



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

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Working Group on Firearms

Vienna, 18 and 19 May 2016

Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Firearms held in Vienna on 18 and 19 May 2016

I. Introduction

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

2. In that resolution, the Conference also 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.

3. 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 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.

II. Recommendations

4. At its meeting held in Vienna on 18 and 19 May 2016, the Working Group on Firearms adopted the recommendations presented below.

A. General recommendations

5. Concerned about the harm caused by and the negative impact of illicitly manufactured and trafficked firearms, their parts and components and ammunition on the levels of crime and violence in several regions and the links between such firearms and various forms of crime, the Working Group issued the recommendations below in addition to its recommendations adopted at previous meetings.

Recommendation 1

The Conference may wish to acknowledge the fruitful exchanges of information, good practices and experiences that have taken place at meetings of the Working Group, and recall the relevant recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its first, second, third and fourth meetings.

Recommendation 2

The Conference may wish to consider the recommendations adopted by the Working Group to date, to be collated by the Secretariat and grouped into clusters corresponding to the themes of the Protocol. The work should be conducted within existing resources and be presented to the Conference as a conference room paper.

Recommendation 3

The Conference may also wish to request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote and facilitate the sharing and dissemination of the recommendations and support their follow-up by States parties and practitioners through technical and legislative assistance, upon request, information-sharing and the exchange of good practices at the regional and international levels.

Recommendation 4

The Conference may wish to recall the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 16.4, which, inter alia, calls for a significant reduction by 2030 of illicit arms flows and for combating all forms of organized crime, and, when planning the work of the Working Group, may wish to consider taking into account the contribution made, through the application of the Firearms Protocol, towards meeting Goal 16.

Recommendation 5

The Conference may also wish to consider urging Member States to adopt integrated and comprehensive approaches to address the root causes of illicit trafficking in and manufacturing of firearms.

Recommendation 6

The Conference may wish to emphasize the importance of Member States' political will and commitment to prevent and combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. Moreover, the Conference may wish to urge Member States to fully implement the measures required to counter those offences in line with international and regional instruments to which they are a party.

Recommendation 7

The Conference may wish to welcome Sustainable Development Goal 16 and invite Member States to consider the proposed indicator 16.4.2 of the Goals' indicator framework. The Conference may wish to stress that States parties should make effective use of the capability to trace firearms by following up on seizures through criminal investigations to effectively reduce illicit arms flows.

Recommendation 8

The Conference may wish to urge States to strengthen the coordination and cooperation among all their internal institutions involved in the prevention of and the fight against illicit trafficking, applying the good practices adopted by some countries in their fight against terrorism and organized crime.

Recommendation 9

The Conference may wish to invite States parties to consider how the effective implementation of the Firearms Protocol can contribute to their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goal 16 and targets 16.1 and 16.4.

Recommendation 10

When considering measures to help governments achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 and its targets 16.1 and 16.4, and to improve data collection and research in the area of firearms trafficking, the Conference may wish to invite States parties to ensure the effective implementation of articles 6, 7, 8, and 12 of the Firearms Protocol, 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.

Recommendation 11

The Conference may wish to stress the importance of reviewing the implementation of the Firearms Protocol as a means to identify technical assistance needs.

B. Recommendations on specific topics

1. Recommendations on promoting accession to and ratification of the Firearms Protocol

Recommendation 12

The Conference may wish to welcome the number of accessions to the Firearms Protocol and acknowledge its importance in addressing the criminal justice response to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms.

Recommendation 13

The Conference may wish to take note of other international legal instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, which provides a framework for its States parties to regulate the licit trade in arms, as well as political commitments such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, which aim to prevent and combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, and to reduce the risk of their theft and diversion.

Recommendation 14

The Conference may wish to reiterate its call upon States that have not yet done so, to consider becoming parties to the Firearms Protocol, and invite States parties to implement the Protocol in its entirety.

