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WEAPONS ACQUISITIONS (CITAAC) 19 April 2022

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Virtual Format

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO CITAAC

(Adopted on April 19, 2022)

The States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC) gathered in virtual format on April 19th, 2022, at the Second Conference of States Parties to the Convention;

EMPHASIZING the relevance of the CITAAC to contribute to the openness and transparency in the Americas, and the fulfillment of one of the essential purposes of the Organization of American States set forth in its Charter is to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states;

BEARING IN MIND the CITAAC recognizes that, in accordance with the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations, member states have the inherent right to individual and collective self-defense;

REAFFIRMING the importance of transparency in conventional weapons acquisitions and transfers as confidence and security-building measures to contribute to the reduction of tensions and the strengthening of regional and international peace and security;

RECOGNIZING the importance of continuing to develop cooperation and technical assistance to facilitate full implementation of the CITAAC, and the need to address challenges posed by reporting requirements;

CONSIDERING the Conference’s approval of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of State Parties and the Rules of Procedure of the Consultative Committee, and the mandate of paragraph 80 of the AG/RES. 2970 (LI-O/21);

NOTING the need to strengthen efforts to promote synergies with the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT);

RECOMMEND:

1. To reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC) and other related instruments applicable at the global, regional, and sub-regional levels, and to undertake efforts to build trust and promote peace in the region by strengthening security and confidence-building measures, including improved ongoing cooperation regarding conventional weapons and defense matters;
2. To invite all OAS member states which have not already done so to consider signing, ratifying, and/or acceding to the Convention.
3. To urge State Parties to submit, in a timely fashion, annual reports and notifications in compliance with their obligations, pursuant to Article III and IV of the Convention, and to recommend they consider voluntarily submitting additional information to strengthen transparency, including on transfers of Small Arms and Light Weapons.
4. To request State Parties designate a national point of contact (POC) by July 31st, 2022 to facilitate cooperation and to support the elaboration and submission of the annual reports, per article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of State Parties; and to keep the CITAAC Technical Secretariat updated with the POC’s contact information.
5. To recognize the work of the Department of Public Security of the OAS (DPS/OAS), in collaboration with the Inter-American Defense Board, in drafting the documents to institutionalize the Consultative Committee and the Technical Secretariat of the CITAAC, and to request the General Secretariat of the OAS to take the necessary steps to formalize the DPS/OAS as the entity responsible to serve as the CITAAC Technical Secretariat.
6. To request the General Secretariat of the OAS, through the DPS/OAS, to provide technical assistance and cooperation, at the request of State Parties, to promote compliance with the Convention, and to explore strategies to improve compliance with the annual reporting, including the electronic submission of data, the elaboration and dissemination of consolidated annual reports, and cooperation with instruments of the United Nations systems and other international instruments with similar reports.
7. 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 CITAAC, as well as other pertinent international instruments, and that they join forums, discussions, and campaigns to generate greater awareness.
8. To invite member states to consider providing financial resources to the Department of Public Security of General Secretariat of the OAS, as CITAAC’s technical secretariat, to provide the necessary technical assistance to the member states that require it, to allow for effective implementation of the CITAAC.

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