



29 January 2025

Issued by the Working Group on Treaty Universalization

Original: English

Arms Trade Treaty
Eleventh Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 25 – 29 August 2025

Dear delegates,

1. Enclosed to this letter, you can find the draft annotated agenda for the CSP11 meeting of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU), scheduled to take place on 27 February 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. In view of the significant decisions which the CSP10 adopted regarding the work of the WGTU, the co-chairs find it important to recall and emphasize a few points and to provide preparatory questions to delegations. This also aims to facilitate delegations' efficient preparation for the meeting.
2. First and foremost, delegations will recall that the CSP10 welcomed the “**WGTU workplan for ATT universalization efforts**”.¹ This workplan has some implications for the Working Group itself as it is tasked to administer the workplan and to monitor and steer its implementation, but most importantly it has implications for all of us who are involved in ATT universalization activities. As indicated in the first paragraph, the workplan intends to guide the Treaty universalization discussions and outreach efforts of ATT stakeholders during the CSP11 to CSP13 cycles. Delegations need to be aware and keep in mind that this has implications in terms of how we conduct and substantiate our efforts (paragraphs 10-12), and which States we target (as paragraphs 5-7 of the workplan puts the focus on Asia-Pacific States and signatory States, while noting that the CSP10 also indicated the need to remain open and engaged with other States from all regions interested in joining the Treaty at any time, and to take into account developments relevant to the objectives of the Treaty).
3. One crucial element of the workplan is also the request to all ATT stakeholders to inform the ATT Secretariat well in advance of anticipated bilateral, multilateral and regional universalization efforts (paragraph 8). Such notifications are deemed important to strategically plan, streamline and support universalization efforts, and allow the Secretariat to liaise with relevant regional organizations and other ATT stakeholders with a view to seek cooperation and avoid duplication of efforts (paragraph 9).
4. In view of the upcoming meeting, the co-chairs not only want to reiterate this call, but also want to encourage all stakeholders to keep on reporting about their universalization efforts in the Working Group. **Updates about activities to promote universalization** have always been an important part of WGTU meetings and this will remain so. The Working Group needs to be up-to-date about ongoing efforts and needs to be able to assess the ratification/accession status of the targeted States, so that it can contribute to an efficient and effective use of resources. In addition to these updates, we also want to extend an invitation to signatory States and other States willing to brief the Working Group about their involvement in any universalization activity or about steps taking towards ratification/accession.

¹ See paragraph 27 (a) of the CSP10 Final Report ([ATT/CSP10/2024/SEC/807/Conf.FinRep](https://www.un.org/rufo/dam/doc/2024/02/20240227_CSP10_Final_Report.pdf)). The workplan was welcomed as Annex A of the WGTU Co-Chairs' report to CSP10 ([ATT/CSP10.WGTU/2024/CHAIR/801/Conf.Rep](https://www.un.org/rufo/dam/doc/2024/02/20240227_CSP10_WGTU_Co-Chairs_Report.pdf)) and is available in all UN languages in the *Tools and Guidelines* section of the ATT website: <https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/tools-and-guidelines.html>.

5. As we will discuss the implementation of the workplan under a standing agenda item, in addition to general updates about universalization activities, it will also be useful to **hear from other ATT stakeholders how they see the incorporation of the relevant guidance from the workplan in their universalization activities**. This concerns in particular the guidance on focus (paragraphs 5-7) and substance (paragraphs 10-12). Further under this agenda item, the co-chairs will also give an update on some of the specific tasks which the workplan provides for the co-chairs and the ATT Secretariat.

6. As a complement to the workplan, the CSP10 also mandated to WGTU to conduct **structured discussions on national ratification/accession and domestication practices** following the approach used by other ATT Working Groups within their respective mandates.² These discussions were already outlined in the communication of the CSP11 President of 11 December 2024 seeking expressions of interest for presentations in the Working Groups' structured discussions, and are further described in the draft annotated agenda.

7. In order to have a meaningful discussion during the 27 February 2025 WGTU meeting, delegations are requested to consider the following points in their preparation for this meeting:

- Has your delegation undertaken any activity to promote the universalization of ATT since CSP10?**
- Concerning the topic of the structured discussion, "national ratification/accession and domestication" and taking into account the practical questions in the [Annex](#) of the draft annotated agenda, does your delegation have any questions or comments about substantive issues, practical challenges or constraints regarding this topic or about opportunities for international cooperation and assistance in response to those?**
- How will your delegation incorporate the relevant guidance from the WGTU workplan for ATT universalization efforts in your own universalization activities, i.e. the guidance on focus (paragraphs 5-7) and substance (paragraphs 10-12)?**

As these points are addressed under different agenda items, delegations should make sure to prepare their interventions accordingly in order to address the specific topic that is discussed.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion in February, which aims to advance our common goal of universal adherence to the Treaty.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Carlos FORADORI, *Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva, President of the Eleventh Conference of States Parties*
Ambassador Razvan RUSU, *Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN Office in Geneva and the international Organizations in Switzerland, President of the Tenth Conference of States Parties*
Co-Chairs of the ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization

² See paragraph 27 (b) of the CSP10 Final Report ([ATT/CSP10/2024/SEC/807/Conf.FinRep](#)). The list of practical ratification/accession and domestication questions for these discussions was welcomed as Annex B of the WGTU Co-Chairs' report to CSP10 ([ATT/CSP10.WGTU/2024/CHAIR/801/Conf.Rep](#)). It is enclosed as the [Annex](#) of the draft annotated agenda and is available in all UN languages in the *Tools and Guidelines* section of the ATT website: <https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/tools-and-guidelines.html>.



