Arms Trade Treaty  
Sixth Conference of States Parties  
Geneva, 17 – 21 August 2020  
(By written procedure)

FINAL REPORT

The Final Report of the Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, which took place through written procedure, consists of four parts and an Annex as follows:

I. Introduction
II. Organization of the Conference
III. Documentation submitted to Conference
IV. Decisions and Recommendations

Annex List of Documents

I. INTRODUCTION


2. Article 17(1) of the Treaty states that “A Conference of States Parties shall be convened by the provisional Secretariat, established under Article 18, no later than one year following the entry into force of this Treaty and thereafter at such other times as may be decided by the Conference of States Parties”. Article 17(4) (a-g) further states that “The Conference of States Parties shall:

(a) Review the implementation of this Treaty, including developments in the field of conventional arms;
(b) Consider and adopt recommendations regarding the implementation and operation of this Treaty, in particular the promotion of its universality;
(c) Consider amendments to this Treaty in accordance with Article 20;
(d) Consider issues arising from the interpretation of this Treaty;
(e) Consider and decide the tasks and budget of the Secretariat;
(f) Consider the establishment of any subsidiary bodies as may be necessary to improve the functioning of this Treaty; and
(g) Perform any other function consistent with this Treaty.”

3. In accordance with the provisions of Article 17, the First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth and the Fifth Conferences of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty were held in Mexico, 24–27 August 2015, in Switzerland, 22–26 August 2016, and 11-15 September 2017 respectively, in Japan, 20 – 24 August 2018, and in Switzerland, 26-30 August 2019. The Sixth Conference of States Parties was held through written
procedure on an exceptional basis due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which prevented the conduct of the Conference in accordance with the usual practice as contemplated in the ATT Rules of Procedure. The decision to hold the Sixth Conference of States Parties through written procedure is not intended to set a precedent for the format and decision-making of future Conferences of States Parties, or other official meetings of the ATT process.

4. The decision to hold the Sixth Conference of States Parties through written procedure was made by States Parties via silence procedure. By way of letter dated 30 June 2020, States Parties were invited to accept a proposal to conduct CSP6 through written procedure via silence procedure as contemplated in Rule 41(3) of the ATT Rules of Procedure, with a deadline set at 10 days, starting 30 June 2020 and expiring on 09 July 2020. A list of proposed draft decisions to be considered by CSP6 was included in Annex A to the letter. No State Party objected to the proposal by the deadline of 09 July 2020, and accordingly, the proposal to conduct CSP6 through written procedure was accepted.

5. On 29 July 2020, the ATT Secretariat circulated 15 draft decisions to ATT States Parties to be considered for adoption by CSP6. Each draft decision was presented separately to States Parties for consideration and adoption via silence procedure based on Rule 41(3) of the ATT Rules of Procedure, with a deadline set at 20 days, starting on 29 July 2020 and expiring on 17 August 2020. On 14 August 2020, the ATT Secretariat circulated a further two (2) draft decisions to ATT States Parties to be considered for adoption by CSP6 via silence procedure, with a deadline set at four days, starting on 14 August 2020 and expiring on 17 August 2020. In total, 17 draft decisions were circulated to States Parties. Of the 17 draft decisions circulated to States Parties, 11 were adopted by the Conference and six (6) were not, as is reflected in part IV of this Final Report.

6. On 15 July 2020, the ATT Secretariat issued an invitation to register for CSP6 to all States and stakeholders, noting that every State that registers for CSP6 would be considered to have participated in the Conference and to have been ‘in attendance’ for the purposes of Rule 5 of the ATT Financial Rules. The invitation also invited States and other stakeholders to submit written statements to the Conference and to inform the ATT Secretariat of any virtual side events planned for the week that CSP6 was scheduled to take place.

7. With respect to the intersessional work carried out in advance of the Sixth Conference of States Parties, the three ATT Working Groups established by the Third Conference of States Parties - the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting and the Working group on Treaty Universalization - progressed in their work. In the intersessional period of the Sixth Conference of States Parties, the three ATT Working Groups convened a meeting from 04-06 February 2020, during which States Parties and other stakeholders exchanged information and views on practices and challenges related to Treaty implementation, transparency and reporting, and universalization. A second meeting of the Working Groups, scheduled to take place from 14-16 April 2020, was cancelled because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Consultations on the draft documentation arising from the various Working Groups were held during the intersessional period, with stakeholders providing written comments and suggestions on the documentation to the various authors through email exchange.

8. To prepare for this Conference, an informal preparatory meeting was convened alongside the meeting of the Working Groups on 07 February 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, the seat of the Secretariat to the Treaty. A second informal preparatory meeting, scheduled to take place on 17 April 2020, was cancelled because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Consultations on the draft documentation to be considered during the second informal preparatory meeting were held during the intersessional period, with
stakeholders providing written comments and suggestions on the documentation to the various authors through email exchange.

