



24 July 2026

Submitted by: the ATT Management Committee

Original: English

Arms Trade Treaty

Twelfth Conference of States Parties

Geneva, 24 - 28 August 2026

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES OF THE ATT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

1. Ahead of the CSP12 Informal Preparatory meeting, on 27-28 May 2026, the Management Committee circulated for consideration of ATT States Parties a proposal to revise the Administrative Guidelines of the ATT Sponsorship Programme ([ATT/CSP12.MC/2026/MC/844/IPM.SponAdminGuide.Prop](#)). The Committee indicated that, in light of the continuing important role of the Sponsorship Programme in facilitating the participation of eligible States in ATT meetings, it was timely to review the current Administrative Guidelines with a view to ensuring that they respond to present operational needs and are aligned with current administrative practices.

2. The proposed amendments drew on the practical experience gained by the ATT Secretariat, in its capacity as Administrator of the Programme, through the implementation of the Programme since CSP4. They were intended to better reflect the practical realities of administering the Programme, clarify procedures and responsibilities relating to the management of sponsorship support, and update certain provisions to align with current operational and logistical practices. The proposed amendments did not intend to change the fundamental purpose of the Sponsorship Programme, namely to support broad and inclusive participation in ATT meetings, but rather to strengthen its administrative framework and facilitate its effective functioning.

DISCUSSION DURING 27-28 MAY 2026 CSP12 INFORMAL PREPARATORY MEETING

3. During the CSP12 Informal Preparatory meeting, on 27 May 2026, the ATT Secretariat introduced the proposed amendments, underscoring the Sponsorship Programme's central role in promoting the universality, inclusivity and effective implementation of the Treaty by enabling the participation of representatives from developing and resource-constrained States. The Secretariat emphasized that the Programme enhances transparency, broadens the diversity of perspectives in Treaty deliberations, strengthens national ownership and supports capacity-building.

4. The Secretariat further explained that the proposed amendments are intended to strengthen the Programme's administration and ensure its long-term effectiveness and sustainability in light of demand consistently exceeding available resources. The amendments seek to improve the allocation process through clearer prioritisation criteria, enhanced transparency, consistency and predictability, streamlined administrative procedures, and closer coordination between the Secretariat and participating States. The

Secretariat emphasised that the proposals reflect lessons learned from implementation experience and are intended not to limit participation, but to safeguard the Programme's sustainability while ensuring that assistance continues to reach those States most in need. The Secretariat reaffirmed its commitment to administering the Programme in a transparent, accountable and responsible manner in close cooperation with States Parties and donor States.

5. The subsequent discussion demonstrated broad support for both the Programme and the proposed amendments, with delegations recognising its important contribution to ensuring broader and more inclusive participation in the Treaty process.

6. Delegations welcomed the increased participation of sponsored delegates and noted that the Programme had enriched plenary discussions by bringing a wider diversity of perspectives. Delegations expressed support for the proposed amendments, including the strengthened emphasis on identifying participants able to contribute actively to the Conference's work, while underscoring the need to preserve sufficient flexibility in the selection criteria. It was further observed that the Programme serves not only to facilitate immediate substantive contributions but also to build the capacity of participants over time, and that selection requirements should not be so restrictive as to discourage broader participation.

7. A technical question was raised regarding the deletion of the provision referring to the Sponsorship Coordinator.¹ In response, the Secretariat explained that the amendments were intended to reflect current practice. Whereas the original arrangements had envisaged a coordinating role linked to the Management Committee, the Secretariat now works directly with donor states on the administration of the Programme and the selection process, rendering the previous provision obsolete.

8. In concluding the discussion, the CSP12 President expressed appreciation for the work of the Management Committee and the Secretariat, as well as for the continued financial contributions of donor states to the Sponsorship Programme. It was noted that these contributions have enabled broader participation and more diverse discussions within the Conference, reinforcing the Programme's value as an important mechanism for promoting inclusivity and capacity-building.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

9. Based on the considerations set out above, the Management Committee concludes that there is a broad support among States Parties for the proposed amendments to the Administrative Guidelines of the ATT Sponsorship Programme. As no revisions to the text presented in May were put forward, the annex containing the proposed amendments has not been modified.

