



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

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Working Group on Firearms

Vienna, 21-22 May 2012

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Exchange of experience on successful practices, weaknesses, gaps and challenges in the fight against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.
3. Challenges and good practices in the criminalization, investigation and prosecution of, and exchange of information and international cooperation on, illicit firearms trafficking.
4. Measures to raise awareness of, and to promote the ratification 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.
5. Measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol, including the development of technical assistance tools.
6. Recommendations to the Conference on how States parties can better implement the provisions of the Firearms Protocol and how the Working Group on Firearms can better coordinate with the various international bodies combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the area of supporting and promoting the implementation of the Protocol.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.



Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Working Group on Firearms will be opened on 21 May 2012 at 10 a.m.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In its resolution 5/4, entitled “Illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group on firearms, in accordance with article 32, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure for the Conference, to be chaired by a member of the Bureau of the Conference, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to 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.

In that resolution, the Conference also decided that the working group should perform the following functions: (a) facilitate implementation of the Firearms Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices among experts and practitioners; (b) make recommendations to the Conference on how States parties could better implement the provisions of the Firearms Protocol; (c) assist the Conference in providing guidance to its secretariat on the activities of the secretariat and on the development of technical assistance tools relating to the implementation of the Firearms Protocol; and (d) make recommendations to the Conference on how the working group could better coordinate with the various international bodies combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the area of supporting and promoting implementation of the Firearms Protocol.

The Conference requested the Secretariat to inform the working group about (a) the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist the Conference in promoting and supporting the implementation of the Firearms Protocol; (b) coordination with other relevant international and regional organizations; (c) best practices in the areas of training; and (d) capacity-building and awareness-raising strategies to prevent and combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

The proposed organization of work, contained in the annex to the present document, was prepared pursuant to Conference resolution 5/4 in order to enable the Working Group to perform its mandated functions within the time and according to the conference services available to it.

The resources available to the Working Group will permit the holding of two plenary meetings per day with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.

2. Exchange of experience on successful practices, weaknesses, gaps and challenges in the fight against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition

In its resolution 5/4, the Conference requested States, inter alia, to consider the adoption or strengthening of comprehensive and efficient measures to counter the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition; to consider ways to strengthen the collection and sharing of information; to strengthen their mechanisms and strategies for border control; and to afford each other the broadest possible bilateral, regional and international cooperation so as to facilitate the tracing of firearms and the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related offences, in conformity with their national laws.

Pursuant to Conference resolution 5/4, the Working Group is to facilitate implementation of the Firearms Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices among experts and practitioners in this area, including by contributing to the identification of successful practices, weaknesses, gaps and challenges, as well as priority issues and topics of relevance, in the fight against trafficking in firearms.

For its consideration of item 2, the Working Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat on good practices, gaps and challenges in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3).

In the document, reference is made to common challenges and difficulties faced by States in this field, and an account is provided of the most relevant preventive and control measures contained in the Organized Crime Convention and the Firearms Protocol to help States in their efforts to establish more effective firearms control regimes.

For its consideration of this item, the Working Group may refer in particular to the following preventive measures identified in the paper as priority issues: (a) marking and record-keeping; (b) import, export and transit controls; and (c) confiscation and destruction of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on good practices, gaps and challenges in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3)

3. Challenges and good practices in the criminalization, investigation and prosecution of, and exchange of information and international cooperation on, illicit firearms trafficking

Under item 3, the Working Group will address in particular criminal justice responses to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. For its consideration of the item, the Working Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3) on, inter alia, challenges and difficulties faced by States attempting to detect and prosecute firearms-related offences, as well as the links between such offences and organized

crime. The document also includes an account of the most relevant control measures contained in the Firearms Protocol and the Organized Crime Convention that can be used to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related offences and strengthen international cooperation in that area.

For its consideration of item 3, the Working Group may wish to consider, in particular, to the following control measures identified in the document as priority issues: (a) criminalization; (b) investigation and prosecution of firearms-related offences; (c) sharing of information; and (d) international cooperation to facilitate the tracing of firearms and the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related offences.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on good practices, gaps and challenges in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3)

4. Measures to raise awareness of, and to promote the ratification 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

For its consideration of item 4, the Working Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/2) on the activities of UNODC to increase knowledge and awareness of the Firearms Protocol and promote its ratification and full implementation. The document contains information about the current status of ratification of the Firearms Protocol and recommendations to the Conference on possible action to be taken by the Secretariat and by States to increase awareness and knowledge of the Protocol and promote its ratification. For its consideration of this item, the Working Group may wish to consider, in particular, the following measures identified in the document: (a) global, regional and national awareness-raising, and (b) the provision of pre-ratification support and the development of ratification kits.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/2)

5. Measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol, including the development of technical assistance tools

For its consideration of item 5, the Working Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the activities of UNODC to promote and support the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/2). The document contains information on the technical assistance work carried out by UNODC in the framework of its global project on firearms and information to assist States in their efforts to accede to and implement the Firearms Protocol and to strengthen their

legislative and institutional framework on firearms in a manner consistent with the Protocol.

The document also contains possible recommendations for the Conference aimed at providing guidance to the Secretariat on its activities relating to the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. The focus of the document is on practical and result-oriented measures and technical assistance activities in the following areas: (a) legislative assistance and legal drafting support; (b) capacity-building and training; (c) development of technical assistance tools; (d) international cooperation; and (e) research and analysis.

For its consideration of item 5, the Working Group will also have before it a note by the Secretariat (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3), containing an overview of the relevant substantive issues and considerations for States with regard to implementing the Firearms Protocol.

Under this item, a presentation will be given by a representative of the Secretariat on the global project on firearms, as well as on the development of technical assistance tools, such as the *Model Law against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition*.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote and support the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/2)

Note by the Secretariat on good practices, gaps and challenges in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3)

6. Recommendations to the Conference on how States parties can better implement the provisions of the Firearms Protocol and how the Working Group on Firearms can better coordinate with the various international bodies combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the area of supporting and promoting the implementation of the Protocol

For its consideration of item 6, the Working Group will have before it documents CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/2 and CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3, which both contain possible recommendations for the Conference on how State parties can improve their implementation of provisions of the Firearms Protocol.

Document CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/2 also contains an outline of the work carried out by UNODC to strengthen cooperation and establish partnerships with other international and regional organizations and civil society organizations, with the aim of continuing to promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol, as well as recommendations on improving the coordination of the Working Group with the various international bodies in the area of supporting and promoting implementation of the Protocol.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote and support the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/2)

Note by the Secretariat on good practices, gaps and challenges in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3)

8. Adoption of the report

The working group will adopt a report on its meeting, the draft of which will be prepared by the Secretariat.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title and description</i>
Monday, 21 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Exchange of experience on successful practices, weaknesses, gaps and challenges in the fight against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition
3-6 p.m.	3	Challenges and good practices in the criminalization, investigation and prosecution of, and exchange of information and international cooperation on, illicit firearms trafficking
	4	Measures to raise awareness of, and to promote the ratification 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
	5	Measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol, including the development of technical assistance tools
Tuesday, 22 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	6	Recommendations to the Conference on how States parties can better implement the provisions of the Firearms Protocol and how the Working Group on Firearms can better coordinate with the various international bodies combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the area of supporting and promoting implementation of the Protocol
3-6 p.m.	7	Other matters
	8	Adoption of the report