



# Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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## Working Group on Firearms

Vienna, 8 to 10 May 2017

### Annotated provisional agenda

#### Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Opening of the meeting;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Preparation of the questionnaire to review the implementation of the Firearms Protocol.
3. Contribution of the Firearms Protocol in supporting the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and in measuring the progress in enforcing control systems to enable States to effectively counter illicit trafficking in firearms.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

#### Annotations

##### 1. Organizational matters

###### (a) Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Working Group on Firearms will be opened on 8 May 2017 at 10 a.m.

###### (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In its resolution 5/4, entitled “Illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group on firearms, in accordance with article 32, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure for the Conference, to be chaired by a member of the Bureau of the Conference, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 24 March 2017.



and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Also in that resolution, the Conference decided that the working group should perform the following functions: (a) facilitate implementation of the Firearms Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices among experts and practitioners; (b) make recommendations to the Conference on how States parties could better implement the provisions of the Firearms Protocol; (c) assist the Conference in providing guidance to its secretariat on the activities of the secretariat and on the development of technical assistance tools relating to the implementation of the Firearms Protocol; and (d) make recommendations to the Conference on how the working group could better coordinate with the various international bodies combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the area of supporting and promoting implementation of the Firearms Protocol.

In its resolution 7/1, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference decided, inter alia, that the Working Group on Firearms would be a constant element of the Conference of the Parties, forwarding its reports and recommendations to the Conference, and encouraged the Working Group to consider meeting on an annual basis, as needed.

At its meeting on 8 February 2017, the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties agreed on the dates and substantive topics for the meeting of the Working Group to be held in Vienna from 8 to 10 May 2017.

The proposed organization of work, contained in the annex to the present document, was prepared in accordance with Conference resolution 7/1, in order to enable the Working Group to perform its mandated functions within the time and according to the conference services available to it. The resources available to the Working Group will permit the holding of five plenary meetings over two and a half days, with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.

## **2. Preparation of the questionnaire to review the implementation of the Firearms Protocol**

In its resolution 8/2, the Conference decided to continue the process of establishing the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto based on the recommendations contained in the report on the open-ended intergovernmental meeting to explore all options regarding an appropriate and effective review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, held in Vienna on 6 and 7 June 2016 (CTOC/COP/WG.8/2016/2). In the same resolution, the Conference also decided to elaborate specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism for consideration and adoption by the Conference at its ninth session, which was to be guided by the principles and characteristics set out in Conference resolution 5/5.

Furthermore, in resolution 8/2, the Conference decided that the review mechanism would progressively address all the articles of the Convention and the Protocols thereto for each of the instruments that States parties are parties to, grouped in thematic clusters in accordance with the content of their provisions and that, in order to review each thematic cluster of articles, the relevant working group would, in the next two years, with the assistance of the Secretariat, define a short, precise and focused self-assessment questionnaire.

For its consideration of this agenda item, the Working Group will have before it a draft questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat to review the implementation of the Firearms

Protocol. It is envisaged that the questionnaire will be endorsed by the Working Group for submission to and final adoption by the Conference at its ninth session.

### **Documentation**

Draft questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat for the review of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol, in accordance with Conference resolution 8/2 (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2017/2)

### **3. Contribution of the Firearms Protocol in supporting the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and in measuring the progress in enforcing control systems to enable States to effectively counter illicit trafficking in firearms**

In its resolution 8/3, the Conference welcomed the commitment made by Member States in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to significantly reduce illicit arms flows in their efforts to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In the same resolution, the Conference noted that reducing illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition is one of the major components of the efforts to reduce the violence that accompanies the activities of transnational organized criminal groups.

Also in resolution 8/3, the Conference recalled that the Organized Crime Convention and, in particular, the Firearms Protocol, are among the principal global legal instruments to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

In the same resolution, the Conference called upon States parties to the Firearms Protocol to develop or strengthen their national capacity for the collection and analysis of data on illicit firearms trafficking, invited States parties to the Firearms Protocol to ensure the effective implementation of its articles 6, 7, 8 and 12, given the importance of appropriate marking, tracing and record-keeping as a source of key data necessary to effectively trace firearms for the purpose of identifying and investigating illicit trafficking, and in this regard requested the Working Group on Firearms to consider at its future meetings its contribution to the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as towards measuring the progress in enforcing the control system that will enable national authorities in the fight against illicit firearms trafficking.

Furthermore, in resolution 8/3, the Conference requested UNODC to continue to collect and analyse, on a regular basis, quantitative and qualitative information and suitably disaggregated data on trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, taking into consideration the usefulness of the *UNODC Study on Firearms 2015* as a starting point for further analysis and taking into account target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to continue to share and disseminate its findings on best practices, the dimensions and characteristics of such trafficking, and lessons learned. The Conference also requested UNODC to continue in its efforts to improve the methodology of the *UNODC Study on Firearms 2015*, and in this regard invited the Office and other organizations with similar firearms data-collection mandates to continue to explore ways to cooperate and coordinate with each other, with a view to developing synergies between the distinct reporting obligations of States parties and, where appropriate, facilitating the production of standardized and comparable data.

During its consideration of this item, the Working Group may wish to focus its discussions on the contribution of the Firearms Protocol in supporting the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on

record-keeping and marking (articles 7 and 8 of the Protocol); transfer and brokering controls (articles 10 and 15); security measures and border control (article 11); criminalization (article 5); seizure and confiscation (article 6); or cooperation in tracing, information exchange, and law enforcement/judicial international cooperation (articles 12 and 13 of the Protocol).

The Working Group may also wish to consider exchanging experiences and best practices in measuring the progress in enforcing control systems to effectively counter illicit trafficking in firearms and ways to measure the effectiveness of the control measures outlined in the Firearms Protocol, as well as the new formulation of target indicator 16.4.2, which at present reads as follows: “Proportion of seized, surrendered or found small arms and light weapons whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments”.<sup>1</sup>

In this regard, the Working Group may, among other things, also consider the relevance and contribution of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), pursuant to its mandate, in the field of data collection and analysis on firearms trafficking in order to support national and global efforts to monitor and track illicit arms flows and measure the effectiveness of and the progress in the implementation of specific control measures outlined in the Firearms Protocol, for the achievement of target 16.4.

Under this agenda item, the Working Group will have before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the contribution of the Firearms Protocol in supporting the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and on the activities of UNODC to promote ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

#### **Documentation**

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the contribution of the Firearms Protocol in supporting the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote its ratification and implementation (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2017/3)

#### **4. Other matters**

As no issues to be raised under item 4 have come to the attention of the Secretariat, no documentation regarding this item is currently foreseen.

#### **5. Adoption of the report**

The Working Group will adopt a report on its meeting, the draft of which will be prepared by the Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing, the Statistical Commission had not yet finalized target indicator 16.4.2, which had initially been formulated as the “proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments”, and was recently expanded to include surrendered and found weapons while maintaining the reference to their tracing and illicit origin.

## Annex

### Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<b>Monday, 8 May</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Preparation of the questionnaire to review the implementation of the Firearms Protocol
3-6 p.m.	2	Preparation of the questionnaire to review the implementation of the Firearms Protocol ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Tuesday, 9 May</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Contribution of the Firearms Protocol in supporting the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and in measuring the progress in enforcing control systems to enable States to effectively counter illicit trafficking in firearms
3-6 p.m.	3	Contribution of the Firearms Protocol in supporting the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and in measuring the progress in enforcing control systems to enable States to effectively counter illicit trafficking in firearms ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Wednesday, 10 May</b>		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	4	Other matters
	5	Adoption of the report