

Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Statement on Effective Implementation
Latvia
Delivered by Ms Sarma Gintere

Mr Chair,

Latvia thanks the Chair and facilitators of the WGETI for their substantive work this year.

Preventing the diversion of arms and ammunition could be one of the biggest impacts we achieve in effective implementation of the ATT. Developing a normative framework that truly has the highest possible standards could transform a trade that has unfortunately led to so many weapons being in the hands of human rights abusers, criminals and terrorists. Effective control over the legal trade will mean less weapons slipping into the illicit trade. This in turn will help all of us in the fight against organized crime, violence and instability which often accompany high numbers of illicit weapons.

Therefore, Latvia supports the continuation of a sub-group on diversion within the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation. The discussions so far have been useful, and we support the examination of specific case studies as ways to identify better risk factors to prevent diversion. Latvia welcomes that industry are among our stakeholder participants at this conference, and invite them to contribute practical ideas in particular to prevent diversion.

We also agree that General Implementation is no longer needed as a sub-group. As Articles 6 and 7 are such substantive areas to explore within implementation, it could perhaps be useful to not replace General this sub-group topic, and instead allow more time to usefully explore and elaborate on definitions and understandings within the important areas of diversion and Articles 6 and 7.

We agree with the value of training of licensing officials about gender-based violence in the context of Article 7.4, and support the development of a voluntary training guide on gender-based violence. Latvia also supports the proposed multi-year work plan, including discussions on the interpretation States Parties give to key concepts in Article 7 and the measures undertaken by States Parties to mitigate risks identified. Finally, Latvia endorses the documents listed by the WGETI and their posting on the ATT website.

Thank you.