



Statement delivered by South Africa on Treaty Implementation at the ATT Twelfth Conference of States Parties (CSP12), CICG Geneva, Switzerland 24 to 28 August 2026

Annex 1: Proposed Additional Guidance on the Implementation of Article 7(4)

South Africa welcomes the proposed additional guidance on the implementation of Article 7(4) relating to the risk of conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children. The proposed guidance provides a practical and structured tool that can assist States Parties in operationalising their obligations under Article 7(4) while remaining consistent with the wider export assessment process under Article 7.

The considerations of gender-based violence and violence against women and children's into broader export risk assessments is critical. We believe that this approach strengthens the effective implementation of the Treaty.

We further appreciate efforts to align the proposed guidance more closely with the Treaty text and the existing Voluntary Guide on Implementing Articles 6 and 7. South Africa supports maintaining the practical, voluntary and non-prescriptive nature of the guidance while allowing sufficient flexibility for States Parties to apply it within their respective national legal and institutional frameworks.

South Africa recognises the challenges many States face regarding access to reliable information and data for assessing GBV-related risks. In this regard, we encourage further exchanges of national practices, lessons learned and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen implementation.

Annex 2: Proposed Amendments to the Voluntary Guide on Implementing Articles 6 and 7

South Africa appreciates efforts to align the proposed guidance more closely with the Treaty text and the existing Voluntary Guide on Implementing Articles 6 and 7. South Africa supports maintaining the practical, voluntary and non-prescriptive nature of the guidance while allowing sufficient flexibility for States Parties to apply it within their respective national legal and institutional frameworks.

South Africa also recognises the challenges many States face regarding access to reliable information and data for assessing GBV-related risks. In this regard, we encourage further exchanges of national practices, lessons learned and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen implementation.

Annex 3: Possible Steps and Questions for Developing or Strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation

South Africa welcomes Annex 3 and supports the inclusion of the proposed framework on inter-agency cooperation in the Voluntary Basic Guide to Establishing a National Control System. Effective inter-agency cooperation remains a critical element of a robust national control system and facilitates informed, transparent and coordinated decision-making.

South Africa particularly values the practical and flexible nature of the proposed framework and agrees that it should serve as a reference tool rather than a prescriptive model, allowing States Parties to adapt it to their national circumstances and institutional arrangements.

Our national experience demonstrates the importance of cooperation amongst key stakeholders, importantly foreign affairs, defence, customs, law enforcement, intelligence and other relevant authorities in conducting export assessments and implementing Treaty obligations effectively.

South Africa supports continued exchanges of national experiences on inter-agency cooperation and encourages the ATT process to further identify practical good practices that can assist States Parties seeking to establish or strengthen national control systems.

In conclusion, South Africa supports the recommendations contained in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 and believes that these voluntary guidance tools will contribute positively to strengthening effective Treaty implementation, improving national control systems and enhancing the overall effectiveness of the Arms Trade Treaty.

I Thank you Chair