



Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Addendum

IV. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

D. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition

1. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 20 October 2010, the Conference considered agenda item 2 (d), entitled “Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto: Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition”. For its consideration of the item, the Conference had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote and support the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/2010/8);

(b) Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and notifications, declarations and reservations thereto as at 29 September 2010 (CTOC/COP/2010/CRP.4).

2. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Chile (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Latin American and



Caribbean Group), Argentina, Croatia, Zimbabwe, the United States of America, Italy and Mexico.

4. The Coordinator of the International Small Arms Control Standards project of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism made a statement.

5. The observer for the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities also made a statement.

Deliberations

6. Several speakers considered that the Firearms Protocol, as the first legally binding global instrument on that issue, provided a broad cooperation framework for preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. Some speakers welcomed those States that had recently ratified the Firearms Protocol, bringing the number of States parties to 82, while expressing regret that the total number of ratifications remained low compared with the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, and urged States that had not yet done so to ratify and implement the Firearms Protocol.

7. Several delegates expressed concern regarding the levels of harm and violence resulting from trafficking in firearms and related forms of crime, including drug trafficking, money-laundering and terrorism. The importance of monitoring the flow of firearms, including through adequate transfer controls, and of strengthening national legislation to prevent and combat such trafficking was stressed. Some speakers underlined the need for continued international cooperation efforts in that regard, including the exchange of intelligence, the conduct of joint and simultaneous operations and the adoption of enhanced border control measures. Some speakers described the progress that their States had made in seeking to address the issue of trafficking in firearms with regard to legislation, firearm marking, and import and export control.

8. A number of speakers expressed support for the work that UNODC had carried out at the regional and global levels to promote and support the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol. They welcomed, in particular, the development of a model law on firearms, which they considered to be a valuable tool to assist Member States of different legal traditions in strengthening their legislation to effectively implement the Protocol. Speakers also encouraged the Secretariat to continue to make efforts to coordinate and cooperate with regional organizations and noted that important lessons could be learned from the implementation of similar instruments developed by those organizations.

9. Several speakers requested the Conference to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group on firearms that would promote the exchange of experiences and assist the Secretariat in identifying gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. A number of delegates asked UNODC to develop technical assistance activities to strengthen the capabilities of Member States in relation to firearms.

10. The Coordinator of the International Small Arms Control Standards project of the CASA mechanism highlighted the relevance of the development of the Standards, whose purpose was to provide clear and comprehensive guidance to

practitioners and policymakers on aspects of small arm and light weapon control in support of the Protocol.
