

PROPOSED MANDATE FOR THE ATT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING (WGTR) FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2018-AUGUST 2019

In accordance with its Terms of Reference and Rule 42(2) of the ATT Rules of Procedure, the Working Group would like to propose for consideration by CSP4, the following tasks for further work in the period between CSP4 and CSP5:

1. The WGTR shall continue to conduct exchanges concerning the fulfilment of the reporting obligations in article 13 of the ATT and the broader issue of transparency in the international trade in conventional arms. In its meetings, the WGTR shall, as a minimum, deal with the following standing agenda items and the recurrent and specific tasks outlined below:
 - a. State of play of compliance with reporting obligations;
 - b. Challenges concerning reporting;
 - c. 'FAQ'-type guidance document on the annual reporting obligation;
 - d. Substantive reporting and transparency issues;
 - e. Organizational means for information exchange;
 - f. Harnessing information generated by mandatory reporting;
 - g. IT platform: reporting and transparency functionalities;
 - h. WGTR mandate in the period between CSP4 and CSP5.
2. As regard to the state of play of compliance with reporting obligations, the WGTR will review the status of reporting, focusing on the 2018 and 2019 annual reporting exercise.
3. As regard to challenges concerning reporting, the WGTR will as a minimum:
 - a. discuss challenges to submitting timely and accurate initial and annual reports and discuss means to support States Parties in addressing those challenges, with a view to providing recommendations to CSP5;
 - b. further explore the following means to support reporting: 1) giving the ATT Secretariat a reporting assistance mandate; 2) listing existing guidance documents and tools; 3) drawing up a roster of reporting experts that States Parties having reporting difficulties can turn to for tailor-made assistance; and 4) provide a forum within the IT platform for intersessional exchanges on reporting;
 - c. review the effectiveness and clarity of the templates for use by States Parties to submit their initial and annual reports.
4. As regard to the 'FAQ'-type guidance document on the annual reporting obligation, the WGTR will discuss submitted proposals for alterations or additional questions and answers, including on the issue of categorizing items in the correct categories of conventional arms.

5. As regard to substantive reporting and transparency issues, the WGTR will as a minimum:
 - a. discuss substantive issues concerning the Treaty's reporting obligations that could benefit from consideration by the WGTR;
 - b. consider the potential merit of a good practice document on gathering information to compile annual reports as a potential recommendation to CSP5;
 - c. further explore the issue of classification of conventional arms according to the "Harmonized System" (HS) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

6. As regard to organizational means for information exchange , the WGTR will as a minimum:
 - a. discuss structured mechanisms, processes or formats facilitating the information exchanges that are required or encouraged by the Treaty, both on the policy level, as well as on the operational level;
 - b. in coordination with the WGETI, further explore whether the ATT IT platform can be used to have operational information exchanges between States Parties;
 - c. further consider the potential merit of follow-up mechanisms on the initial and annual reports that States Parties submit within the WGTR (or the WGETI), in order to support States Parties in the implementation of the Treaty.

7. As regard to harnessing information generated by mandatory reporting, the WGTR will discuss approaches to how to do this with a view to allow analysis. The WGTR will thereby further focus on the use of IT platform for this purpose – see part 8 of the mandate – and the question how the work of civil society on harnessing information could be used and structured in order to feed into the discussions of the working groups.

8. As regard to the reporting and transparency functionalities of the IT platform, the WGTR will further discuss the use of the IT platform to enhance transparency and facilitate the implementation of the reporting obligations of the Treaty. The consultative group of WGTR participants to support the ATT Secretariat on the development and enhancement of the IT platform will continue its work and report back to the WGTR in order to feed these discussions.

9. As regard to the WGTR mandate in the period between CSP4 and CSP5, the WGTR will prepare a proposal for consideration by CSP5, which will include as a minimum the standing agenda items and the recurrent tasks outlined above.
