) as the Co-chair of the WGTU with a view to build on the work of previous Co-chairs of the WGTU.

Preparation for the First Meeting of the WGTU

6. In order to facilitate the work of the WGTU, the Co-chairs issued the WGTU Work Plan (ATT/CSP6.WGTU/2020/CHAIR/581/M1.WorkPlan) on 20 January 2020 that set out the work for the WGTU and possible topics for deliberation during the WGTU meetings in the period leading up to CSP6.

First Meeting of the WGTU

7. The WGTU held its first meeting on 05 February 2020 in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva (Room V). The meeting was attended by representatives of 58 States, 2 international organisations, 1 regional organisation, 6 civil society organisations and 4 industry organisations.
8. The following aspects were discussed during the meeting:
 - a. The two Co-chairs highlighted their respective and joint universalization activities since CSP5 in Geneva and New York. They took advantage of key events such as the UNGA First Committee meeting in New York, and carried out bilateral and multilateral meetings, side events and briefings.
 - b. The President of the CSP6 also highlighted his plans of launching a media campaign. This campaign started by playing an ATT outreach video, made by the Argentinian Presidency with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of Korea, during the high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament (24 - 26 February 2020). The video was also uploaded to the YouTube platform with the assistance of the ATT Secretariat.
 - c. The Head of the ATT Secretariat provided an update on the status of ratifications of the Treaty, as well as accessions and signatures, and noted that the rate of ATT universalization compares favourably with trends observed with respect to other instruments.
 - d. Representatives of some States Parties provided updates on their universalization activities since CSP4 to date. They shared information on domestic legislative processes and status, bilateral meetings on export controls, regional workshops, as well as assistance received and provided.
 - e. The Republic of Korea informed participants that it has earmarked funds to translate the 'ATT Universalization toolkit' and 'welcome pack' into Asian languages. The Republic of Korea indicated it is in the process of selecting target languages, with prior consultations with the states concerned.
 - f. Mexico underlined, among other things, the importance of CIFTA in this region as a tool for carrying out ATT promotional activities between the latinoamerican countries.

- g. Palestine regretted the fact that a number of major arms exporters and importers are not yet party to the treaty and called upon those States to do so, as responsible arms transfers represent a humanitarian imperative and is an essential step towards maintaining international peace and security.
- h. Control Arms Coalition presented on civil society efforts to promote ATT universalization globally through public awareness campaigns, roundtables with parliamentarians, workshops and other events. At the same time, Control Arms described the efforts made to support capacity building in states that seek to join the ATT.

9. Universalization was also discussed under other agenda items. In the context of deliberations on the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF), some delegates highlighted the importance of the VTF in promoting universalization and the synergies between universalization efforts and VTF outreach activities.

Second Meeting of the WGTU

10. The second meeting of the WGTU was scheduled to take place on 15 April 2020, with the intention of building on and take forward the discussions of the February meeting. However, as announced by the President of CSP6 in his letter of 18 March 2020, the ATT meetings scheduled to take place in April 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Update on universalization outreach

11. WG co-chairs continued promoting the universalization of the Treaty during relevant UN meetings or regional meetings. For example, Latvia's ambassador to UN in New York addressed the ATT universalization, and relevance of the ATT in curbing the gender-based violence at a Seminar "Changing Face of Terrorism and Extremism: Practical Responses" in Nairobi/Mombasa on 18-19 February 2020, organized by the Government of Kenya. The seminar was attended by the ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Interior of Kenya, director of UNCCT, and Permanent Representatives of twenty (25) countries. Latvia's ambassador to the UN in Geneva promoted universalization of the ATT on the margins of the 2020 High Level segment of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Status of Participation

12. In light of the fact that CSP6 will be conducted by written procedure, and the ATT Secretariat will not have an opportunity to give a live presentation to participants on the status of ratifications of the Treaty, as well as accessions and signatures, the WGTU Co-chairs asked the ATT Secretariat to prepare a written update on the status of participation in the Treaty. This is included in Annex A to this report.