Recommendation 15

Aware of the importance of adopting adequate legislative firearms control frameworks and recognizing that effective national controls over firearms, their parts and components and ammunition are essential to prevent and combat their illicit manufacturing and trafficking, the Conference may wish to urge States that have not yet done so to review, as appropriate, and strengthen their national legislation and adopt action plans to fully implement the Protocol, and to consider introducing adequate criminalization provisions and ensure the appropriate regulation of e-commerce and the international online sale and purchase of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, with a view to reducing the risk of illicit trafficking.

Recommendation 16

The Conference may wish to invite States parties to consult with their national experts to identify gaps in the legislative framework in order to ensure that their national law satisfies the requirements of the Protocol on points such as import and export licensing, marking, tracing and record-keeping. In that regard, the Conference may wish to emphasize that the use of the *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto* can be a valuable resource.

2. Recommendations on marking, record-keeping and tracing

Recommendation 17

The Conference may wish to urge Member States to consider harmonizing their marking criteria in line with international and regional instruments, especially at the regional level, to facilitate the exchange of information and improve tracing.

Recommendation 18

The Conference may wish to invite States to ensure the comprehensive marking of all firearms, including weapons that have been collected, recovered or confiscated and identified for destruction in accordance with articles 6 and 8 of the Firearms Protocol, for the purpose of preventing and reducing the risk of theft, diversion and trafficking. Considering the challenges posed by reactivated firearms, the Conference may also wish to recommend strengthening the marking requirements for those firearms.

Recommendation 19

The Conference may wish to urge States parties to fully implement the marking and record-keeping requirements under the Firearms Protocol, and to establish and maintain record-keeping systems of firearms and, where appropriate and feasible, their parts and components and ammunition, for the purpose of facilitating their traceability and facilitating international cooperation for the detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences involving firearms.

Recommendation 20

The Conference may wish to recommend States parties to consider also applying additional markings on firearms, as appropriate, with a view to facilitating the identification and tracing of firearms.

Recommendation 21

The Conference may wish to request the Working Group to consider the experience of Member States that require the marking of items other than firearms that are covered by the Protocol and the marking of firearms beyond the requirements of article 8 of the Firearms Protocol.

Recommendation 22

The Conference may wish to acknowledge the importance of comprehensive inventories and databases of stockpiles, of secure stock management and of effective marking practices to prevent and reduce the risks of theft, diversion and the illicit trafficking of weapons.

Recommendation 23

The Conference may wish to recommend that States parties ensure the effective implementation of articles 6, 7, 8 and 12 of the Firearms Protocol so as to improve the availability of data necessary for a successful firearms trace request, particularly using the unique markings on each weapon (the name of the manufacturer, the country or place of manufacture and the serial number, as required by article 8,

paragraph 1 (a)) in order to identify illicit trafficking routes. Furthermore, the Conference may wish to recommend that States parties consider working with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), to broaden awareness and use of the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table, as well as related tools developed by INTERPOL, in our shared efforts to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

Recommendation 24

The Conference may wish to recommend States parties to develop domestic procedures to mark firearms at import, including to identify the country of import and, where possible, the year of import, and ensure a unique marking if the firearm does not bear such a marking, in accordance with article 8, paragraph 1 (b) of the Protocol; the Conference may further wish to recommend that States parties recognize that the absence of domestic procedures to mark firearms at import, as required by article 8, paragraph 1 (b), can prevent competent authorities from effectively tracing a firearm to its country of origin in order to identify illicit trafficking.

Recommendation 25

The Conference may wish to recommend that States parties encourage the use of stamping when marking firearms, where technically feasible, as that method facilitates recovery of obliterated marks.

Recommendation 26

The Conference may wish to encourage States parties to use existing firearms tracing systems, including electronic tracing programmes such as the Internet-based firearms tracing and analysis system called eTrace, to expedite tracing submissions and results and generate more timely investigative leads for law enforcement officials who combat illicit trafficking.

