

**U.S. General Statement for the 10th Session of the UNTOC Firearms
Working Group
May 3, 2023**

The United States remains committed to combating illicit trafficking in firearms. Although not a signatory, the practices within the United States are consistent with nearly every aspect of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Firearms Protocol).

We encourage all States Party to the UNTOC Firearms Protocol to ensure its effective implementation, as applicable and non-parties to incorporate its provisions into their practice. We support the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA) as well as the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument). We welcome other measures taken at the regional, sub-regional and national levels to combat illicit trafficking.

We recall UNTOC Resolution 11/6 (2022) which was intended to reinforce practical measures under the Firearms Protocol that, if implemented, would contribute to preventing criminal organizations and terrorist groups from acquiring weapons through illicit international trade. The United States continues to encourage States to implement commitments they have made.

The United States continues to offer practical assistance to support our international partners in tracing. Because firearms tracing relies upon proper marking and record-keeping, the United States encourages states to identify what difficulties they face in: (1) acquiring access to existing marking and record-keeping tools; (2) making use of INTERPOL's International Reference Table that provides detailed information and photographs of firearms used around the world; (3) using existing national, regional, or

international tracing systems; and (4) marking all firearms at import, in addition to marking at manufacturing, and recording and securing weapons in a nation's stockpile.

We would also like to highlight our extensive cooperation with our international law enforcement partners to combat illicit firearms trafficking through tracing as well as border security and anti-firearms trafficking investigatory and prosecutorial capacity building support.

We receive trace requests from an average of 75 countries each year, spanning nearly 40,000 trace requests. These include trace submissions from our 48 partner countries through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives eTrace system.

Finally with regard to the procedural and substantive expectations for the Working Group meeting, the United States stresses the functional importance of focusing on a reasonably limited number of recommendations that can be realistically addressed within the scheduled time allotted. This also means focusing on recommendations submitted by States Parties and firearms experts. Recommendations should stay within the scope of the Firearms Protocol to support its implementation. The United States does not recognize any recommendations that exceed the scope of the Firearms Protocol.