



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

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Working Group on Firearms

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Draft Report

Addendum

III. Summary of deliberations (*continued*)

1. Speakers expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for its work in preparing the draft questionnaire; several speakers stressed that the questionnaire needed to be short, precise and focused self-assessment, as per Conference resolution 8/2. Several speakers said that the questionnaire should be focused and precise yet broad-ranging so as to provide opportunities to exchange views, ideas and good practices, as well as to identify technical assistance needs, in accordance with the mandate contained in Conference resolution 8/2. Different views were expressed regarding the length of the questionnaire and its implications for translation costs and the burden the length could cause for practitioners completing the questionnaire. Views were also exchanged with regard to whether the questions should go beyond the scope of the Protocol or be limited to the provisions of the instrument and some speakers said that the language used in the questionnaire should strictly adhere to the language used in the Protocol. Many speakers suggested that States completing the questionnaire could choose which questions to reply, including based on their specific legal contexts, or that experts could provide information going beyond the scope of the Protocol under the section on “Other information”, along with other information they considered relevant. Some speakers noted that national experts would need sufficient time to complete the questionnaire, inter alia because there were many national entities dealing with firearms matters.

2. Several speakers emphasized that States should continue to discuss and finalize the preparation of the questionnaire in the time leading up to the ninth session of the Conference, including at the Working Group on Firearms meeting in 2018, and through informal consultations that could take place after the fifth session of the Working Group. Some speakers noted that this approach would allow taking into account the ongoing discussions in the context of the Open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

3. Other matters raised by speakers included the following: whether to include a list of relevant regional and international legal instruments which States were parties to; that the draft questionnaire should use language from the 2005 questionnaire in order to reduce translation costs; that questions should make a clear distinction between military and civilian firearms; that in order to streamline the



questionnaire, States should not be required to elaborate on their responses where they replied in the negative to a question; that attachment of relevant laws, policies should not be requested by the questionnaire; and that links to information contained in the SHERLOC portal could be provided. In response to queries from speakers, the Secretariat noted that the 2005 questionnaire only partially covered the provisions of the Protocol.

IV. Organization of the meeting

B. Statements (*continued*)

4. Under agenda item 3, statements were made by the following parties to the Protocol: Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Cuba, European Union, Italy, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Peru, Senegal, Switzerland. Statements were also made by Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, signatory States. Statements under this item were also made by the observers for France, the Niger, the United States and by a representative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.
