



# **ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)**

## **Overview : Features and Considerations**

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09 August 2023

# Background

- Legally binding instrument adopted in April 2013 and entered into force in Dec. 2014.
- ATT Secretariat formally established in February 2016
- ATT current membership: 113 States Parties and 28 Signatory States
- Object: **regulate international trade** in conventional arms, prevent and eradicate **illicit trade** and prevent **diversion (not ban)**
- Art. 5 obligates States Parties (SPs) to **establish and maintain a national control system**
- ATT main priorities – **Treaty universalization** and **effective implementation**

# International Assistance (Art 16)

- ATT membership diverse
- Creates a **possibility for states to offer and receive assistance**
- Sets **broad areas of assistance** (legislation, institutional capacity building, technical support etc)
- **Obligates States Parties** to establish a Trust Fund
- Contributions to the Trust Fund are **voluntary**
- The Trust Fund was established in August 2016 (CSP2)

# What is the VTF?

- Multi-donor Fund established under Article 16(3) to support national implementation efforts
- Aim
  - Assist requesting States to implement the Treaty
- Administration
  - Terms of Reference
  - Administrative Rules
  - ATT Secretariat = administrator of the Fund
  - VTF Selection Committee = selects projects



# Current Status

- Received: **\$11.9 million** (28 donors)
- Expenditure and Commitments: **\$ 8.4 million**
- Uncommitted Funds: **\$ 3.5 million**
- Undertaken **7 project cycles** (2017 – 2023):
  - **54** completed and closed projects      involving **32 States**
  - **13** ongoing projects      involving **13 States**
  - about **12** projects recently approved (2023 cycle)



# Types of Assistance

- Workshops (capacity building)
- Gap analysis
- Inter-agency coordination
- Legislation
- National control lists
- Enhancing/building reporting capacity
- Equipment (marking machines, ammunition destruction)

***VTF does not prescribe areas of assistance but encourage projects on core ATT obligations***

# Important Considerations: Internal

- **Terms of Reference** (purpose, eligibility, scope, selection criteria, roles and responsibilities)
- **Administrative Rules** (technical procedures and guidelines for the operationalization and administration of the VTF incl. application procedure)
- Distinction: selection (and oversight function) and executive (administrator) function
- Finance and Supply Chain arrangements (internal controls to enable clean audit outcomes)
- Internal capacity to support the function (level of ambition)

# Important Considerations: Internal

- Objective and transparent selection process (criteria and considerations)
- Interface arrangements between centres of selection and administration
- How are donor coordination issues dealt?
- Reporting and accounting arrangements (to States Parties and donors)
- Creating a loop for policy guidance by States Parties, as appropriate

# Important Considerations: External

- What is the frequency of calls for applications? (annual)
- Who is eligible to apply ? (states or civil society)
- What is the budget cap for projects? (\$100k cap unless more than one State is benefitting)
- What is project duration? (12 months or less)
- Can multiple projects be undertaken and what is the limit?
- Is co-funding allowed, if so, what are the rules?

# Important Considerations: External

- How are projects monitored and evaluated for impact?
- How are unforeseen events dealt with?
  - ✓ pandemics (covid)
  - ✓ natural disasters
  - ✓ political transition issues
  - ✓ natural attrition
- To **ensure sustainability of the VTF** ( uphold high stds of governance, reach out to stakeholders and responsive)

**End**