



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

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Working Group on Firearms

Vienna, 4 and 5 May 2022

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ammunition.
3. Presentation and discussion of a multi-year workplan for the Working Group on Firearms.
4. Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Firearms will be opened on Wednesday, 4 May 2022, at 12 noon.¹

(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. Also in that resolution, the

¹ This starting time is based on the current assumption that the meeting is likely to be held in hybrid format, subject to approval by the extended Bureau. Updates and changes to the proposed organization of work, including the starting time, will be shared on the web page of the meeting (www.unodc.org/unodc/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-firearms-2022.html).



Conference decided that the working group should perform the following functions: (a) facilitate implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 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 of the Parties decided, inter alia, that the Working Group on Firearms would be a constant element of the Conference, forwarding its reports and recommendations to the Conference, and encouraged the Working Group to consider meeting on an annual basis, as needed.

In its resolution 9/2, the Conference of the Parties reiterated its request to the secretariat to inform the Working Group on Firearms about: (a) the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist the Conference in promoting and supporting the implementation of the Firearms Protocol; (b) coordination with other relevant international and regional organizations; (c) best practices in the areas of training and capacity-building; and (d) awareness-raising strategies to prevent and combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. In the same resolution, and also in its resolution 10/2, the Conference requested the secretariat to continue supporting the Working Group in the performance of its functions.

The extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties agreed on the dates for the ninth meeting of the Working Group, to be held in Vienna on 4 and 5 May 2022. On 9 December 2021, the secretariat submitted proposed agenda items to the extended Bureau, which were approved on 22 December by means of silence procedure.

Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the organization of work and possible changes

The proposed organization of work, contained in the annex to the present document, is subject to approval by the extended Bureau. It was prepared in order to enable the Working Group on Firearms to perform its mandated functions within the allotted time and according to the conference services available to it. The resources available to the Working Group will permit the holding of four plenary meetings over two days, with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.

In the light of the impact of the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including travel restrictions, the meeting is likely to be held in a hybrid format, combining an in-person component with online participation. Owing to the time limitations necessitated by the use of a remote interpretation platform, the duration of meetings is restricted to two hours. Suggested meeting times are from 12 noon to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m.

The secretariat is monitoring the situation closely and will provide timely updates on the organization of work, subject to the approval by the extended Bureau. Delegations are therefore advised to regularly consult the web page of the ninth meeting of the Working Group.

2. Preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ammunition

While the Working Group on Firearms has made reference to ammunition in the scope of application of the Firearms Protocol (firearms, their parts and components and ammunition) in many of its recommendations, the ninth meeting of the Working Group will provide the first opportunity to address the topic of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ammunition in detail. The Working Group will discuss points of ammunition diversion, the modalities used to illicitly traffic and manufacture ammunition and how investigative, including ballistic, techniques can be applied to detect and investigate these crimes. National experiences with preventive measures will also be considered. Finally, the Working Group will explore how the commitments under the Firearms Protocol aiming at preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ammunition could complement the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus,² which completed its work in 2021 (see [A/76/324](#)).

The outcomes of the substantive discussion may support States parties in implementing Conference of the Parties resolution 10/2, in which the Conference acknowledged the occurrence, in some regions and countries, of an increasing amount of illicit trafficking in ammunition and the challenges of preventing, intercepting and tracing the illicit trafficking in and diversion of that ammunition.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ammunition ([CTOC/COP/WG.6/2022/2](#))

3. Presentation and discussion of a multi-year workplan for the Working Group on Firearms

At its eighth meeting, in 2021, the Working Group on Firearms recommended that UNODC prepare a proposal for a multi-year workplan for discussion and adoption at the ninth meeting of the Working Group ([CTOC/COP/WG.6/2021/4](#), recommendation 46). The agenda item will consist of a presentation of a proposal for the multi-year workplan by the secretariat, followed by a discussion to ensure the inclusion of relevant topics and provisions of the Firearms Protocol.

The workplan will cover substantive elements of the work, will sequence and group the provisions of the Firearms Protocol for discussion in a logical order and will include explanatory comments on the relevance and the context of each of the proposed provisions recommended for inclusion in the multi-year workplan. The aim of the multi-year workplan is to ensure that the Working Group is able to consider the full range of commitments under the Firearms Protocol and establish a common understanding of the interpretation and implementation of its provisions, while striving to promote effective exchanges of experiences and best practices among practitioners on issues of common interest. The workplan will, however, retain some flexibility to enable adjustments, if necessary in view of observations stemming from the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in accordance with paragraph 12 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism.

² Established by the Secretary-General in 2020, pursuant to the request of the General Assembly contained in its resolution [72/55](#), entitled “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Proposal for a multi-year workplan for the Working Group on Firearms” ([CTOC/COP/WG.6/2022/3](#))

4. Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

According to paragraph 12 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Conference and its working groups are to add the review process to their agendas as an item consistent with their areas of expertise and without prejudice to their respective existing mandates. Taking into consideration the progressive nature of the review, the content of the agendas and the scheduling of the meetings of the working groups will be decided by the Conference or the extended Bureau in a timely manner. In order to ensure that the working groups may contribute to the Mechanism while also carrying out their respective existing mandates, each working group should dedicate no more than one agenda item per session to matters pertaining to the functioning of the review process.

While sufficient progress in the first phase of the Mechanism will not yet have been made by the time of the meeting of the Working Group to enable a discussion of the outcomes, the agenda item is aimed at providing the Working Group with a short update on the current developments and progress with regard to the Mechanism and at enabling States parties to share their experiences so far.

Documentation

No documentation is currently foreseen under agenda item 4

5. Other matters

As no issues to be raised under item 5 have come to the attention of the secretariat, no documentation regarding this item is currently foreseen.

6. Adoption of the report

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

Annex

Proposed organization of work¹

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Wednesday, 4 May		
12 noon–2 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ammunition
4–6 p.m.	2	Preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ammunition (<i>continued</i>)
	3	Presentation and discussion of a multi-year workplan for the Working Group on Firearms
	Thursday, 5 May	
12 noon–2 p.m.	3	Presentation and discussion of a multi-year workplan for the Working Group on Firearms (<i>continued</i>)
	4	Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
	5	Other matters
4–6 p.m.	6	Adoption of the report

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