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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Working Paper No. 1

Proposed Language on Responsible Arms Transfers, Supply Transfers, and the Use of Conventional Weapons in Armed Conflict

I. Purpose

This working paper proposes language for possible inclusion in the outcome document of the Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. It seeks to articulate the importance of responsible arms transfer decisions, particularly where conventional arms, ammunition, parts, components, and related supply transfers may be used in armed conflict in ways that increase civilian harm, prolong wars, or enable violations of international humanitarian law.

II. Context

The Arms Trade Treaty establishes global standards for the international transfer of conventional arms. It requires States Parties to assess the potential consequences of arms transfers, including risks related to peace and security, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, terrorism, transnational organized crime, and serious acts of gender-based violence or violence against women and children.

Article 6 of the Treaty identifies circumstances in which a transfer shall not be authorized, while Article 7 requires an exporting State Party, where an export is not prohibited under Article 6, to undertake an objective and non-discriminatory assessment of specified risk prior to authorization.

In present armed conflicts, conventional weapons continue to be used in ways that cause widespread harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure. Arms and ammunition transferred through legal, illicit, or diverted supply channels may contribute to attacks on civilian areas, the destruction of essential services, displacement, and long-term insecurity.

III. Philippine Position

For this reason, the Philippines supports stronger language in CSP12 that recognizes the importance of risk assessment in relation to the foreseeable use of transferred conventional arms, ammunition, parts, and components in situations of armed conflict.

The Philippines emphasizes that responsible arms transfer decisions require a careful assessment of the actual and foreseeable use of conventional weapons. Such

assessment should consider whether the transfer may contribute to armed violence, attacks on civilians, violations of international humanitarian law, terrorism, transnational organized crime, or destabilizing accumulation in conflict-affected areas.

The Philippines underscores that arms transfer controls should cover the broader chain of supply, including export, import, transit, transshipment, brokering, ammunition, parts, and components. Effective regulation requires cooperation among diplomatic, defense, customs, trade, law enforcement, border control, and maritime security agencies.

The Philippines further support language encouraging States Parties to share practical national experiences on risk assessment, diversion prevention, end-use and end-user controls, post-delivery cooperation, and inter-agency coordination.

IV. Proposed Language for CSP12 Outcome Document

The Philippines proposes the following language:

- “States Parties reaffirm the importance of responsible, transparent, and accountable regulation of the international transfer of conventional arms, ammunition/[munitions](#), parts, and components, consistent with the objectives and purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty.”
- “States Parties recognize the need for effective national risk assessment processes, consistent with Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty, to ensure that transferred conventional arms are not used to commit or facilitate serious violations identified under the Treaty, including violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, terrorism, transnational organized crime, or serious acts of gender-based violence or violence against women and children.
- “States Parties further recognize that arms transfers and related supply chains must be assessed in light of the risk of diversion, misuse, destabilizing accumulation, and foreseeable contribution to armed violence or conflict escalation.”
- States Parties encourage exporting States Parties, where new relevant information becomes available after an authorization has been granted, to consider reassessing the authorization, as appropriate and in accordance with Article 7(7) of the Treaty, particularly where such information may materially affect the risks considered under the Treaty.
- “States Parties encourage the sharing of national practices on inter-agency coordination, licensing and authorization processes, end-use and end-user controls, transit and transshipment controls, brokering regulation, and post-delivery cooperation.”

- “States Parties underline that the effective implementation of the Treaty contributes to reducing human suffering, protecting civilians, preventing diversion and armed violence, strengthening international and regional peace, security, and stability, and cooperation against transnational organized crime.”