

## **Programme of Work**

Madam President

The UK is grateful to both you and colleagues in the Management Committee for their work to consider the programme of work, a task mandated by CSP8. We have been encouraged by the lively and considered debate throughout our sessions on this issue, which are testament to the importance of this Treaty and the timeliness of this discussion.

We remain convinced that there is scope for streamlining and rationalising our processes, to ensure that our time is used most efficiently and effectively in furthering the objectives of the ATT, and to unlock opportunities for greater and more focused engagement with the Treaty process. We are determined that this should be done with careful consideration, creativity and flexibility. We want to see a programme of work that serves the ambitions of the Arms Trade Treaty into the future, and are convinced that this should be the start, and not the end, of a broader process of renewal within the Treaty.

It is right that many States, in their feedback, have highlighted the importance of focusing on the implementation of the ATT, as well as of finding ways to encourage a wider range of voices to be able to participate meaningfully in our debates. To this end, we believe that concentrating the proceedings of the working groups into a single session, as recommended by the Management Committee paper, could have several benefits including supporting greater participation by delegations from the Global South and encouraging greater contribution from subject-matter experts from capitals.

We also consider that separating the working groups from the informal preparatory meeting would improve the intersessional process. This would allow delegations to reflect on the discussions at the working groups, and elevate the informal preparatory meeting to setting the direction for the CSP. We hope that this would eliminate the duplication between the working groups and the informal preparatory meetings we often see in the current process.

We also support the proposals to encourage further consultations and discussions between set-piece ATT meetings, as necessary, including through digital technology. As noted by the President when discussing universalisation, there will be areas where States aligned by region or interest may wish to make progress on matters that are relevant to their specific context. These intersessional consultations should be led by States, but should have some structure, including organisation in consultation with relevant ATT Office Holders and a route to feed back outcomes into the formal ATT process. We also believe it is vital to ensure that support from the Secretariat, including interpretation where necessary, is provided to ensure maximum engagement and participation on behalf of delegations from the Global South, civil society and others.

By way of an example, the UK intends to explore different ways to share the outcomes of and continue the discussions from the Wilton Park event on the Role of Industry in the ATT that we will hold next year, including maximising the opportunity of using the intersessional period through hosting an informal virtual meeting, as others have done ahead of CSP9 for their working papers.

Madam President

This is an opportunity to ensure that our resources are being used most effectively. We have seen over the past few years, including during the preparatory sessions of this cycle, that the current format could be more efficient, and we can no longer justify inaction. The proposal takes into consideration feedback received and we believe is complimentary to the proposal from the Chair of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, as it was confirmed during the consultations held by the Management Committee. As a member of the Management Committee, we are aware of the diverse opinions of States Parties on the proposals, and have been listening attentively to their feedback. We are ready to continue working with others to refine the proposal as it is reflected in the Draft Final Report to try and address the perspectives of all States Parties. With this in mind, the UK supports the further revisions circulated earlier by the Presidency, and encourages other states to do likewise.

We place particular focus on the commitment to review and assess this as a trial period, to ensure we are on the right path for achieving our intended outcomes, and to continue to iterate – ensuring we retain what is working and reject what is not. We consider this a starting point and expect to see movement and improvement, driven by pragmatism. Consequently, we would also like to recommend that CSP9 mandate the Management Committee to remain seized of this matter, and ask CSP10 to pick it up again as we develop greater clarity on the format of our future work.