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Arms Trade Treaty

**Second Conference of States Parties**

Geneva, 22 – 26 August 2016

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT PAPER

### **“INCREASING PREDICTABILITY FOR ATT CSP CHAIRS: PROPOSAL FOR A “TROIKA” SYSTEM”**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As the ATT machinery is consolidated, the two objectives of **Treaty Implementation** and **Treaty Universalization** should continue to go hand in hand, and should remain priorities for all States Parties.

The effectiveness and meaningfulness of the Arms Trade Treaty will be directly affected by the number of States becoming parties to it. The universalization of the Treaty will contribute to the realization of its objectives as well as the reduction of those gray areas in which illegal arms trafficking thrives.

Many avenues aimed at increasing the number of States Parties have been suggested in the paper presented by the Chair on the topic of universalization, and have highlighted **the pivotal role that can be played by the CSP President**. Among others, a rotating regional focus for outreach activities and delivering high-level statements on ATT universalization have been proposed.

Building on these premises, **Italy and France are putting forward a proposal for the consideration of all States Parties towards making universalization efforts more coherent over the longer term**, by introducing a “troika system” for CSP Chairs.

#### **THE RATIONALE BEHIND A “TROIKA” SYSTEM**

**With regards to universalization of the ATT, sustained efforts are required to obtain concrete results** and to ensure that the seeds sown by one ATT CSP Chair can be tended by the next Chair, thus blossoming and translating into new ratifications. Whereas ATT CSP Chairmanship last one year, the outreach aimed at universalization would normally require a medium-term engagement.

**That is why Italy and France are suggesting to all States Parties the creation of a “troika system”, without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure adopted by the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT, nor to voluntary candidacies to be put forward by States Parties, nor to rotating chairmanship among different regions.**

Successive CSP presidencies in a “troika” format would be able to work together and ensure coherence of efforts during their respective time in office, where relevant and as appropriate, in order to support the universalization of the Treaty. This would ensure an **optimum continuity of initiatives, the sustainability of universalization efforts, and an increased political leverage.**

#### **THE “TROIKA” SYSTEM IN PRACTICE**

The troika system would be without prejudice to the Rules of Procedure (RoP) adopted by the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT. Rule 9.1 of the RoP states that: *“Before the end of each ordinary session, the Conference shall elect a President and four Vice-presidents for the following session of the Conference from among the representatives of participating States Parties”*. In addition to this election, the Conference of States Parties could also pre-designate the subsequent Chair, whose formal appointment would only take place the following year. In practice, at each CSP, States Parties will not only elect the President for the following year but also identify the one for two years ahead, albeit informally.

The expected advantages of this solution will be that the outgoing Chair, the designated Chair and the pre-designated following Chair may engage in dialogue as relevant and where appropriate, in order to:

- ensure consistency between their respective thematic efforts,
- allow incoming Chairs to have more time to prepare their presidencies, and to mobilize the necessary resources to carry out their presidencies,

All with a view to securing more effective universalization efforts and in general a more accurate planning of CSP-related activities, improving the prospects for substantive and successful CSPs.

The “troika” system for ATT CSP Chairs could be launched on a trial basis at CSP3, to be held in 2017. Thus, CSP3 would designate the Chair of the 2018 CSP4, but also reach preliminary agreement on the Chair to be designated for the 2019 CSP5.

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