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WORKING GROUP ON TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION (WGTU)

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2025

Thursday, 27 February 2025, 10:00-18:00

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the draft annotated agenda

Under this agenda item, delegations will have the opportunity to share remarks about this draft annotated agenda and to propose additional agenda items under AOB.

2. ATT Secretariat update on the status of ratifications and accessions

*Under this agenda item, the WGTU will review the **status of participation in the ATT** and the progress that has been made in comparison to the previous status update during the CSP10. For that purpose, the ATT Secretariat will present the current status of ratifications and accessions.*

3. Update on the WGTU Co-Chairs' activities to promote the universalization of the ATT

Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will provide an overview of the universalization activities which they have undertaken since the CSP10.

4. Update on efforts by States to promote the universalization of ATT

Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will invite States Parties to brief the WGTU about any activities which they have undertaken to promote the universalization of the ATT since the CSP10. The Co-Chairs also welcome interventions by signatory States and other States willing to brief the Working Group about their involvement in any universalization activity or about steps taken towards ratification/accession.

5. Efforts by other ATT stakeholders to promote the universalization of ATT

Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will invite international and regional organization as well as civil society and industry organizations to brief the WGTU about any activities which they have undertaken

to promote the universalization of the ATT.

6. Implementation of the WGTU workplan for ATT universalization efforts

Under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs will report on the outcome of the ATT Secretariat's outreach to ATT National Points Contact of States Parties, to enquire about States Parties' interest to support universalization as regional universalization champions.

Subsequently, delegations will be invited to share their views on the incorporation of relevant guidance from the workplan in their own universalization activities, i.e. the guidance on focus (paragraphs 5-7) and substance (paragraphs 10-12).

7. Ratification/accession and national domestication practices

Under this agenda item, the WGTU will conduct its structured discussions on national ratification/accession and domestication practices as decided by the CSP10, taking into account the practical ratification/accession and domestication questions that were welcomed by the CSP10.

*In general, the WGTU will address the practical aspects of ratification/accession and domestication as a whole. Concretely, the WGTU will look at how States Parties approach the ratification or accession process, as well as the process to assess whether its national laws, regulations and policies are in accordance with the Treaty requirements and, if necessary, the process to ensure conformity with the Treaty. The focal aspects will be the following interconnected topics: **"the role of the executive", "the role of parliament", "legislative processes" and "national consultation processes", all in relation to ratification/accession and national domestication.***

*The Chair will start the discussion with a short introduction. After this, the **States Parties that agreed to do so will give a presentation about their national ratification/accession and domestication practices**, guided by the practical ratification/accession and domestication questions that have been prepared for these discussions and that are attached to this draft annotated agenda as the [Annex](#). Thereafter, **invited stakeholders will provide their contribution**, also taking into account the practical ratification/accession and domestication questions. This will then be followed by a **Q&A session and information exchanges** about, inter alia, possibilities for **international cooperation and assistance** in response to the challenges or constraints that were raised, as well as issues that might benefit from further clarification within the WGTU.*

8. AOB

ANNEX

LIST OF PRACTICAL RATIFICATION/ACCESSION AND DOMESTICATION QUESTIONS

As indicated above, the practical implementation questions are provided to guide delegations' contributions/presentations about national ratification/accession and domestication practices.

Ratification / accession

1. Can you explain your State's process of ratifying or acceding to the ATT and any challenges your State had to overcome? Which ministries, departments and/or agencies were involved in the process? Who initiated the process? Was there any involvement of civil society or industry in the process?
2. Did ratification or accession require formal involvement of the Parliament?
3. Was your State's ratification or accession conditional on the conformity of your State's national laws, regulations and policies with the Treaty?

Implementation

4. How were conformity of your State's national laws, regulations and policies with the Treaty and your State's implementation needs assessed? Was a formal assessment process set up? If so, which ministries, departments and/or agencies were involved in this process? Was there also involvement of the Parliament, civil society and/or industry? What was the outcome of this process (e.g. a concept paper, roadmap or action plan)?
5. Did your State's implementation of the Treaty involve the development of new laws and regulations and/or amending existing laws and regulations? Can you explain the steps taken in the legislative process, including the involvement of relevant ministries, departments and/or agencies and consultations of civil society and/or industry?
6. -Did the development of new laws and regulations and/or amending existing laws and regulations include the formal establishment of new institutions to deal with Treaty implementation or formally mandating existing institutions with that task (including the possible provision of inter-agency arrangements)?

International cooperation and international assistance

7. Are there specific contributions that international cooperation between States (Parties) and/or further discussions within the ATT process could make to facilitate or support ratification/accession and domestication of the Treaty?
8. Is your State in a position to provide assistance to other States Parties on Treaty ratification/accession and domestication? Does your State need assistance on Treaty ratification/accession and domestication or has your State already received assistance on this in the past, via the VTF or another international assistance provider? In case of the latter, could you elaborate on this?