13. The WGTU Co-chairs are pleased to welcome China, the Maldives and Namibia as States Parties to the Treaty.

WGTU Recommendations

14. On the basis of the WGTU mandate issued by CSP2 and on the strength of the exchange of views and discussions during the WGTU meeting in February, the WGTU Co-chairs will, moving forward:

- a. Encourage ATT stakeholders, to the extent possible, to translate the ATT Universalization Toolkit as well as the 'Welcome Pack for New States Parties to the ATT' and to utilize the materials in their bilateral, multilateral, and regional meetings and workshops when appropriate.
- b. Request the ATT Secretariat to continue to analyse the trends and pace of universalization of the ATT and report annually to the CSP.

- c. Continue to conduct regular exchanges of views among the CSP President, Co-Chairs of the WGTU, the VTF Chairperson and civil society representatives on the promotion of ATT universalization.

ANNEX A

STATUS OF PARTICIPATION AS AT 17 JULY 2020

Table 1. General overview

	No.
<u>States Parties</u>	107
Signed and ratified	94
Signed and approved	2
Signed and accepted	2
Acceded	9
States that have <u>signed</u> but not ratified, approved, or accepted	31
States that have signed but indicated they <u>do not intend to become a party</u> to the Treaty	1
States that have <u>not joined</u>	55

Chart 1. Overview of the status of participation

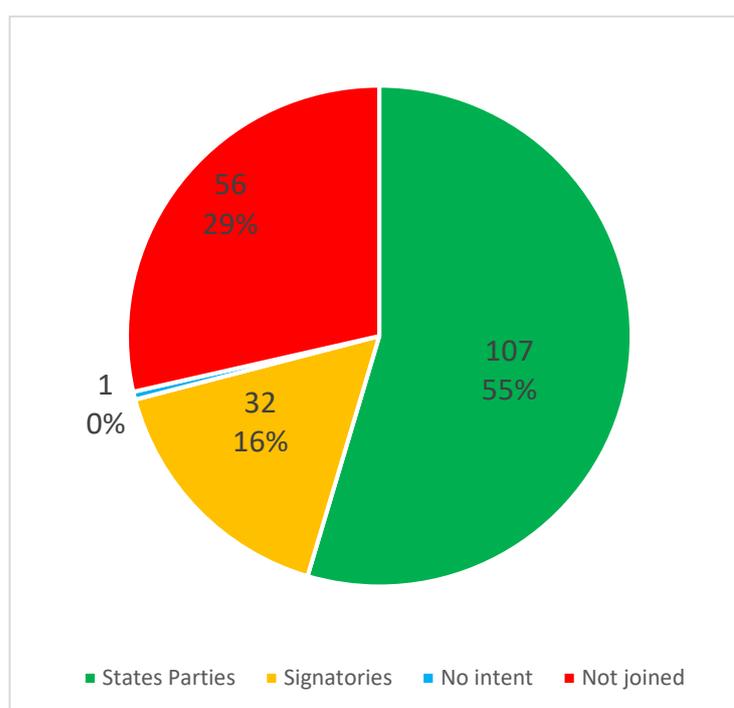


Chart 2. Distribution of ATT States Parties by region

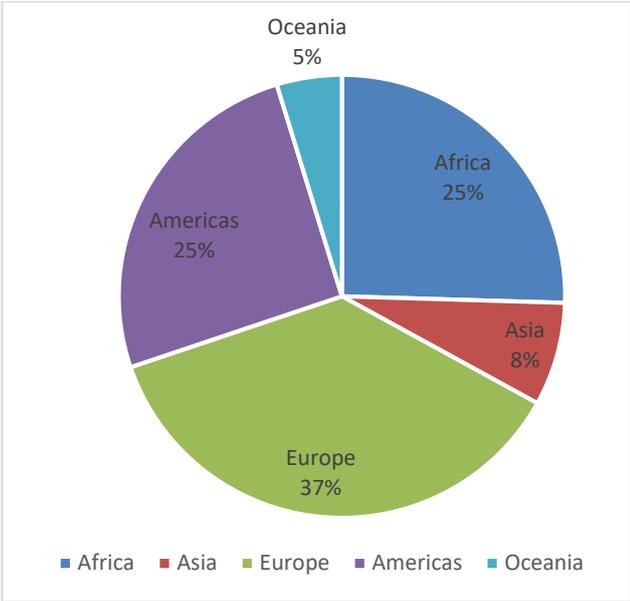


Chart 3. Regional overview

