



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

Distr.: General
6 February 2023

Original: English

Working Group on Firearms

Vienna, 3 and 4 May 2023

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation and coordination mechanisms in accordance with the Firearms Protocol and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
3. Implementation of articles 3 (Use of terms) and 4 (Scope of application) of the Firearms Protocol.
4. Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The tenth meeting of the Working Group on Firearms will be opened on Wednesday, 3 May 2023, 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. Also in that resolution, the 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, entitled “Enhancing and ensuring the effective 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”, the Conference of the Parties reiterated its request to the secretariat to inform the Working Group 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 resolution 10/2, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition”, and resolution 11/6, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition”, the Conference requested the secretariat to continue supporting the Working Group in the performance of its functions.

On 5 August 2022, the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties approved the programme of meetings for 2023, including the dates for the tenth meeting of the Working Group, to be held in Vienna on 3 and 4 May 2023. On 6 December 2022, the secretariat submitted proposed agenda items to the extended Bureau, which were approved on 30 December 2022 by means of a silence procedure.

The proposed organization of work¹ contained in the annex to the present document was prepared in order to enable the Working Group 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.

2. Strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation and coordination mechanisms in accordance with the Firearms Protocol and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Agenda item 2 combines two topics from the non-exclusive list of possible topics for consideration by the Working Group on Firearms at its future meetings, adopted as recommendation 47 (h) and (k) by the Working Group at its eighth meeting, held in 2021, for inclusion in its multi-year workplan.

¹ A document containing the details of the organization of work for the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Firearms is available on the website of the meeting, at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-firearms-2023.html.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Working Group have addressed a variety of aspects of international cooperation in various resolutions and recommendations. However, the consideration of those topics did not involve an in-depth analysis of the different forms of international and inter-agency cooperation and coordination that are envisaged in the Firearms Protocol and its parent Convention.

Under the agenda item, the Working Group will consider law enforcement and judicial cooperation and coordination at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels in accordance with article 13 of the Firearms Protocol and pursuant to the Convention.

Specifically, the Working Group will examine how, at the national level, inter-agency cooperation, firearms focal points and integrated firearms centres can support the effective detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of firearms-related criminality. It may also wish to discuss how those mechanisms at the national level can be complemented by different forms of international cooperation, including the establishment of joint investigative units and ad hoc or standing coordination mechanisms between neighbouring countries, as well as the exchange of personnel and the posting of liaison officers.

The Working Group will address national experiences with the legislative and institutional frameworks required for such forms of cooperation and their actual application, including questions related to jurisdiction in cross-border cases.

Lastly, under the agenda item, States will have an opportunity to inform other delegations about assistance needs or offer assistance in areas of specific expertise to facilitate international knowledge transfer.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation and coordination mechanisms in accordance with the Firearms Protocol and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ([CTOC/COP/WG.6/2023/2](#))

3. Implementation of articles 3 (Use of terms) and 4 (Scope of application) of the Firearms Protocol

Agenda item 3 is the first topic of the multi-year workplan of the Working Group on Firearms, through which the Working Group has established a standing agenda item on the implementation of the provisions of the Firearms Protocol, accompanying the work of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

Under the agenda item, the Working Group will address the importance of sharing a common use of terms and definitions of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and related terms, with a view to facilitating information exchange and international cooperation among States. Moreover, the Working Group could discuss means of enhancing the comparability of data and information on illicit firearms and explore the possibility of advancing the development of a common nomenclature, as already raised at the first meeting of the Working Group, in 2012. In that context, States could exchange information and best practices related to the use of national arms control lists and lists of prohibited items.

The scope of application of the Firearms Protocol (art. 4) and its implications in terms of transposition into national legal frameworks have not yet been addressed by the Working Group. Under the agenda item, the Working Group may wish to discuss the application of the provisions of the Firearms Protocol to State-to-State transactions and State transfers in the interest of national security. Given that the scope of application of national firearms legislation varies significantly, States may further wish to explore which classifications of arms and weapons they apply in their national legal frameworks on firearms.

As is the case with agenda item 2, States will have an opportunity to inform other delegations about assistance needs or offer assistance in areas of specific expertise to facilitate international knowledge transfer.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of articles 3 (Use of terms) and 4 (Scope of application) of the Firearms Protocol ([CTOC/COP/WG.6/2023/3](#))

4. Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol

The review process of the Implementation Review Mechanism comprises a general review and country reviews. According to paragraph 12 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism, the Conference of the Parties and its working groups are to add the matter to their agendas as an item consistent with their areas of expertise and without prejudice to their respective existing mandates. Pursuant to paragraphs 13 and 43 of the procedures and rules, discussions pertaining to country reviews will be undertaken in the relevant working groups, and the working groups are to draw upon the lists of observations generated from country reviews in preparing their meetings and take them into account when proposing generally applicable recommendations to the Conference.

When the present document was prepared, no country reviews had been finalized, and consequently no lists of observations had been made available to the Working Group. The Working Group will be provided with an update on the progress of the Mechanism, which will give States parties an opportunity to share their experiences.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the status of the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2023/2-CTOC/COP/WG.6/2023/4](#))

Pursuant to paragraph 53 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism, a constructive dialogue was convened on Friday, 6 May 2022, following the conclusion of the ninth meeting of the Working Group, held on 4 and 5 May 2022. A written summary of the discussions was prepared by the Chair of the Working Group and made available on the web page of the Mechanism.²

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.

² Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/constructive-dialogues.html.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Wednesday, 3 May 2023		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation and coordination mechanisms in accordance with the Firearms Protocol and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
3–6 p.m.	2	Strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation and coordination mechanisms in accordance with the Firearms Protocol and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (<i>continued</i>)
	3	Implementation of articles 3 (Use of terms) and 4 (Scope of application) of the Firearms Protocol
Thursday, 4 May 2023		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	Implementation of articles 3 (Use of terms) and 4 (Scope of application) of the Firearms Protocol (<i>continued</i>)
	4	Matters pertaining to the review of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol
	5	Other matters
3–6 p.m.	6	Adoption of the report