Recommendation 27

The Conference may wish to invite Member States that export parts and components of firearms to reinforce their control measures in line with the Firearms Protocol with a view to preventing and reducing the risks of their diversion, illicit manufacturing and trafficking.

Recommendation 28

The Conference should urge Member States to respond in a timely and effective manner to international cooperation requests relating to tracing and criminal investigations into illicit trafficking.

Recommendation 29

The Conference may wish to recommend States to use compatible and secure communication systems for the purpose of international cooperation.

Recommendation 30

The Conference may wish to encourage States that use ballistic imaging systems to use the information on ammunition obtained with such systems for the purpose of supporting criminal investigations relating to firearms.

3. Recommendations on data collection and analysis*Recommendation 31*

The Conference may wish to encourage Member States to consider the use of available tools, in particular marking and/or record-keeping technologies, to facilitate the tracing of firearms and, where possible, their parts and components and ammunition. The Conference may also wish to urge States parties to comprehensively and systematically record and trace firearms, and where possible, their parts and components and ammunition, and to make use of existing channels such as the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (iARMS), among others. The Conference may further wish to urge States to periodically analyse the data on seized, confiscated, collected and found firearms, illicitly manufactured or trafficked firearms or firearms suspected of being connected to illicit activities, with a view to identifying illicit trafficking routes, identifying the origin of the firearms and detecting possible forms of illicit trafficking.

Recommendation 32

The Conference may wish to reiterate the mandate given to UNODC to continue to collect and analyse data on firearms and ammunition trafficking, its dimensions and its patterns, taking into account the *UNODC Study on Firearms 2015* and target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendation 33

The Conference may wish to encourage efforts to improve the methodology of the *UNODC Study on Firearms 2015* through extrabudgetary voluntary contributions to improve national capacities in collecting, researching and analysing trafficking in firearms based on data derived from firearms markings, and to ensure the complementarity of methodologies for data collection to enhance Member States' capacities to exchange information on that form of crime.

Recommendation 34

The Conference may wish to urge Member States to continue to provide to UNODC, and to urge those that have not yet done so to start providing to UNODC, quantitative and qualitative data on illicit firearms trafficking, with a view to enhancing the exchange of information between Member States and the availability of data.

Recommendation 35

Taking into account the *UNODC Study on Firearms 2015*, the Conference may wish to recommend that strengthening the capacities for data collection and analysis, including by establishing databases on seized and/or confiscated weapons, be

considered a priority and request UNODC to provide technical assistance to requesting States in order to achieve target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals by helping them to identify, investigate and combat the illicit trafficking in firearms.

Recommendation 36

The Conference may wish to invite Member States to develop or strengthen their national capacity for the collection and analysis of data on illicit firearms trafficking, also as a contribution to the implementation of target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and for measuring the progress in enforcing the control system that will enable national authorities in the fight against illicit firearms trafficking.

4. Recommendations on international cooperation and information exchange

Recommendation 37

The Conference may wish to urge States to reinforce cooperation among each other at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels, including in the form of South-South cooperation, to facilitate the tracing of firearms and to prevent and combat the transregional trafficking in firearms and ammunition. The Conference may also wish to request UNODC to continue to facilitate the exchange of good practices and international cooperation in that field. This can be done, inter alia, by facilitating, as appropriate, dialogue between national practitioners from different institutions in charge of preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, and, where appropriate and useful, representatives from academia, private industry and civil society, and by facilitating meetings with a view to promoting and supporting direct contacts and cooperation, and identify and provide technical assistance needs.

Recommendation 38

The Conference may wish to request UNODC to continue to promote and encourage international cooperation in criminal matters, pursuant to the Convention, aimed at investigating and prosecuting the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, including when related to terrorism and to other crimes, such as urban crime committed by gangs, through regional and cross-regional workshops, including for countries that are on relevant trafficking routes.

