



Arms Trade Treaty
3rd Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 11 – 15 September 2017
Agenda Point 6: Treaty Implementation
H.E. M. Erwin Bollinger
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation

Mr. President

In Switzerland's opinion, the process towards this CSP and the discussions in the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation have been a positive experience. It allowed us to initiate valuable discussions on different practices and experiences in implementing the Treaty so far. These discussions were also helpful to understand the different challenges States Parties face in implementing the ATT and to identify some of the priorities that should be addressed in the coming years.

We consider it important to continue the work undertaken in this Working Group as implementation should be at the center of our efforts going forward.

We welcome the proposed terms of reference for the working group, in particular:

- ❖ that the working group takes a more permanent form,
- ❖ that its mandate provides that it can develop guidance to be validated by the CSP for states parties in implementing the treaty,
- ❖ that it can, if required, meet in a closed session on an exceptional basis, as already foreseen in the rules of procedures of the ATT, which we would apply *mutatis mutandis*.

It is our view that the mandate should provide the ability for the working group to address all articles relevant for implementation, notably articles 2-11 and 14 of the ATT.

Reflecting the issues to be addressed by the Working Group's discussion for the period between CSP3 and CSP4, we welcome the proposals made in the report of the group. We believe that it will be important at this early stage in treaty implementation to focus in particular on Art. 5 of the Treaty. It deserves special attention, since the institutional setup stipulated in this article is indispensable for an effective implementation of the Treaty on a national basis.

Additionally, we consider articles 6 and 7 as well as article 11 particularly relevant and worthy of an in depth discussion in the Working Group at this stage of the working group endeavors.

With regard to article 7, Switzerland would like to provide a more substantial input regarding possible risk mitigation measures. Once this idea has further materialized we will approach

the Working Group's Co-Chairs in order to see how to address this subject in the Working Group.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Links between the ATT and the SDGs

Mr. President

There is a strong interdependence between the SDGs and the ATT, as the Agenda 2030 constitutes an overarching objective set by the international community as a whole.

Switzerland welcomes a discussion as to how this Treaty can contribute to achieving the Agenda. We also see value in this discussion as it enables us to take a step back and look at the ATT in a greater context, and contributes to bringing together different communities, namely that of trade control, security policy, human rights and international humanitarian law as well as development.

The ATT emphasizes the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms in its preamble and sets the eradication of the illicit trade in conventional arms as its goal. There is an obvious close proximity between SDG target 16.4 and the object and purpose of the Treaty's article 1 and to some degree a link to SDG 5.2 as well.

Consequently, the ATT is an instrument that, if implemented effectively and universally, will substantially contribute to achieving SDG 16; in particular the target connected to the reduction of illicit arms flows.

In this regard, implementing article 11 in order to tackle diversion will be highly relevant for reaching SDG target 16.4. Furthermore, actively positioning the ATT as an important instrument for reaching SDG 16 could foster treaty universalization, since all states working on reaching SDG 16 should consider becoming an ATT State Party.

Concluding, Switzerland suggests thinking about the next steps on how this Treaty can contribute to achieving the Agenda including its role in the revision of the SDG in 2019.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Gender-based violence

Mr. President

We would like to thank Ireland for their working paper on gender-based violence. As with some other criteria in article 7, a discussion about the implementation of the consideration of gender-based violence in export assessments would be useful. Switzerland therefore would be ready to discuss this issue in the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President.