**CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE**

**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT**

**MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS,**

**AMMUNITION, eXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

 **(CIFTA)**

**FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE** OEA/Ser.L/XXII.4.5

**STATES PARTIES TO THE CIFTA** CIFTA/CEP-V/doc.9/21 rev.2

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CIFTA

(Agreed at the Twenty-First Regular Session of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA

held 4 October 2021)

The States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), gathered in virtual format on October 5, 2021, at the Fifth Conference of States Parties of the Convention;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the CIFTA to promote and facilitate cooperation, the exchange of information and experiences, and joint action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials;

REITERATING the urgent need to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, because of the harmful effects of these activities on the security of each state and the region as a whole, since they endanger the well-being of peoples, their social and economic development, and their right to live in peace;

REAFFIRMING the priority of preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, because of the links of such activities with drug trafficking, terrorism, transnational organized crime, mercenary, other criminal activities and, in some cases, hate crimes.

RECOGNIZING that international trade in firearms is particularly vulnerable to abuses by criminal elements and that a "know-your-customer" policy for dealers in, and producers, exporters, and importers of, firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials is crucial for combating this scourge;

NOTING the continuous efforts to promote and strengthen synergies with the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA); the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and related international instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT);

RECALLING that 2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action to o Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects and of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

RECOMMEND:

1. To strengthen hemispheric cooperation among member states, who have a shared responsibility, to prevent, combat, and eradicate illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
2. To encourage States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the CIFTA.
3. To undertake efforts to adopt legislative or other measures consistent with the CIFTA; develop strategies, programs, and action plans to implement it; and provide the CIFTA Technical Secretariat with complete and up-to-date information on a national body or point of contact designated by each State, for the purposes of cooperation and information exchange, in accordance with the Convention.
4. To commit to adopting legislative or other measures to establish as criminal offenses the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, including new forms of illicit trade, and further promoting international juridical cooperation in this regard consistent with the CIFTA.
5. To continue to address the control of ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, within the framework of the CIFTA, to effectively prevent and combat their illicit manufacture and trafficking.
6. To Exchange Information and experiences on emerging forms of illicit arms manufacturing, acknowledging interest in considering illicit use of new technologies for manufacturing, including additive manufacturing, in order to guide the policies and actions that our governments implement to counter this potential activity.
7. To deepen understanding of the challenges posed by the internet-based arms markets, including the darknet and the role of virtual currencies in illicit arms trafficking.
8. To highlight the importance of the collection and analysis of data and trends related to seized, recovered or forfeited firearms and ammunition and explosives, subject to illicit trafficking, as a basis for formulating policies, joint actions and more effective approaches to prevent and counteract this challenge, and in that regard, where practicable and consistent with domestic law, share the data generated for the elaboration of the Hemispheric Study on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms and Ammunition, and to support other regional, hemispheric and global studies that expand the knowledge regarding this phenomenon.
9. To improve national capacities to collect and analyze data on the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, in order to promote the implementation by the States Parties of the CIFTA and progress in the achievement of Target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
10. To recognize and address the differentiated impacts of illicit firearms trafficking on women, men, girls and boys, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, through the best compilation of data disaggregated by sex, age, different capacities, and social situation, thereby promoting analysis mechanisms to develop public policies based on evidence and with a gender perspective, consistent with the full and effective implementation of the CIFTA.
11. To reaffirm the commitment to promote periodic cooperation among the designated competent national authorities or national points of contact, as applicable, to improve communication, measures, and strategies related to the marking and tracing of firearms, and addressing ammunition and explosives, which facilitates international cooperation against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
12. To strengthen the strategies, programs, and preventive and security measures consistent with the CIFTA, in particular, those related to firearms marking and recordkeeping, while contributing to hemispheric efforts and those of other relevant international organizations, as appropriate, in the consolidation of a catalog or compendium of the various marking methods that promote the exchange of information on the identification and classification of firearms, taking into account the OAS standards on tracing, marking and recordkeeping, agreed by the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA.
13. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat to continue providing technical assistance and cooperation at the request of States Parties to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, including the strengthening of capacities in (i) marking, recordkeeping and tracing of firearms; (ii) the physical security and management of the stockpiles of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, including the destruction of those firearms that are expired, deteriorated, seized, or in excess of the needs of state institutions; and (iii) prevention of violence by firearms and assistance and protection to victims, as appropriate.
14. To promote that the States Parties, as appropriate, strengthen their alert, detection, and inspection mechanisms for border controls, among others, by intensifying cooperation between law enforcement, customs authorities, importers and exporters of firearms and other sectors, in order to prevent the diversion and illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, and where appropriate, to further address illicit irresponsible trade practices in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
15. To invite Member States to seek accessible, effective, and sustainable intraregional cooperation, including, where appropriate, technology transfer and training, in order to prevent the diversion and illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
16. To develop, implement, and participate, where practicable and consistent with domestic law, in mechanisms, consistent with CIFTA, that facilitate the exchange of information on export, import and transit authorizations or licenses between the States Parties, as well as direct communication between the national authorities in charge of issuing such licenses, with the purpose of preventing and identifying illicit transfers or diversion of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
17. To invite member states and international organizations to take into account the work of analysis of international trends and challenges recently identified by international organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other relevant actors, with respect to the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, as well as the impact of this phenomenon on peace, development and human rights.
18. To encourage relevant international and regional organizations, the private sector, industry, non-governmental organizations, the academic community, and civil society to strengthen their cooperation and work with the States Parties on compliance with the CIFTA, as well as well as other pertinent international instruments, and that they join the organization of forums, discussions, and campaigns to generate greater awareness.
19. To invite member states to consider providing financial resources to the OAS General Secretariat, in particular to the Department of Public Security and the Department against Transnational Organized Crime, in order to provide the necessary technical assistance to the member states that require it, in order to allow for effective implementation of the CIFTA and, in this regard, to recognize the support of the European Union for the implementation of the project “Countering the fight against the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition and its impact on Latin America and the Caribbean”, as well as recognizing Mexico's support for the preparation of the initial phase of the Hemispheric Study on Illicit Traffic in Firearms and Ammunition.
20. To encourage member states, permanent observers, international, regional, and subregional organizations, the international community, and the private sector to consider making voluntary contributions to the voluntary trust fund dedicated to improving the operations and functioning of the mechanisms established in the CIFTA.
21. To redouble efforts to fully implement the 2018-2022 Course of Action for the Operation and Implementation of the CIFTA.

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