



Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

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CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda Item 8: Gender-related Commitments



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Madame President,

The Philippines thanks the Gender Focal Points and recognizes their work in advancing gender-related commitments across the work of the Treaty.

Gender-responsive implementation begins with Article 7(4), yet it extends across national control systems, data, risk assessment, assistance, participation, and accountability. The Philippines supports the additional voluntary guidance on assessing the risk of serious acts of gender-based violence and serious acts of violence against women and children. Practical guidance can help licensing authorities identify relevant indicators, consult reliable sources, and reach decisions grounded on evidence.

Translating these gender-related commitments into effective implementation under the ATT requires a proactive interagency approach that bridges policy and practice. We continue to strengthen a shared understanding among our relevant licensing and regulatory agencies of how gender-related risks should be identified, assessed, and documented.



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In this sense, capacity-building is equally important. Beyond fostering a shared understanding, officials need practical training on what information to examine, how to assess relevant risks, how to document findings, and how gender considerations can be incorporated into existing licensing and decision-making processes.

Gender analysis should also respond to changing weapons and transfer patterns. Drones and autonomous systems can enable surveillance, intimidation, targeted violence, and attacks whose effects may differ across communities. Damage to hospitals, water systems, schools, homes, and energy facilities can deepen unpaid care burdens, displacement, exposure to exploitation, and barriers to health services.

Within this framework, the maritime domain remains a critical, cross-cutting aspect of transfer controls. Illicit arms flows and weapons diversion in coastal and border-adjacent settings carry serious gendered and humanitarian consequences that disproportionately impact remote communities. Addressing these risks, therefore, requires the active, safe, and meaningful inclusion of local actors, including fisherfolk, seafarers, and women's organizations, whose unique knowledge of local maritime patterns is vital to detecting early warning signs of illicit activity and strengthening community security.

Thank you, Madame President.