

Development of Elements of a Draft Five-Year Strategy for the Arms Trade Treaty

Call for Proposals (CFP)

Background Information and Guidelines

Background and Rationale

The Eleventh Conference of States Parties (CSP11) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) endorsed a mandate to elaborate elements of a draft five-year strategy for consideration by the Conference no later than CSP13¹. In this context, CSP11 requested the ATT Secretariat to issue a Call for Proposals to States Parties and other stakeholders to submit their inputs. As set out in the proposal endorsed by CSP11, a long-term strategy for the ATT is intended to serve two interrelated functions:

- *(i) Providing greater focus and prioritization of the ATT's structures and activities, particularly in a context of constrained financial and human resources, by adopting a cross-cutting Treaty perspective and a longer-term strategic direction; and*
- *(ii) Enabling States Parties to better measure progress and impact on the implementation and impact of the Treaty, against agreed objectives and priorities.*

Through this Call for Proposals, the ATT Secretariat invites **concrete, forward-looking and practical inputs** that can help translate the purpose and the articles of the Treaty into focused objectives, priority actions and measurable results over a five-year period. This exercise is intended as a first milestone in a longer-term process to strengthen the coherence, effectiveness and maturity of the Treaty over time. The strategy development process can also serve as an opportunity to take stock of existing practices and information, helping to establish an initial baseline where gaps remain and knowledge is incomplete. It can support learning what works in practice, how successful approaches can be scaled or sustained, and where corrective action may be needed over time. Given the substantial body of work already undertaken within the ATT framework, and the analytical studies produced by research institutions, the strategy development process seeks to **build on existing discussions, conclusions and initiatives**, rather than replicate them.

Respondents are therefore encouraged to take due account of existing CSP decisions, Working Group reports and multi-year workplans, and to identify where strategic prioritization, sequencing, consolidation or improved coherence could add value.

A non-exhaustive list of relevant reference documents is provided in **Annex I** to assist respondents in situating their proposals within the existing ATT landscape.

¹ [ATT CSP11 United Kingdom Non-paper Proposal for the CSP11 to agree a mandate to elaborate a 5-year strategy for the ATT EN rev.pdf](#)

i. Purpose and scope of a long-term ATT strategy

Grounded in **Article 1 of the Arms Trade Treaty**², the strategy would operationalize the Treaty's articles through a number of priorities across ATT structures and activities, supported by concrete actions and performance measures to enable progress and impact to be tracked over time. It should function as a direction-setting and prioritization tool, helping States Parties to focus collective efforts, sequence actions realistically, and strengthen coherence across existing ATT mechanisms. In line with discussions at CSP11 and the provisions of the Treaty, priorities may be considered across the following indicative areas:

1. Implementation (Area A in the Submission Form)

Indicative focus: *Scope; National control systems and control lists; Transfer decision impacts; Import, brokering and transit/trans-shipment regulation; Prevention/addressing of diversion; Record-keeping.*

Relevant Treaty Articles: 2-4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

2. Application of Articles 6 and 7 (Area B in the Submission Form)

Indicative focus: *Effective and consistent application of prohibitions and export assessment and risk mitigation obligations.*

Relevant Treaty Articles: Articles 6 and 7

3. Universalization (Area C in the Submission Form)

Indicative focus: *Accession to the Treaty and broader diffusion and internalization of ATT norms.*

Relevant Treaty Articles: Article 21 (and, as relevant, Article 26; with links to Article 15 on cooperation)

4. Transparency (Area D in the Submission Form)

Indicative focus: *Frequency, quality and usefulness of reporting; information exchange.*

Relevant Treaty Articles: Article 13 (with links to Article 15)

5. Infrastructure and Resources (Area E in the Submission Form)

Indicative focus: *Institutional architecture, meeting functioning, the ATT Secretariat role and financial sustainability.*

Relevant Treaty Articles: Articles 17 and 18 (and related CSP decisions)

6. International Cooperation (Area F in the Submission Form)

Indicative focus: *Cooperation among States/partners, including communication on enforcement and diversion prevention.*

Relevant Treaty Articles: Article 15 (with links to Articles 9–11)

7. International Assistance (Area G in the Submission Form)

² The object of this Treaty is to: (i) Establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating or improving the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms; (ii) Prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion; for the purpose of: -Contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability; -Reducing human suffering; -Promoting cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms, thereby building confidence among States Parties.

