



Working Group Meetings of the Twelfth Conference of  
States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation  
Sub-Working Group on Current and Emerging Implementation Issues

The Risk of Conventional Arms Being Used for GBV or VAWC

17 March 2026  
CICG, Geneva, Switzerland



Delivered by Ms. Hannah Zulayka L. Abubakar, Attache,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the  
United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Our delegation welcomes the efforts to further strengthen practical guidance on the implementation of Article 7(4) of the ATT through the proposed additional guidance in Appendix 2, as well as its integration into the Voluntary Guide to Implementing Articles 6 and 7.

The Philippines finds the proposed step-by-step flowchart to be a useful and practical tool for licensing authorities in conducting export risk assessments related to gender-based violence and violence against women and children. The structured approach, from identifying relevant patterns of violence in the recipient State, to assessing the potential use of the items to be transferred, and determining whether an overriding risk exists, provides a clear analytical framework that could assist States Parties in operationalizing Article 7(4) within existing licensing and risk assessment processes.

At the same time, we note that the practical application of these steps will depend on the availability of reliable information and adequate analytical capacity at the national level. In this regard, it may be useful for future guidance to identify potential sources of information, including reports from international organizations, UN mechanisms, and other credible public sources, to assist licensing authorities in conducting such assessments.

The Philippines, therefore, views these proposals as constructive contributions toward strengthening practical guidance for States Parties in implementing the provisions of the Treaty.

Thank you.