

The Arms Trade Treaty
23 Avenue de France
CH-1202 Geneva
13 July 2020

To : Representatives of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of Signatory States to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of Observer States to the Arms Trade Treaty.
: Representatives of International and Regional Organizations.
: Representatives of Civil Society, NGOs and Industry.

Dear Distinguished Representatives,

ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE FORMAT OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

1. The Sixth Conference of States Parties is scheduled to take place from 17-21 August 2020. In light of the uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak and the ability to hold large meetings, States Parties have decided, via silence procedure, to conduct CSP6 through written procedure.
2. This means there will not be an in-person meeting in Geneva, as originally planned. Instead, stakeholders will participate in the Conference through written interventions, and decisions of the Conference will be taken by States Parties via silence procedure. Details of how to participate in the Conference and how decisions will be made, are included below.

Registration for and participation in CSP6

3. On or by 15 July 2020, the ATT Secretariat will circulate an invitation to States and other stakeholders to register for CSP6 by 07 August 2020 by submitting a note verbale or formal letter confirming the participation of their State or organisation in CSP6. The ATT Secretariat will acknowledge all States Parties, Signatory States, Observer States, international organisations, regional organisations, civil society representatives, NGOs and industry representatives States and other stakeholders that register for CSP6, and will include them in the List of Participants of the Conference, to be posted on the ATT website. Every State that registers for CSP6 will be considered to have participated in the Conference and to have been 'in attendance' for the purposes of Rule 5 of the ATT Financial Rules.

CSP6 Documentation

4. The ATT Secretariat will also circulate all CSP6 documents to States Parties and other Conference participants on 17 July 2020 for their consideration.

Adopting decisions of CSP6

5. On 29 July 2020, the ATT Secretariat will circulate the draft decisions to be considered for adoption by CSP6 to all States Parties. Each draft decision will be presented separately to States Parties for consideration and adoption via silence procedure based on Rule 41(3) of the ATT Rules of Procedure, with a deadline set at 20 days, starting on 29 July 2020 and expiring on 17 August 2020.

Submitting statements to CSP6

6. States Parties and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit any written statements to the Conference, including general statements (usually delivered during the CSP agenda item titled 'General Debate'). States Parties and other stakeholders are hereby invited to submit any such written statements to the ATT Secretariat at info@thearmstradetreaty.org by 14 August 2020. The ATT Secretariat will make all statements publicly available on the CSP6 webpage.

Final Report of CSP6

7. There will be a Final Report of CSP6 in a format adapted to the special situation, which will record the names of the States and other stakeholders that participated in the Conference, the reports and documents submitted to the Conference, and the decisions adopted by CSP6 via silence procedure. The Final Report will be circulated by the ATT Secretariat on 21 August 2020 and posted on the ATT website.

Timeline

8. In summary, the timeline of steps towards the proposed holding of CSP6 through written procedure are as follows:

15 July	ATT Secretariat circulates invitation to register for CSP6
17 July	Final CSP6 documents circulated to States Parties and other Conference participants for consideration
29 July	ATT Secretariat circulates the draft decisions to States Parties to be considered for possible adoption by CSP6 via silence procedure
07 August	Deadline (17h00 (CEST)) for States Parties and Conference participants to register for CSP6
14 August	Deadline (17h00 (CEST)) for States Parties and Conference participants to submit written statements to the ATT Secretariat
29 July – 17 August	Silence procedure for States Parties to consider and adopt draft decisions of CSP6
21 August	Final report of CSP6 circulated to all stakeholders

9. I take this opportunity to thank the ATT office holders, the ATT Secretariat and States Parties more broadly for their support and assistance in helping to determine, in these exceptional circumstances, the appropriate format for CSP6 that will ensure the orderly and effective conduct of the Conference and will enable us to progress the important work of this Treaty process.

10. I look forward to working with you towards a successful Conference in the coming weeks.

11. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,



Ambassador Federico VILLEGAS

President-designate: Sixth Conference of States Parties to the ATT