Recommendation 39

The Conference may wish to invite States parties to provide UNODC with updated information on the status of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol and on competent national authorities and focal points responsible for the application of the Firearms Protocol and for international cooperation in criminal matters.

Recommendation 40

The Conference may wish to urge States parties to continue sharing information in line with article 12 of the Protocol.

Recommendation 41

The Conference may wish to urge States to reinforce international law enforcement and legal cooperation between competent authorities relating to illicit firearms trafficking, and may wish to request UNODC to facilitate and support such cooperation, including through regional and cross-regional meetings.

Recommendation 42

The Conference may wish to urge States to consider entering into effective international cooperation arrangements for investigations and prosecutions, including through joint investigative teams, following the positive examples that exist in some countries with regard to fighting against organized crime or terrorism.

5. Recommendations on the use of networks and cooperation platforms of firearms practitioners*Recommendation 43*

The Conference may wish to recommend that States parties, in line with article 8, paragraph 2, and article 13, paragraph 3 of the Protocol, work to develop and strengthen relationships between competent authorities and manufacturers, dealers, importers, exporters, brokers, and commercial carriers of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition to prevent and detect illicit manufacturing and trafficking.

6. Recommendations on criminalization, investigation and prosecution*Recommendation 44*

The Conference may wish to urge States to strengthen their criminal investigation capacities and to consider conducting systematic concurrent investigations pursuant to the Convention and the Firearms Protocol into possible illicit firearms trafficking and related financial crimes, and to ensure the seizure and confiscation of all illicit assets and proceeds of crimes, including firearms and the instrumentalities of crimes, that are held by criminal groups and networks involved in illicit firearms trafficking and related crimes.

7. Recommendations on technical assistance*Recommendation 45*

The Conference may wish to invite Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources to support the provision of technical and legislative assistance, including the collection and analysis of data on firearms, in line with the Protocol.

Recommendation 46

The Conference may wish to encourage States parties to conduct continuous capacity-building and training activities for law enforcement, judicial and customs authorities on the identification and tracing of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, where feasible, and to make use of existing tools for the identification and tracing of firearms.

Recommendation 47

The Conference may wish to recommend that States parties consider the important role of prosecutors and judges in combating illicit firearms trafficking, and in that context should provide specialized training for such professionals as well.

Recommendation 48

The Conference may wish to urge States parties to consider the important role of customs authorities in the context of sharing information, detecting suspicious cargo, and enforcing national laws related to illicit firearms trafficking, and to consider providing or requesting technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of national customs authorities in those areas, consistent with articles 11 and 14 of the Protocol.

Recommendation 49

The Conference may wish to emphasize the need for States to enhance the capacity-building and training of all criminal justice practitioners on international legal instruments and the incorporation of those instruments into the domestic legal regime of beneficiary countries with a view to raising the awareness of and knowledge about those instruments among those practitioners.

Recommendation 50

Emphasizing the importance of enhancing training and capacity-building in investigating and combating organized crime and firearms trafficking and the need to foster the exchange of good practices among practitioners, the Conference may wish to invite UNODC and other assistance providers to consider involving relevant subject-matter experts from the region or other countries in such training activities with a view to fostering direct exchanges and cooperation among practitioners at the operational level as well.

Recommendation 51

The Conference may wish to request UNODC and other partners to enhance capacity-building and technical assistance to requesting States on border control, including through appropriate equipment, to detect and combat the illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

Recommendation 52

The Conference may wish to invite Member States and UNODC to strengthen national capacity for the collection and analysis of data by promoting enhanced coordination among competent authorities.

Recommendation 53

The Conference may wish to recommend that States and assistance providers consider developing and delivering training courses using modern information technology, such as e-learning programmes, with a view to maximizing resources and reaching a broader audience that includes practitioners at the various operational levels.

