



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MEDIA RELEASE

OUTCOME OF FIRST CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

PORT OF SPAIN: 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

The First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP1) took place from August 24th to 27th, 2015 in Cancun, Mexico. The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, led the Trinidad and Tobago Delegation to the Conference.

The First Conference marked the commencement of the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT or **Treaty**) and also represented the culmination of Trinidad and Tobago's ambitious and robust efforts to secure the seat of the ATT Secretariat.

The Conference was convened under the chairmanship of His Excellency Jorge Lomónaco of Mexico and sought to establish the necessary mechanisms to ensure the successful implementation of the Treaty. States Parties were therefore called upon to decide on a number of critical matters which included:

- a. the Rules of Procedure for the Conference;
- b. the Financial Rules;
- c. matters relating to the Permanent Secretariat of the ATT including the location of the Secretariat and the interim Head of the Secretariat; and
- d. the programme of work up to the next Conference.

The CSP1 was attended by 120 States (comprising 67 States Parties, 1 State Party for which the Treaty had not yet entered into force, 40 signatory States and 12 observer States), a number of international and regional intergovernmental organisations and representatives of civil society, including NGOs, and industry.

The Conference commenced with a High-level segment on August 24th, 2015. Minister Dookeran delivered a statement on behalf of CARICOM in which he underscored the need for States Parties to decide on the location of the Secretariat by voting if necessary and for the decisions made by the Conference to be properly sequenced. Minister Dookeran also highlighted the integral role played by CARICOM in the negotiation of the ATT and throughout the preparatory process.

Over the course of the Conference, Trinidad and Tobago as well as other CARICOM representatives actively participated in the Working Groups on the Rules of Procedure, the Financial Rules and Reporting Templates. The Rules of Procedure and the Financial Rules were subsequently adopted by the Conference and reflected to a large extent the positions articulated by CARICOM. 2/....



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Throughout the preparatory process in the lead up to the Conference, Trinidad and Tobago, as lead negotiator on behalf of CARICOM, was an indefatigable proponent of the early and effective implementation of the Treaty, as well as a viable contender for the location of the Secretariat. Notably, of the three candidatures for the seat of the Secretariat, Trinidad and Tobago's CARICOM and GRULAC-endorsed bid attracted the most cross-regional support among States Parties and signatory States.

In advance of the informal vote on the location of the seat of the Secretariat, Minister Dookeran held bilateral meetings with a number of delegations in the margins of the Conference. Trinidad and Tobago's efforts to secure additional support were bolstered by the presence of other CARICOM Ministers at the bilateral meetings. This was a true reflection of the CARICOM character of the Trinidad and Tobago bid.

Two informal votes by secret ballot were conducted on Wednesday 26th August 2015 to decide the location of the Secretariat. Trinidad and Tobago secured the most votes, 32, in the first round and Switzerland and Austria received 21 votes and 14 votes respectively. By agreement among the competing States, Austria was eliminated from the contest. In the second informal vote, Switzerland garnered 35 votes and Trinidad and Tobago received 32 votes. Geneva was therefore chosen as the location for the seat of the permanent Secretariat of the ATT on the basis of the majority of votes obtained by Switzerland in the second informal vote.

In his concession speech, Minister Dookeran expressed his deepest appreciation for the tremendous support received from countries from diverse regions for Trinidad and Tobago's candidature. In addition, he noted the efforts of the Latin American and Caribbean region in canvassing on Trinidad and Tobago's behalf which represented a turning point in cooperation within the region.

With regard to the interim Head of the Secretariat, the Conference agreed to the appointment of Mr Simeon Dumisani Dladla from South Africa as the first Head of the Secretariat of the ATT.

At the conclusion of the Conference, it was agreed that an extraordinary Conference of States Parties would be convened in early 2016 in order to address key remaining issues such as the operating budget for the Secretariat and the elaboration of a work programme for the Secretariat.

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