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Submitted by: the ATT Management Committee

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DRAFT PROPOSAL ON A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEETINGS OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

BACKGROUND

1. During the CSP12 Informal Preparatory meeting, on 27 May 2026, the Management Committee informed delegations of the ATT Secretariat's ongoing work on a proposal for a Code of Conduct for ATT meetings. This proposal emerged from the discussions during the CSP10 and CSP11 cycles on the security and conduct of ATT meetings, which highlighted the need for clear standards of behaviour to ensure that ATT meetings remain safe, professional, inclusive and respectful environments for all delegates. The initiative complemented the work of the ATT Gender Focal Points to promote respectful participation and strengthen an inclusive working environment within the ATT process.
2. Following the Informal Preparatory meeting, the ATT Secretariat and the Management Committee, in consultation with the ATT Gender Focal Points, finalized a concise, practical and balanced draft, which was circulated to all ATT stakeholders on 23 June 2026 in advance of a virtual informal consultation held on 14 July 2026.

INFORMAL CONSULTATION OF 14 JULY 2026

3. Opening the consultation, the ATT Secretariat recalled the background of the proposal and reiterated that it reflected the collaborative efforts of the Secretariat, the Management Committee and the ATT Gender Focal Points. The Secretariat explained that the draft had been informed by a comparative review of codes of conduct and anti-harassment policies adopted by the United Nations system, the International Labour Organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other multilateral processes. While differing in detail, these instruments shared common principles, including respect for the dignity of delegates, professionalism, inclusiveness and mutual respect, and applied equally to all delegates regardless of status or function.
4. The Secretariat further observed that these policies consistently prohibit harassment, including sexual harassment, as well as other forms of inappropriate conduct such as intimidation, discrimination, abuse of authority, offensive or aggressive behaviour, unwanted physical contact and retaliation. They also generally provide for confidential reporting mechanisms, designated points of contact, procedural safeguards, and a range of proportionate responses to established misconduct, with the objective of preserving a respectful and inclusive meeting environment.
5. The Secretariat emphasized that the proposed text was intended to align the ATT process with established international practice by providing a clear framework for expected standards of conduct and procedures for addressing concerns. It would neither create new

legal obligations nor amend the ATT Rules of Procedure, nor would it restrict participation or the open exchange of perspectives that has consistently characterized ATT discussions. Rather, it sought to establish a shared understanding of the standards of professional and respectful conduct expected of all delegates attending ATT meetings and related activities, whether in person or remotely.

6. A representative of the ATT Gender Focal Points emphasized the timeliness of the proposal, reiterating the need to align the ATT process with established practices in other treaty bodies and multilateral fora. Against this background, the Gender Focal Points had engaged with the Secretariat to support the development of a Code of Conduct that would bring the ATT process in line with comparable international frameworks. The representative explained that the Gender Focal Points had provided written comments and suggestions, including proposals related to provisions addressing harassment and preventing violence, including violence against women. It was noted that these inputs were based on existing United Nations guidance and did not seek to introduce new standards, but rather to adapt established approaches to the specific context of the ATT.

7. During the ensuing discussion, delegations broadly welcomed the proposal and expressed support for its overall approach, including provisions on reporting mechanisms, confidentiality, non-retaliation, procedural safeguards and proportionate measures to address misconduct.

8. Delegations provided a number of suggestions to further clarify and strengthen the draft, including references to direct and indirect discrimination, more objective terminology in provisions on expected conduct, and consideration of additional safeguarding language, including sexual exploitation and abuse and a victim-centred approach. The importance of accessible reporting channels, protection from retaliation and maintaining a zero-tolerance approach towards intimidation, threats, reprisals and harassment, including sexual harassment, was emphasized.

9. Delegations also sought clarification regarding the implementation of the proposed measures, including the roles of relevant ATT office holders in addressing alleged misconduct. In response, the Secretariat explained that responsibility would depend on the context in which misconduct occurred and invited further suggestions on this aspect.

10. In addition, delegations discussed whether the scope of the Code should address online conduct associated with ATT meetings, including threats, intimidation and targeted attacks through social media. While recognizing the need to balance this with freedom of expression, delegations considered that this issue merited further consideration. Suggestions were also made to ensure consistency throughout the draft regarding references to the authority of the President of the Conference, as well as the Chairs of ATT bodies.

11. In closing, the CSP12 President invited delegations to submit written comments to inform the preparation of a revised draft for consideration by the Management Committee. The President encouraged delegations to strike a balance between addressing important concerns and maintaining a concise, practical and broadly applicable framework.

FOLLOW-UP AND RECOMMENDATION

12. Following the informal consultation, the ATT Secretariat prepared a revised draft, addressing the issues raised during the consultation and in subsequent written submissions. Having considered the revised draft, the Management Committee concluded that it adequately reflected the views expressed by delegations. Taking into account the broad support expressed during the consultation and the observations of delegations regarding the timeliness and necessity of the initiative, the Management Committee considered that the revised proposal provided an appropriate basis for consideration and adoption by CSP12. In this regard, the Management Committee noted that, while some delegations had suggested further elaboration or refinement of certain elements of the proposal, the draft Code of Conduct itself envisages the development of additional implementation guidance by the ATT Secretariat under the authority of the Management Committee and provides for a review by the Committee after two years.

13. Accordingly, the Management Committee recommends that CSP12 adopts the proposed Code of Conduct, as contained in the Annex to this document, with a view to ensuring that ATT meetings continue to provide a safe, professional, inclusive and respectful environment for all delegates.

ANNEX



Submitted by the Management Committee

Code of Conduct for Meetings of the Arms Trade Treaty

Introduction

This Code of Conduct reflects the commitment of States Parties to ensure that all ATT meetings and activities are conducted in a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment, implemented through a policy of zero tolerance for harassment, including sexual harassment, gender-based violence, discrimination, intimidation and retaliation.