10. Accordingly, the Management Committee recommends that CSP12 adopts the proposed amendments, as contained in the Annex to this document, with a view to ensure the Sponsorship Programme's long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

¹ Current provision 18: "At the request of the ATT Secretariat, the Management Committee may appoint one of the donors to the ATT sponsorship Programme to liaise with and help coordinate input from the other donors (a 'sponsorship coordinator')."



09 May 2019

Issued by the Management Committee

Original: **English**

ATT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

Adopted: ATT Fifth Conference of States
Parties

Amended: ATT Twelfth Conference of States
Parties

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR THE ATT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

1. In accordance with the terms of the relevant decision taken by the Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP4) to entrust the ATT Secretariat with the administration of the ATT sponsorship programme (see paragraph 34 of the *Final Report* of CSP4 held from 20-24 August 2018 ([ATT/CSP4/2018/SEC/369/Conf.FinRep.Rev1](#))), the following draft guidelines have been developed to govern the administration of the ATT sponsorship programme.

Purpose and Scope of the Sponsorship Programme

2. The ATT sponsorship programme is established to facilitate participation in ATT meetings.

3. The primary objective of the ATT sponsorship programme is to maximize the scale and diversity of participation of experts from States in ATT meetings, ~~ensuring to ensure~~ representative and ~~and inclusive participatory~~ discourse and decision-making, ~~during the meetings~~ and, ultimately, contributing to the strengthening of Treaty implementation and universalization ~~of the Treaty~~.

4. The following principles will apply to the operations/administration of the ATT sponsorship programme:

- Participation
- Inclusivity (including gender equality considerations)
- Transparency
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness

Organisation and responsibilities

5. The ATT sponsorship programme shall be administered by the ATT Secretariat.

ATT Secretariat

6. The ATT Secretariat is entrusted with the overall management of the ATT sponsorship programme, including managing the sponsorship funds, the selection of the delegates to be sponsored in consultation with donors to the ATT sponsorship programme, and technical management.

7. With respect to the management of sponsorship funds, the ATT Secretariat will:

- a. Prepare funding proposals and issue calls for contributions to the sponsorship programme as necessary, but at least on ~~ce on~~ an annual basis;
- b. Establish a separate bank account dedicated to the sponsorship programme to facilitate transparency in the accounting and auditing of the sponsorship programme;

- c. Allocate up to 8%¹ of the sponsorship funds received to the administration of the ATT sponsorship programme; and
 - d. Report comprehensively on the status and implementation of the ATT sponsorship programme at Conferences of States Parties and ensure the report is publicly available on the ATT website.
8. With respect to the selection of delegates to be sponsored, the ATT Secretariat will:
- a. Develop the application procedures for the ATT sponsorship programme, including an application form;
 - b. Advertise the ATT sponsorship programme and issue an invitation to apply to the ATT sponsorship programme in advance (preferably 3 months ahead of meeting) of each ATT meeting (subject to the availability of sponsorship funds); and
 - c. Select applicants ~~to be sponsored for sponsorship~~ on the basis of the *General Principles for Selection of Delegates to be Sponsored by the ATT Sponsorship Programme* (Annex A), and inform donors of ~~the selected candidates by such selection through the circulating on of~~ a shortlist for their consideration prior to ~~taking~~ the final decision.
9. With respect to the technical management of the ATT sponsorship programme, the ATT Secretariat will provide the following services to sponsored delegates in accordance with the *ATT Sponsorship Programme: Financial Protocol* (see Annex B):
- a. Booking and issuing flight tickets for sponsored delegates;
 - b. Booking and paying for accommodation for sponsored delegates;
 - c. Paying allowances (per diems) for expenses (lunch and dinner) to sponsored delegates;
 - d. Paying terminal allowances (for ground transportation) to sponsored delegates; and
 - e. Where necessary, providing a letter in support of a delegate's visa application.