9. As of 17 August 2020, the scheduled opening of the Conference, the Treaty had one hundred and six (106) States Parties. In addition, three (3) states, Afghanistan, China and Niue, had acceded to the Treaty, and one (1) state, Sao Tome and Principe, had ratified the Treaty. The Treaty will enter into force for them on 27 October 2020, 04 October 2020, 04 November 2020 and 26 October 2020 respectively. Meanwhile the Treaty has thirty-one (31) Signatory States that have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval. On 18 July 2019, one of those Signatory States – the United States of America – notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositsary, that it does not intend to become a party to the Treaty.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

10. The Secretariat to the Treaty made arrangements and provided the necessary services for the Conference to be conducted through written procedure, including the preparation of this Report.

11. The Conference was held through written procedure concluding on 21 August 2020 with the publication of the Final Report of the Conference. One hundred and two (102) States, as well as a number of international and regional organisations and representatives of civil society and industry, participated in the Conference.

12. Eighty-nine (89) States Parties participated in the work of the Conference in accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, and Zambia.

13. China, which has acceded to the Treaty, but for which the Treaty had not yet entered into force at the commencement of the holding of the Conference by written procedure, participated in the work of the Conference in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure.


15. The following nine (9) organisations participated in the work of the Conference as observers in accordance with Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure: African Union (AU), European Union (EU), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Regional Centre on Small Arms and

¹ As indicated in paragraph 9 of this report, on 18 July 2019, the United States of America notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositsary, that it does not intend to become a party to the Arms Trade Treaty.
(SIPRI), Stop Fuelling War, Terra Renaissance Japan, Transparency International, Women’s International League For Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA).

17. The ATT Secretariat circulated a draft List of Participants to all States Parties on 19 August 2020, contained in document ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/634/Conf.PartList, informing them of all delegations that have registered as Participants to the Conference under Rules 1 and 2 as well as those that have registered to attend as observers under Rules 3, 4, and 5.

III. DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED TO CONFERENCE


23. The Management Committee submitted a report to the Conference on the ATT Secretariat’s performance on the administration of the ATT Sponsorship Programme (contained in document ATT/CSP6.MC/2020/MC/610/Conf.RepSponsProgr), in accordance with the mandate given to it by the Fourth Conference of States Parties.


27. The Co-chairs of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting also reported to States Parties and Signatory States on the progress of the Informal Meeting on Diversion Information Exchange during the CSP6 cycle.

28. The ATT Secretariat, as administrator of the VTF, reported to the Conference on the work of the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund undertaken in the 2019-2020 period. The Report (contained in document ATT/VTF/2020/CHAIR/614/Conf.Rep) included updates regarding financial contributions received to the VTF, status of the VTF funded projects, and efforts made to provide guidance to states in submitting sound VTF project proposals.


30. On 18 August 2020, the CSP6 President notified States Parties of the note received from Germany stating that it had received the endorsement by its regional group to assume the Presidency of the Eight Conference of States Parties (CSP8).

31. On 19 August 2020, the CSP6 President notified States Parties of the note received from Switzerland indicating that it will extend the in-kind support that it provides to the ATT Secretariat beyond CSP7 and at this stage until the end of the CSP9 cycle.

IV. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

32. (Decision 1) The Conference elected the Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva, Ambassador Federico VILLEGAS, as the President of the Sixth Conference of States Parties. Ambassador VILLEGAS succeeded Ambassador FORADORI as the Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva, following Ambassador FORADORI’s departure from Geneva.


34. (Decision 3) Pursuant to Rule 9.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference elected the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr. Lansana GBERIE as the President of the Seventh Conference of States Parties.

35. (Decision 4) Pursuant to the same Rule, the Conference elected Cyprus, Germany, Latvia and Peru as the four (4) vice-Presidents for the Seventh Conference of States Parties.

36. (Decision 5) Pursuant to Article 6 of the VTF Terms of Reference, the Conference appointed Albania, Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to serve on the VTF Selection Committee for two years, from the Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Eighth Conference of States Parties.
37. **(Decisions 6 & 7)** The Conference decided to hold its next formal annual session, the Seventh Conference of States Parties, in Geneva, Switzerland on 30 August – 03 September 2021, at the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG), a venue generously provided for by the Swiss government. Furthermore, the Conference decided that the informal preparatory meetings and the meetings of the Working Groups will also be held in Geneva, Switzerland, with dates to be confirmed by the President of the Seventh Conference of States Parties.