It is grounded in the principles of professionalism, integrity, equality, and non-discrimination, and supports the full, equal, and meaningful participation of all individuals.

Through this Code, all participants are expected to behave with integrity and respect towards all participants attending or involved in ATT meetings and activities. system events.

Purpose and scope

This Code applies to all participants in ATT meetings and activities, including representatives of States Parties, Signatory States, observer States, international and regional organizations, civil society, industry and invited experts.

It applies to formal and informal meetings, side events, receptions, technical events, exhibits or any other fora organized, hosted or sponsored as part of the ATT process and/or that require the involvement or support of the ATT Secretariat, and to in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats.

Guiding Principles

Participants are expected to:

- Treat others with respect, dignity, and courtesy
- Promote inclusivity, equality, and non-discrimination
- Engage in discussions in a constructive and good-faith manner
- Respect the ATT rules of procedure and the authority of the President of the Conference of States Parties and of ATT office holders
- Participate in an inclusive, respectful and safe environment

Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors are subject to a zero-tolerance policy and will not be tolerated:

- Harassment, including verbal, physical and online harassment
- Sexual harassment
- Any form of violence, including gender-based violence
- Direct or indirect discrimination on any grounds
- Intimidation or threats
- Disruptive or demeaning behavior that undermines the orderly conduct of meetings

*For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, **harassment**¹ is considered as any improper or unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected, or be perceived, to cause offense or humiliation to another person, in any form, because of gender, gender identity, race, age or religion.*

***Online harassment** includes unwanted messages, dissemination of inappropriate content, cyberstalking, non-consensual sharing of images, and offensive conduct through digital platforms.*

***Sexual harassment**² is understood as an unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, involving any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature, including written and electronic communications such as making sexual comments, unwelcome touching or making inappropriate sexual gestures.*

***Gender-based violence** is generally understood as violence directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex, including acts that can inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and deprivations of liberty.³*

Expected Conduct in relation to Meetings

Participants shall:

- Use respectful language
- Avoid interruptions and allow others to speak
- Refrain from personal attacks or defamatory statements

¹ See United Nations. (n.d.). *United Nations System Code of Conduct*

² See United Nations. (n.d.). *United Nations System Code of Conduct*.

³ See Arms Trade Treaty (2024). Voluntary Guide to implementing Articles 6 & 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty, paragraph 30, [ATT_CSP10_WGETI_Voluntary_Guide_to_Implementing_Articles_6_&_7_of_the_ATT_EN_2024_11_26.pdf](#)

Responsibilities of Chairs and Organizers

The President of the Conference of States Parties, Working Group Chairs, and organizers of side events shall:

- Promote awareness of this Code of Conduct
- Foster a safe, respectful and inclusive environment
- Intervene when necessary
- Take appropriate and proportionate measures in response to misconduct

Reporting Misconduct

Participants who experience or witness misconduct are encouraged to report the details of the alleged misconduct and the alleged offender(s), as appropriate, to:

- The President of the Conference of States Parties
- Working Group Chairs
- Gender Focal Points
- The ATT Secretariat
- Event organizers

The victim of alleged misconduct is encouraged to also seek help from relevant authorities, including security authorities. Where appropriate, the President, Chairs, organizers, and the ATT Secretariat should facilitate access to such assistance and provide appropriate support.

The ATT Secretariat, under the authority of the Management Committee, will provide further guidance on reporting misconduct on the ATT website.

Handling reports of misconduct

Basic principles

Reports will be handled by the President, Chair, or organizer, of the meeting or event concerned in consultation with the ATT Secretariat, in a timely, strictly confidential, impartial, and non-discriminatory manner, with due regard for the sensitivities involved, particularly in cases of harassment, sexual harassment or gender-based violence.

A participant should never knowingly make a false or misleading claim about a prohibited conduct.

Alleged victims should not suffer any negative consequences as a result of reporting a misconduct.

Safeguards

Any report of alleged misconduct shall be assessed and addressed in accordance with basic

procedural safeguards. This should include, as a minimum, timely notification of the substance of the allegation to the concerned participant, an opportunity to respond to such allegation within a reasonable timeframe, and the consideration of such response prior to any determination or follow-up action being taken.

The ATT Secretariat, under the authority of the Management Committee, will provide further guidance on procedural steps on the ATT website.

Measures

In cases of misconduct, the President, Chair, or organizer of the meeting or event concerned in consultation with the ATT Secretariat should take appropriate and proportionate action to address the matter, prevent repetition as well as possible retaliation, taking into account the specific circumstances of the case, including any relevant prior conduct.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- Call a participant to order and request to immediately stop the offending behavior (reminder of the Code of Conduct and expected standards of behavior)
- Facilitate an amicable resolution, where appropriate
- Limit speaking rights
- Request the withdrawal of participants from a meeting or event Report or refer the matter to the participant's delegation or entity responsible for the participant
- Refer the matter to relevant authorities, where appropriate

Prohibition of retaliation

Threats, intimidation or any other form of retaliation against a participant who has made a complaint or provided information in support of a complain are prohibited.

Implementation

The ATT Secretariat will make this Code publicly available on its website, include it in meeting documentation, and promote awareness among participants. Participants are expected to familiarize themselves with and adhere to this Code of Conduct.

Acceptance of the present Code of Conduct will be incorporated as a requirement for the completion of the online electronic registration process for meetings and other ATT-related activities.

Final Provisions

This Code of Conduct complements the ATT Rules of Procedure and does not replace any applicable legal frameworks or host country regulations.

Review of the Code

This Code and its provisions shall be reviewed by the Management Committee after two years and thereafter upon request of States Parties.
