

Check against delivery.



# ICRC

## TENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

19-23 August 2024, Geneva

### Statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross on Treaty Implementation

Mr. President,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences upon the loss of a valued colleague, and I join others in praying that his soul rests in eternal peace.

On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), I thank you, Ambassador RUSU, for expertly guiding our discussions throughout this 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties.

Let me also express our gratitude to Costa Rica and Panama – Ambassador FERNANDEZ and Ms. RODRIGUEZ – and the ATT Secretariat for their excellent work, respectively, in Chairing the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation and Facilitating its Sub-working Groups on Articles 6&7, on current and emerging issues and on exchange of national implementation practices.

The ICRC appreciates the work of the WGETI and encourages to maintain focus on practical questions and challenges of implementation and to continue sharing national practice.

With regards to the achievements so far, we welcome the Voluntary Guide on Articles 6 & 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and commend the present and previous office holders and the Secretariat for their work in compiling this text.

From a humanitarian perspective, Articles 6 and 7 are at the heart of the ATT. They impose obligations to subject the transfer of conventional arms, ammunition, and parts and components within the ATT's scope to strict requirements seeking to prevent serious violations of IHL and other serious violations of international law from being committed with supplied arms. ([Arms transfer to parties to armed conflict: what the law says](#)) States' obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL in all circumstances is a key principle underpinning the

*Check against delivery.*



# ICRC

Arms Trade Treaty ([Preamble](#)). States parties must take this into account in their implementation of the ATT and regional arms transfer instruments.

We note the recommendation, reflected in the Chair's draft report, that the Voluntary Guide will be a living document. In line with our preference for a practice-oriented approach, and echoing the recommendation also reflected in the Chair's report, we ask states to continue discussing issues concerning the practical implementation and application of Articles 6 and 7 in the WGETI Sub-working Groups. The inclusion of decontextualised cases based on actual experience, can only serve to strengthen the existing guidance.

The ICRC also takes note of the draft Multi-Year Workplan developed by the sub-working Group on Exchange of National Implementation Practices. We welcome the retention of its flexible nature allowing prioritization of pressing issues and encourage that it remains open to discussing overarching issues each year and/or under other sub-working groups while cognizant of the time constraints of those groups.

We saw great utility in discussions of the sub-working on current and emerging issues. This years' focus on the selected topics is appreciated and we believe that deliberations on such challenges should continue to facilitate faithful implementation of its key humanitarian obligations.

Over the last year the ICRC has worked closely with states in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East by providing inputs on draft national legislation, sharing of best practices on establishment of national control systems and creating opportunities for peer-to-peer support between states.

We stand ready to continue providing this support to States as we enter the second decade of the ATT and to the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, in their efforts to put in place strong national laws and policies to uphold their obligations under the ATT.

Thank you.