

Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Matters Pertaining to CSP8

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The Conference of State Parties is an important opportunity to review progress, reach conclusions and collectively determine ways forward in the areas of universalization, implementation and compliance. Given the variety of successes achieved and challenges faced in this CSP7 year, Control Arms recommends that States Parties agree to consider the following recommendations for the CSP8 cycle:

First, we suggest adding to the annual CSP agenda an item or special session to take stock of progress achieved against the recommendations and commitments relating to the thematic focus of each CSP cycle. Without setting aside time to discuss progress made on the various thematic focus commitments year to year, there is a clear danger that with every new theme, States Parties will lose momentum on the important work completed in prior years. We therefore encourage States Parties, with input from all ATT stakeholders, to develop strategies and mechanisms for ensuring that the outcomes relating to each CSP thematic focus become the basis for concrete action into the future.

One example would be for the Chair of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation , to hold annual special sessions to explore intersections between the President's chosen thematic focus and the work of the WGETI. Special sessions like these were held successfully during CSP5 with the thematic focus of gender and gender-based violence with encouraging results¹.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to upend meeting schedules across all multilateral institutions and instruments, particularly in the disarmament community. While we understand that much of this overlap has been unavoidable, the multitude of meetings taking place during this week has had a negative impact on the active engagement in CSP7. For the CSP8 cycle, Control Arms hopes that efforts are taken by office holders and secretariats to avoid overlap among disarmament and arms control meetings.

We also take this opportunity to look forward to working with the new CSP8 Presidency, as we have with all CSP Presidencies to date. In particular, we hope the CSP8 Presidency will prioritize, as did the CSP7 Presidency, the inclusion of all ATT stakeholders into the CSP8 process. With more stakeholder engagement, together we can work to improve the quality and quantity of reporting, welcome new States Parties, and ensure that ATT implementation and compliance take root across all regions.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ For more information please refer to the Letter of the WGETI Chair including Agenda and Work Plans of Sub-groups (March 2019). [ATT/CSP5.WGETI/2019/CHAIR/441/M2.LetterWorkPlans](https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2019/03/20190311.WGETI2019CHAIR441/M2.LetterWorkPlans.html)