Operation of the ATT Sponsorship Programme

Contributions

10. The ATT Secretariat will issue a call for voluntary contributions to the ATT sponsorship programme as required, and at least ~~twice~~ once on an annual basis.

¹ Within this allocation, priority shall be given to programme oversight and the engagement of temporary staff to support sponsored delegates' participation in meetings. Where feasible, costs related to external service providers, including travel agency services, may be accounted for as direct operational costs of the sponsorship programme rather than as administrative expenditure.

~~These funds will be committed to, *inter alia*, advertising the sponsorship programme, procuring services associated with the sponsorship programme including the engagement of a travel agency, hiring additional (temporary) staff to assist sponsored delegates with their participation in meetings, and communication costs associated with the sponsorship programme.~~

11. States Parties or other entities may donate to the ATT sponsorship programme throughout the year and may make pledges at a dedicated segment of each ordinary session of the Conference of States Parties.

12. Although there is a preference for as little earmarking of voluntary contributions as possible, States Parties or other entities may earmark their contributions to the ATT Sponsorship Programme.

13. The ATT Secretariat will keep a record of received contributions to the ATT sponsorship programme, and will inform States Parties of the amount of funds available for each series of CSP meetings.

Applications

14. Administrative details regarding the application procedure to be followed by applicants shall be elaborated by the ATT Secretariat (see Annex C).

15. The ATT Secretariat will invite applications for sponsorship in advance of each ATT meeting where sponsorship funds are available.

16. The ATT Secretariat shall draft a shortlist of eligible applicants for sponsorship for each meeting where sponsorship funds are available and shall circulate the shortlist to States that have contributed to the ATT sponsorship programme since it was entrusted to the ATT Secretariat by CSP4 ('donors to the ATT sponsorship programme').

17. Subject to any input from a donor or donors to the ATT sponsorship programme, the ATT Secretariat shall decide on the applicants to be sponsored for each ATT meeting where sponsorship funds are available, based on the shortlist.

~~18.—At the request of the ATT Secretariat, the Management Committee may appoint one of the donors to the ATT sponsorship programme to liaise with and help coordinate input from the other donors (a 'sponsorship coordinator').~~

Auditing and Reporting

~~19:18.~~ The audit provisions as per Rule 10 of the ATT Financial Rules shall be applicable to the ATT sponsorship programme *mutatis mutandis*.

~~20:19.~~ The ATT Secretariat shall report to the Conference of States Parties on the operations of the ATT sponsorship programme, including its financial status.

Final Provisions

~~21:20.~~ These Guidelines will be re-evaluated by the Conference of States Parties as appropriate.

~~22:21.~~ In the event of a termination of the activities of the ATT sponsorship programme, outstanding bills shall be paid and the remaining donations shall be refunded.

ANNEX A. DRAFT GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO BE SPONSORED BY THE ATT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Eligibility Criteria

1. States may apply for sponsorship to attend an ATT meeting.
2. Applicants must fulfil all the application requirements developed in accordance with the Guidelines in order to be eligible for sponsorship.
3. Applicants must ensure that any sponsorship funding received from the ATT sponsorship programme does not duplicate funding received from other sources. In case of violation of this principle, future sponsorship may be withdrawn for up to two years.

Selection Criteria

1. The following considerations shall apply to the selection of representatives from States on the OECD-DAC list as ODA recipients (as well as small economy States, including but not limited to small island states, not listed on the OECD-DAC list):
 - Equitable regional representation considerations;
 - Gender equality considerations, ~~taking efforts to ensure~~ensuring the ~~overall~~-equal representation of women and men in ATT meetings;
 - ATT Status (i.e. whether the applicant is a State Party, Signatory State, or a State that has not yet joined the Treaty), with due regard for ATT implementation and universalization priorities as determined by CSPs; and
 - Expertise and role of applicant, including ~~demonstrated technical or subject-matter expertise relevant to ATT discussions and presentations, as well as~~ whether the applicant State is a member or office-holder of any committee or subsidiary body.
 - Or
 - Expertise relevant to ATT deliberations and presentations, including demonstrated technical knowledge, subject-matter competence, or practical experience necessary to contribute to panels, briefings, or thematic discussions during ATT meeting
 -
2. If ~~available funding is~~ ~~there are~~insufficient ~~funds available~~ to sponsor all ~~eligible the~~ applicants ~~that are eligible to be selected for sponsorship following the application of the~~under the above considerations, priority will be given to applicants from States ~~that who~~ are in compliance with their financial obligations under the ATT.