Recommendation 54

The Conference may wish to reiterate its request to UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance through its Global Firearms Programme, in particular to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group, and may wish to encourage those Member States in a position to do so to make available extrabudgetary resources to enable UNODC to implement its mandate to assist requesting countries.

Recommendation 55

The Conference may wish to recommend that States parties consider providing or requesting specialized training for national law enforcement and regulatory officials on marking, tracing, and record-keeping in line with articles 6, 7, 8 and 12 of the Protocol, emphasizing that such efforts are critical to the effective tracing and identification of illicitly trafficked firearms and providing training, including training on new technology, to law enforcement personnel on the identification of firearms and the recording and reporting of firearms seizures.

Recommendation 56

The Conference may wish to recommend that States parties consider providing each other with technical assistance, especially practical hands-on training, in line with article 14 of the Protocol, and that they also consider sharing information regarding their technical assistance efforts and needs.

Recommendation 57

The Conference may wish to recommend that Member States consider engaging with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations that provide technical assistance to counter trafficking in firearms and their parts and components, including the Organization of American States, the Regional Centre on Small Arms in Nairobi, the regional centres of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Africa; and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Asia and the Pacific), the Caribbean Community and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and relevant networks such as the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors.

Recommendation 58

The Conference may wish to consider encouraging greater cooperation between UNODC and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, including in the context of meetings of the Working Group on Firearms, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Recommendation 59

The Conference may wish to recommend that States parties providing and receiving technical assistance in accordance with article 14 of the Protocol consider the

sustainability of their initiatives as a key factor in planning and delivering such assistance.

8. Recommendations on the future work of the Working Group

Recommendation 60

The Conference may wish to urge States parties to acknowledge that the Working Group serves as a useful network of experts and competent authorities in order to improve international cooperation, exchange of information and good practices related to illicit firearms trafficking. In that regard, the Conference may further wish to encourage Member States to facilitate, whenever possible, the participation in future meetings of the Working Group on Firearms of national experts and competent authorities, subregional and regional organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in line with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

Recommendation 61

The Conference may wish to invite the Working Group to include, at its next meeting, an agenda item for States parties under which to share specific examples of national experiences, best practices and challenges in sending or responding to requests for the tracing of firearms for the purpose of identifying illicit trafficking.

Recommendation 62

The Conference may wish to encourage the Working Group to develop, at its next meeting, a comprehensive multi-year workplan in order to facilitate greater participation of experts and competent authorities by focusing primarily on the exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned related to the implementation of specific provisions of the Firearms Protocol. For each relevant agenda item the Conference may wish to urge States to consider available technical materials.

Recommendation 63

The Conference may wish to invite the Working Group on Firearms to exchange experiences on current practices, lessons learned and effective methods for cooperation among competent authorities to prevent and detect illicit firearms trafficking, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 3 of the Protocol, and also to invite the Working Group to facilitate the participation of experts from representatives of the industries identified in article 13, paragraph 3 for enhancing the discussion.

Recommendation 64

The Conference may wish to invite the Working Group to encourage the participation and input of existing regional and subregional networks of experts in and authorities responsible for firearms trafficking in future meetings of the Working Group in order to help to ensure that recommendations established by the Working Group may be informed by and carried forward at the regional and subregional levels.

Recommendation 65

The Conference may wish to invite States parties to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the meetings of the Working Group.

Recommendation 66

The Conference may wish to invite States parties to set the dates of future Working Group meetings, in consultation with the Secretariat, as far in advance as possible so that States may have sufficient time to plan the participation of their experts in those meetings.

Recommendation 67

The Conference may wish to recommend that the Working Group discuss, at a future meeting, the follow-up to previously adopted recommendations and take those into account before making future recommendations.