38. **(Decision 8)** The Conference endorsed the decision of the Management Committee, as contained in document ATT/CSP6/MC/2020/MC/616/Conf.HoSContr (restricted to States Parties only), to support the continuation of the contract of the current Head of the ATT Secretariat (Mr. Dumisani DLADLA) for a second term starting on 01 December 2020.


40. **(Decision 13)** The Conference considered the recommendations contained in the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting Co-chairs’ report to States Parties and signatories on the Informal Meeting on Diversion Informational Exchange and:


   b. Mandated the CSP7 President to organize the first formal meeting of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum within the timeframe and budget allocated for ATT meetings in 2021, and in line with its Terms of Reference.

   c. Decided to review the usefulness of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum at CSP8.


42. The following draft decisions circulated to States Parties, as described in paragraph 5 of this report, were not adopted via silence procedure, and will be taken forward during the next ATT cycle:

   a. ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 9 - WGETI multi-year work plan on Arts. 6&7,

   b. ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 10 - WGETI multi-year work plan on Art. 9,

   c. ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 11 - WGETI multi-year work plan on Art. 11,

   d. ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 15 – Management Committee Proposal on Rule 8.1.d,

   e. ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 16 - Application of Rule 8 (1) d on the ATT Sponsorship Programme and VTF,

   f. ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 17 - CSP6 President Working Paper.
43. On Friday, 21 August 2020, the ATT Secretariat circulated the Final Report of the Conference contained in document ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/635/Conf.FinRep.Rev1, as a record of the States and other stakeholders that participated in the Conference, the documents submitted to Conference, and the decisions taken by the Conference.

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## ANNEX

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document ID</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC.FIN/598/Conf.2021Bud</td>
<td>ATT Provisional budget estimates for the financial year 2021, submitted by the ATT Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6.MC/2020/MC/609/Conf.PropFinArr8(1)</td>
<td>Draft elements for a Secretariat’s procedure regarding Rule 8 (1) d, submitted by the Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6.DIEF/2020/CHAIR/632/Conf.DIEFToRs</td>
<td>Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) concerning the Diversion Information Exchange Forum, contained in Annex A to the ATT Working Group on Transparency and Reporting Co-chairs’ report to States Parties and signatory States on the progress during the CSP6 cycle of the Informal Meeting on Diversion Information Exchange</td>
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<td>Code</td>
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<td>ATT/VTF/2020/CHAIR/614/Conf.Rep</td>
<td>Report on the work of the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) for the period August 2019 to August 2020, submitted by the ATT Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/634/Conf.PartList</td>
<td>draft List of Participants, submitted by the ATT Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/635/Conf.FinRep</td>
<td>draft Final Report, submitted by the ATT Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/617/Decision.ElecCSP6Pres</td>
<td>Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 1 - CSP6 President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC.FIN/618/Decision.2021Bud</td>
<td>Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 2 - Adoption of ATT budget for 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/619/Decision.ElecCSP7Pres</td>
<td>Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 3 - CSP7 President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 4 - CSP7 Vice Presidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATT/CSP6/2020/VTF/621/Decision.AppointVTFSe lCom</td>
<td>Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 5 - Appointment of VTF SC members</td>
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ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/622/Decision.CSP7Venue
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 6 - CSP7 venue

ATT/CSP6/2020/SEC/623/Decision.CSP7Dates
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 7 - CSP7 dates

Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 8 - Continuation of the contract of the Head of the ATT Secretariat

ATT/CSP6.WGETI/2020/CHAIR/625/Decision.MYPlanArt6&7
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 9 - WGETI multi-year work plan on Arts. 6 & 7

ATT/CSP6.WGETI/2020/CHAIR/626/Decision.MYPlanArt9
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 10 - WGETI multi-year work plan on Art. 9

ATT/CSP6.WGETI/2020/CHAIR/627/Decision.MYPlanArt11
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 11 - WGETI multi-year work plan on Art. 11

ATT/CSP6.WGTR/2020/CHAIR/628/Decision.MandtoCSP7
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 12 - WGTR Mandate CSP6-CSP7

ATT/CSP6.DIEF/2020/CHAIR/629/Decision.DIEFToRs
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 13 - Diversion Information Exchange Forum

Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 14 - MC Report on Sponsorship Programme

ATT/CSP6.MC/2020/MC/631/Decision.FinArr8(1)d
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 15 - MC Proposal on Rule 8.1.d

ATT/CSP6.MC/2020/MC/632/Decision.ImpFR8(1)d
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 16 - Application of Rule 8 (1) d on the ATT Sponsorship Programme and VTF

ATT/CSP6/2020/PRES/633/Decision.WPTransInfExch
Announcement - ATT CSP6 Draft Decision 17 - CSP6 President Working Paper

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