ANNEX B. ATT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME: DRAFT FINANCIAL PROTOCOL

This protocol establishes guidelines for the determination of the financial entitlements of sponsored delegates.

Travel

Flights

1. Return, economy class flight from the ~~closest-nearest~~ airport ~~to of~~ the delegate's ~~placecountry~~ of residence to Geneva, or ~~to another~~ location if a meeting or Conference of States Parties is taking place in a city other than Geneva. Flights will be booked and paid for by the ATT Secretariat. The ATT Secretariat will book the most cost-effective economy class round trip. No upgrades to business class or any other higher class of service shall be permitted or reimbursed, regardless of the origin, role, or function of the sponsored delegate. Should a delegate choose, at their own expense, to travel in a higher class, the Secretariat shall only reimburse up to the applicable economy class fare.
2. Sponsored delegates will receive an electronic ticket (e-ticket) for their travel.
3. Sponsored delegates will be responsible for all costs resulting from changes they make (e.g. changes to the arrival and/or departure date(s)), including cancellations, once the tickets have been purchased. Such costs will be deducted from the sponsored delegate's per diem allowance.
4. Under very exceptional circumstances (such as a medical emergency or death in the delegate's family), the ATT Secretariat may cover the cost of changes made to a ticket.
5. Under no circumstances will the ATT Secretariat cover expenses that result from changes in travel arrangements that it has not authorised, that arise as a consequence of the delegates fault or negligence (e.g. missing a flight), or those unrelated to participation in the relevant meeting or Conference.

Ground transportation

6. Where meetings are held in Geneva:
 - a. Sponsored delegates will receive a *terminal allowance* to facilitate their travel to and from the airport in their home country. The terminal allowance will be calculated as follows: sponsored delegates will be reimbursed for the costs of their travel to the airport in their home country, upon submission of a receipt, and will receive the equivalent amount in USD cash to facilitate their return journey from the airport in their home country to their home. Where it is not possible to provide receipts, a lump-sum amount may be provided, based on established practice and available official information on the cost of terminal transportation;
 - ~~b. Sponsored delegates will obtain a free transportation card at the vending machine in the baggage collection area in Geneva airport; and~~
 - e.b. Sponsored delegates will receive a free transport card from the hotel booked by the ATT Secretariat covering the duration of their stay.
7. Where meetings are held outside Geneva:
 - a. Sponsored delegates will receive a *terminal allowance* to facilitate their travel to and from the airport in their home country. The terminal allowance will be calculated as follows:

- sponsored delegates will be reimbursed for the costs of their travel to the airport in their home country, upon submission of a receipt, and will receive the equivalent amount in USD cash to facilitate their return journey from the airport in their home country to their home;
- b. Sponsored delegates will receive an additional *terminal allowance* to facilitate their travel to and from the airport in the country where the meeting is being held ('host country'). This will be determined according to the city where the meeting is being held and the transport options available; and
 - c. Where the hotel accommodation is not within walking distance (1 km, approximately 15 minutes) of the meeting venue or where a sponsored delegate has a disability, sponsored delegates will receive an additional stipend to cover the costs of travelling to and from the meeting venue by public transport (determined according to venue location and local pricing).
8. The costs of any additional travel undertaken by the sponsored delegate during his/her stay that do not relate directly to participation in the ATT meeting will be borne by the sponsored delegate.

Insurance

The ATT Secretariat will cover the bare/basic minimum required for travel and medical insurance in accordance with Schengen visa requirements.