Indicative focus: *Quality/scale/accessibility of assistance, including through the VTF.*

Relevant Treaty Articles: Article 16 (with links to Articles 17 and 15)

8. Gender (Area H in the Submission Form)

Indicative focus: *Gender mainstreaming across the Treaty; Differentiated and gendered impacts; Inclusive participation and women's meaningful participation; inclusive processes.*

ii. How the strategy could look like:

The structure of the ATT strategy will ultimately be for stakeholders to determine. The Call for Proposals does not seek to prescribe a specific format. Rather, it aims to invite reflections on how a long-term strategy could be structured in a way that supports focus, continuity and accountability across ATT processes. Respondents may wish to consider whether the strategy could function as a politically endorsed document that sets a clear strategic direction over a five-year period, while allowing for review and adjustment if necessary.

An ATT strategy could therefore articulate a number of strategic objectives, supported by priority actions and measurable performance indicators, to enable the monitoring of delivery and impact across thematic and technical areas and to support regular stocktaking within the ATT process, including against agreed timelines.

Further clarification on elements, terminology, together with an illustrative example of how such a structure could look, is provided in Annex II, for reference only.

iii. Who may submit proposals

Submissions are invited from States Parties, Signatory States, Observer States, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations and industry stakeholders. Submissions may be made individually or jointly (for example, by a State Party and a civil society organization; by a State Party and a Signatory State; or by a group of States).

v. How to submit proposals

Respondents are invited to submit their inputs using the **Submission Form** provided by the Secretariat. The form is designed to support concise, practical and comparable inputs, while allowing flexibility to reflect respondents' experience and expertise. Respondents who have already developed a working paper or written proposal in an open format may submit it in lieu of completing the submission form. Such submissions will be considered valid proposals. However, respondents are strongly encouraged to clearly indicate, in the title and/or introductory section, the relevant thematic area(s) addressed, in line with the thematic areas identified in the CFP package, and to align their paper as much as possible with the overall rationale of the CFP. This will facilitate the review, collection, and categorization of submissions.

vi. The Submission Form

The Submission Form is structured as follows:

- **Part I – General information**, requesting basic details about the respondent and contact persons, for the purpose of follow-up in case of questions. Personal data provided will not be processed or disseminated publicly.
- **Part II – Envisioned structure of the five-year strategy**, which is optional and invites high-level reflections on how a long-term ATT strategy could be structured. Respondents may refer, as appropriate, to illustrative approaches set out in **Annex II** or to experiences from other multilateral disarmament or arms control instruments.
- **Part III- Scope of the submission**. Respondents are requested to indicate upfront the thematic area(s) to which their submission relates. This will facilitate categorization, analysis and consolidation of inputs for follow-up and synthesis purposes.
- **Part IV – Proposals by thematic area**, which form the core of the Submission Form. Respondents are invited to select one or more of the eight thematic areas identified in this Call for Proposals and, for each selected area, to propose:
 - Objective(s)
 - Priority actions
 - Performance measures/indicators
 - Timeline & Milestones
 - Responsible ATT body/process
 - Resources (needed) – financial and human – where applicable
 - Suggestions to avoiding duplication / building on existing practices
 - Monitoring & Evaluation process.

Each thematic area includes guiding questions intended to support reflection and help frame concrete, forward-looking proposals. These questions are indicative only and are not exhaustive or prescriptive. Respondents are encouraged to raise additional issues they consider relevant to the object and purpose of the Treaty, even if not explicitly reflected in the guiding questions.

- **Part V – Cross-cutting issues**, which provides space for respondents to offer strategic reflections that cut across thematic areas, including on sequencing and prioritization, coherence across ATT bodies, use of existing Working Group multi-year workplans, emerging or future-looking issues, and sector-specific challenges faced by civil society, research institutions or industry. This section is intended to complement, rather than duplicate, thematic area inputs.
- **Part VI – Strategy development process**, which invites suggestions on how the consultation and development process itself could be organized to support inclusive, effective and well-sequenced development of the ATT strategy.
- **Part VII – Declaration and signature**, confirming the status of the submission and its permitted use, including consolidation by the Secretariat without attribution.

For ease of reference, the thematic areas identified in this Call for Proposals correspond to **Areas A–H** in the Submission Form.

vii. The Call for Proposal Package

The Call for Proposals consists of the following 4 documents, which should be read together:

- **Call for Proposals Guidelines**, setting out the background, mandate and methodological approach and outlining the areas for which inputs are invited.
- **CFP Submission Form**, to be completed by respondents and used as the primary means for submitting proposals; and
- **Annexes**, namely:
 - Annex I – Strategy Format and Terminology material related to possible strategy structure and terminology.
 - Annex II – Reference Documents and Resources

viii. Submission deadline and contact

Submissions should be sent to the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat at info@thearmstradetreaty.org and to **Ms. Ida Scarpino**, Consultant for the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, at ida.scarpino@thearmstradetreaty.org, no later than **20 February 2026 (midnight, Geneva time)**. Working paper or written proposal in an open format - in lieu of completed submission forms- as well as questions regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to the same contact.