Recommendation 68

The Conference may wish to recommend that the Working Group consider, at a future meeting, the gender dimension of the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

III. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

6. The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Firearms was held in Vienna on 18 and 19 May 2016.
7. The meeting was opened by Rosa Vásquez Orozco (Ecuador), Chair of the Working Group. She addressed the meeting and presented an overview of the mandate of the Working Group, its objectives and the subjects under its consideration.
8. At the opening of the meeting, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Firearms Protocol: Guatemala, Iraq, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Cuba and Mexico. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Firearms Protocol, also made a statement. A statement was made by the observer for China, a signatory State. Statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
9. An opening statement was also delivered by the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, UNODC.
10. A statement was delivered by a member of the UNODC Secretariat on behalf of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms Mechanism.

B. Statements

11. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under item 2 was led by the following panellists: Anzian Kouadja (Côte d'Ivoire), Tony Gean Barbosa de Castro (Brazil), Francisco Porrás Delgado (Spain), Fabio Marini (European Union) and Ian Head (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

12. Under agenda item 2, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Firearms Protocol: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Spain, Brazil, Peru, Switzerland and Dominican Republic. The observer for the signatory State Canada also made a statement. Statements were also made by the observers for the United States of America and Colombia. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Firearms Protocol, also made a statement.

13. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under item 3 was led by the following panellists: William Kullman (United States) and María Luisa Vera Ramírez (Ecuador).

14. Under agenda item 3, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Firearms Protocol: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Peru, Switzerland, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Kuwait, Brazil, Kenya, Spain, European Union, Guatemala and Costa Rica. The observers for Canada and the United Kingdom, both signatory States, also made statements. Statements were also made by the observers for the Niger, the United States and Colombia.

15. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under item 4 was led by the following panellist: Cheibou Samna (Niger).

16. Under agenda item 4, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Firearms Protocol: Algeria, Guatemala, Cuba, Chile, Costa Rica, Argentina, European Union, Mexico, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Ecuador. The observers for the signatory State United Kingdom also made a statement. Statements were also made by the observers for France, the United States, Colombia and Djibouti. A representative of the Secretariat also made a statement.

17. Under agenda 5, statements were made by the representatives of the following parties to the Firearms Protocol: Guatemala and Iraq. The observer for the United States also made a statement.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

18. At its first meeting, on 18 May 2016, the Working Group adopted by consensus the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. How record-keeping, marking and tracing, as well as data collection and analysis and the sharing of information, under articles 6, 7, 8 and 12 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, help to reduce illicit trafficking in firearms.

3. Development or strengthening of experts and competent authorities in firearms control networks in order to improve regional and international cooperation, exchange of information and good practices, with the objective of preventing and fighting against illicit firearms trafficking.
4. Enhancing technical assistance and capacity-building to counter illicit trafficking in firearms in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

D. Attendance

19. The following States parties to the Firearms Protocol were represented at the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

20. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Firearms Protocol, was represented at the meeting.

21. The following States signatories to the Firearms Protocol were represented by observers: Australia, Canada, China, Germany and United Kingdom.

22. The following States that are not parties or signatories to the Firearms Protocol were represented by observers: Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, France, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Malta, Myanmar, Niger, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, United States and Yemen.

23. The following Secretariat units and programmes of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and United Nations Development Programme.

24. The following intergovernmental organization was represented by observers: Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

25. A list of participants is contained in document CTOC/COP/WG.6/2016/INF/1/Rev.1.

E. Documentation

26. The Working Group had before it the following:

- (a) Annotated provisional agenda (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2016/1);
- (b) Background paper by the Secretariat on measures to prevent and reduce illicit trafficking in firearms, improve regional and international cooperation and related technical assistance activities (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2016/2);
- (c) Note by the Secretariat on good practices, gaps and challenges in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and measures to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2012/3);
- (d) Background paper by the Secretariat on challenges and good practices in countering illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and measures to facilitate 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 (CTOC/COP/WG.6/2014/2).

IV. Adoption of the report

27. On 19 May 2016, the Working Group adopted the present report on its meeting.