Travel

1. The ATT Secretariat will obtain travel insurance for each sponsored delegate.

Medical

2. The ATT Secretariat will obtain basic medical insurance for each sponsored delegate.
3. The ATT Secretariat does not cover life insurance for sponsored delegates. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all sponsored delegates to ensure that they obtain adequate insurance prior to their travel to Geneva or other location if a meeting or Conference of States Parties is taking place in a city other than Geneva.
4. The ATT Secretariat will not take responsibility for any claims that may result from inadequate or insufficient insurance coverage.

Visas

1. Sponsored delegates are responsible for applying for all necessary visas (including transit visas) for travel in a timely manner.
2. ~~The~~ ATT Secretariat will provide sponsored delegates with a letter confirming his/her participation in the relevant meeting.
3. Sponsored delegates will be reimbursed in USD cash for ~~the cost of their~~ visa costs upon provision of an original receipt (which can be in the form of the visa itself) to the ATT Secretariat.

4. Where there is no relevant embassy/consulate in the country of residence of the sponsored delegate, the ATT Secretariat will reimburse the reasonable/direct costs associated with obtaining a visa from the nearest/most cost-effective relevant embassy/consulate.

Airport Fees

1. Sponsored delegates will be reimbursed in USD cash for the cost of any airport fees/taxes upon provision of an original receipt to the ATT Secretariat.

Accommodation

1. Accommodation will consist of a standard room, single occupancy, breakfast included.
2. Accommodation will be booked and paid for directly by the ATT Secretariat.
3. Accommodation will include the night prior to the start of the meeting/Conference and will end the day after the last day of the meeting, unless the flight itinerary differs from these dates.
4. Any additional expenses (telephone calls, mini-bar, room service, laundry etc) incurred by the sponsored delegate during his/her stay must be paid in full by the sponsored delegate upon check out.

Per diems

Scope

1. Per diems are intended to cover the costs of meals and other necessities during the sponsored delegate's travel to and participation in the ATT meeting.
2. Hotel accommodation, including breakfast, will be paid directly by the ATT Secretariat.

During travel/transit

3. Sponsored delegates will receive an allowance of USD 40 per 24 hours of travel.

During the meeting/Conference

4. Sponsored delegates will receive a daily allowance set at a minimum of 70-~~USD~~CHF per day for expenses (lunch (~~CHF~~USD 30) and dinner (~~CHF~~USD 40). These reference amounts are not fixed and may be adjusted to reflect exchange rate fluctuations and inflation, consistent with other multilateral processes, and to take into account any meals provided by the host or meal vouchers provided by the ATT Secretariat. ~~(adjusted to take into account any meals provided by the host or meal vouchers provided by the ATT Secretariat).~~

Payment

5. Sponsored delegates will receive 100% their per diems ~~in in USD the local~~ currency, in cash on the morning of the first day of attendance.

Administrative provisions

6. Sponsored delegates can obtain reimbursement for expenses and daily allowances referred to in this protocol on condition that the following principles and procedures are observed:
 - a. The sponsored delegate should, in principle, provide original versions of all available receipts. Photocopies or scanned copies are acceptable only in well-justified circumstances (e.g. return train tickets and other expenses incurred for the return trip etc.).
 - b. Where reimbursement or daily allowance is made in cash, the sponsored delegate will attest to having received the full amount of reimbursement or daily allowance by personally signing the form specified by the ATT Secretariat.
 - c. The ATT Secretariat reserves the right to reject claims that are not in line with the provisions of this protocol.
 - d. The ATT Secretariat reserves the right to completely or partly reject claims in cases of no-show, unjustified early departure or any other form of absence of the sponsored delegate from relevant ATT activity.

