INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE OEA/Ser.L/XXII.4.6

ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING CIFTA/CEP-VI/doc.4/24 rev.2

IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES 14 May 2024

AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS (CIFTA) Original: Spanish

Sixth Conference of the States Parties

May 24, 2024

Washington, D.C. (Hybrid format)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CIFTA

(Agreed at the Second Preparatory Meeting held on 13 May 2024)

The States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), meeting on May 24, 2024, at the Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Convention;

UNDERSCORING 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;

CONCERNED about the possibility that firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials may be acquired and used by criminals, criminal organizations, mercenaries, terrorists, violent extremists, or any other group that promotes hatred, racism, or supremacism;

CONSIDERING the urgent need for all states, and especially those states that produce, export, and import arms, to take the necessary measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials;

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;

RECOMMEND:

1. Strengthening bilateral, regional, and international cooperation to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, and to encourage relevant international and regional organizations, the private sector, industry, non-governmental organizations, the academic community, and civil society to assist States in this endeavor, in their respective areas of competence.

2. Encouraging States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials.

3. Urging member states, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, to continue their efforts to respond to requests for international tracing of firearms that are seized, recovered, or confiscated and illicitly trafficked.

4. Exchanging information and experiences on good practices in the generation, storage, and access to records of seized, recovered, or confiscated and illicitly trafficked firearms with a view to facilitating prompt and accurate responses to requests for international tracing.

5. Promoting, in accordance with the national legal systems of each State, legal provisions to require industry and the private sector, such as exporters, importers, manufacturers, traders and intermediaries, to maintain records or inventories of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials that they have transferred, manufactured or traded, and to establish provisions for States to verify compliance with these provisions, and if applicable, sanction non-compliance.

6. Calling on industry and the private sector, essentially the companies that produce and market firearms and ammunition, to establish self-regulation, due diligence, and responsible business practices to prevent the diversion and illicit trafficking of such weapons and ammunition, which could include marking measures that allow traceability.

7. Urging member states to continue to analyze the links between the manufacture, trade, and the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, and the multiple expressions of national and transnational organized crime.

8. Continuing to promote, as appropriate, the synergies between the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Traffic in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Related Materials, and the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; 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; and related international instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), identifying opportunities for technical assistance and international cooperation that can be leveraged in a cross-cutting manner between these instruments to improve their implementation, maximize results and avoid duplication of efforts.

9. Promoting the exchange of experiences on the safe and sustainable management of ammunition used in firearms with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating their diversion and illicit trafficking, and in this regard, to analyze the contributions that, in line with the objectives of CIFTA, can be drawn from the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2023, requesting the support of the OAS General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, in this process, as a regional liaison for the implementation and regionalization of the Global Framework in the Americas.

10. Extending the validity of the "2018-2022 Course of Action for the Operation and Implementation of the CIFTA" and, until this Course of Action is updated, referring to it as the "Second Course of Action for the Operation and Implementation of the CIFTA", reiterating the call to States Parties to continue working on its implementation, and requesting the Technical Secretariat to submit a proposal to update the Course of Action for consideration and feedback by the CIFTA Consultative Committee over the next two years.

11. Promoting the voluntary use of the CIFTA supplementary documents, with a view to strengthening institutional capacities to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, and requesting the CIFTA Technical Secretariat to keep the virtual repository of these documents updated on the [CIFTA web page](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/security/cifta).

12. Strengthening national capacities to collect and analyze data on seized, recovered or confiscated, and illicitly trafficked firearms and ammunition with a view to generating evidence-based analysis and policies to prevent and counter illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, as well as to encourage the participation of Member States in global activitiesaimed at compiling these data to support the development of studies and analyses to expand knowledge on this phenomenon, including the *Hemispheric Study on the Illicit Traffic in Arms and Ammunition*.

13. Promoting the dissemination and analysis of reports and studies prepared by international and regional organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other relevant actors, with respect to the trends, challenges, and new modalities of illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, as well as their impact on peace, development, and human rights.

14. Promoting gender mainstreaming in efforts to address the differentiated impact of illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials on girls, women, and persons in vulnerable conditions, in order to facilitate international, regional, and subregional cooperation and assistance.

15. Strengthening the regulatory frameworks and processes for the regulation and supervision of firearms and ammunition owned by private security companies, and promoting mechanisms for coordination and exchange of information between State institutions responsible for firearms registration and control, regulation of private security, and private security companies, consistent with domestic laws and regulations, with a view to maintaining up-to-date records of firearms and ammunition in this sector, guaranteeing the safety of their stockpiles, and reducing diversions to the illicit market.

16. Encouraging the development of subregional and inter-institutional strategies, such as the Roadmaps for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms and Ammunition, which establish shared objectives, indicators, and metrics that contribute to increasing coordination and the effectiveness of actions to address the phenomenon of illicit cross-border trafficking in firearms and ammunition; urging participating countries to allocate the necessary resources for its effective implementation; and encouraging the international community to contribute the technical and financial resources to promote them.

17. Instructing the OAS General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, to continue to provide, at the request of the States Parties, technical assistance and cooperation to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, including the strengthening of capacities in (i) managing the entire life cycle of firearms; ammunition and explosives to prevent diversion to the illicit market; (ii) border control and supervision of international trade in arms, ammunition, and explosives; (iii) registration, recordkeeping, and analysis of information; (iv) tracing of firearms; (v) investigation and criminal prosecution of the crimes of illicit trafficking, manufacturing and possession of firearms, ammunition, and explosives; and (vi) prevention of gun violence, and assistance and protection to its victims, as appropriate.

18. Encourage Member States, permanent observers, international, regional, and subregional organizations, the international community, civil society, the industry 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.

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