



Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

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CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda Item 5: Treaty Implementation



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Madame President,

The Philippines thanks the Chair of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI) for the report and supports the continued shift toward practical, case-based exchanges on national implementation.

We welcome the recommendations on Article 7(4), inter-agency cooperation, brokering, the role of logistical and transport actors, and the consideration of maritime aspects where applicable and appropriate. These priorities closely reflect our national experience.

From our national experience, effective risk assessment requires not only clear criteria, but also practical tools that allow those criteria to be applied consistently to actual transactions. Under our national framework, the Philippines utilizes a Risk Assessment Matrix to support the structured, documented, and objective assessment of authorization applications. This facilitates consideration of relevant factors, including the item, destination, consignee, end-user and end-use, parties to the transaction, and other applicable risk indicators.

Our experience also demonstrates that effective implementation requires licensing, customs, port, law enforcement, defense, trade, foreign affairs authorities, and the coast guard to work together, with a shared understanding of the risks, while respecting their distinct legal mandates.



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The Philippines institutionalizes this through the National Security Council–Strategic Trade Management Committee and specialized mechanisms for technical reachback, risk assessment, enforcement, and trade facilitation. We continue to strengthen arrangements for information exchange and coordination among relevant authorities.

Having a control list is not enough. It must be usable by licensing authorities, frontline agencies, and regulated entities. This requires technical expertise in commodity identification and classification, accessible guidance, and continuing training. We therefore support further technical exchanges within this Working Group, including engagement with subject matter experts and relevant organizations such as the World Customs Organization.

We also recognize the important role of industry and logistical actors as the first line of defense. Companies, freight forwarders, carriers, shipping agents, and other third-party service providers may have early visibility over end-users, routing, documentation, and unusual transaction patterns. Practical guidance on due diligence, end-user and end-use screening, red flags, transaction monitoring, record-keeping, and channels for consultation with competent authorities can therefore strengthen prevention and risk mitigation. Additionally, our delegation welcomes practical guidance that assists licensing authorities in integrating risks of serious acts of gender-based violence into the broader Article 7 assessment.

These implementation considerations also inform the working papers submitted by the Philippines under this agenda item. They address responsible transfers and related supply chains; drones and other all-domain armed unmanned systems; risks to critical civilian infrastructure and objects indispensable to civilian survival; and maritime transit, transshipment, diversion, and related transport and port considerations.



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We invite delegations to consider the proposed language and support appropriate WGETI follow-up within its existing mandate.

Thank you, Madame President.