ANNEX C. ATT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME: DRAFT APPLICATION FORM**ATT WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS (16 – 19 MARCH 2026)**

Please submit the following documents to the ATT Secretariat at e-mail: info@thearmstradetreaty.org by **05 January 2026**:

1. Note Verbale signed by the relevant Government institution;
2. Completed application form;
3. Copy of the applicant's passport;
4. Copy of applicant's health insurance policy (if applicant has one); and

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

STATE INFORMATION		
<u>Name of State</u>		
PERSONAL INFORMATION		
<u>Family Name²</u>		
<u>First Name</u>		
<u>Middle/Other</u>		
<u>Date of Birth</u>		
<u>Gender (tick box)</u>	<u>Male</u> ☐	<u>Female</u> ☐
<u>Nationality</u>		
<u>Ministry/Department/Agency</u>		
<u>Position/Job title</u>		
<u>Are you the ATT National Point of Contact for your State?</u>	<u>Yes</u> ☐	<u>No</u> ☐
<u>E-mail</u>		
<u>Mobile Phone Number</u>		
<u>Work Phone Number</u>		
<u>Contact Address</u>		
EMERGENCY CONTACT		
<u>Name</u>		
<u>Phone Number</u>		
<u>Relationship</u>		

² Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in your passport

TRAVEL AND INSURANCE INFORMATION		
Airport of Departure/Return		
Do you have a Schengen Visa?	Yes ☐	No ☐
If 'yes', when does it expire?		
If 'no', do you need a Visa Letter to assist your application for a visa?	Yes ☐	No ☐
If 'yes', what is the location (address or city) of the embassy/consulate that you are applying for a visa from?		
Do you need to travel to another country to obtain a visa?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Do you have health insurance that will cover you on this trip?	Yes ³ ☐	No ☐
PASSPORT DETAILS		
Name (as in Passport)		
Passport Number ⁴		
Date of Issue		
Date of Expiry		
Place of Issue		
Type of passport (e.g. diplomatic)		
OTHER INFORMATION (MANDATORY)		
Please describe how your work will benefit from participation in the ATT meetings:		

CSP5 PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE IN 2019

Please submit the following documents to the ATT Secretariat at e-mail: info@thearmstradetreaty.org by **07 December 2018**:

- 1.—*Note Verbale* signed by the relevant Government institution;
- 2.—Completed application form;
- 3.—Copy of the applicant's passport; and
- 4.—Copy of applicant's health insurance policy (if applicant has one).

³ Please attach a copy of your policy

⁴ Please attach a copy of your passport

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

STATE INFORMATION		
Name of State		
MEETING INFORMATION		
Please indicate which CSP5 meetings you are applying for sponsorship to attend: (note: the possibility to be sponsored for <u>all</u> meetings is subject to funding availability)		
1.—29 January – 01 February 2019 Working Group Meetings and First CSP5 Informal Preparatory Meeting (Geneva)	Yes ☐	No ☐
2.—02 – 05 April 2019 Working Group Meetings and Second CSP5 Informal Preparatory Meeting (Geneva)	Yes ☐	No ☐
3.—26 – 30 August 2019 Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (Geneva)	Yes ☐	No ☐
PERSONAL INFORMATION		
Family Name ⁵		
First Name		
Middle/Other		
Date of Birth		
Gender (tick box)	Male ☐	Female ☐
Nationality		
Ministry/Department/Agency		
Position/Job title		
E-mail		
Mobile Phone Number		
Work Phone Number		
Contact Address		
EMERGENCY CONTACT		
Name		
Phone Number		
Relationship		

⁵ Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in your passport

TRAVEL AND INSURANCE INFORMATION		
Airport of Departure/Return		
Do you have a Schengen Visa?	Yes ☐	No ☐
If 'yes', when does it expire?		
If 'no', do you need a Visa Letter to assist your application for a visa?	Yes ☐	No ☐
If 'yes', what is the location (address or city) of the embassy/consulate that you are applying for a visa from?		
Do you need to travel to another country to obtain a visa?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Do you have health insurance that will cover you on this trip?	Yes ⁶ ☐	No ☐
PASSPORT DETAILS		
Name (as in Passport)		
Passport Number ⁷		
Date of Issue		
Date of Expiry		
Place of Issue		
Type of passport (e.g. diplomatic)		
OTHER INFORMATION		
Please describe how your work will benefit from participation in the ATT meetings:		

⁶Please attach a copy of your policy⁷Please attach a copy of your passport