20th March, 2013

Proposal on the Draft Arms Trade Treaty (CRP1) relating to Article 12, Secretariat.

Submitted by Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Paraguay, Norway, Spain, and The Netherlands

The Draft Text of 26 July 2012 creates a secretariat that has minimal responsibilities. My delegation is concerned that in practice this may do little to help states evaluate compliance with the treaty provisions, or to identify avenues to improve it over time.

As such, we propose the following amendments under Article 12, Paragraph 3.

We would like to delete the words "Within a minimized structure, the Secretariat" and replace it with the word "and". Thus the chapeau of this paragraph should read: "The secretariat shall be responsible to States Parties and shall undertake the following responsibilities:"

In addition, we would suggest to amend sub-paragraph (e) to read as follows:

"Perform other duties as mandated by the Conference of States Parties".

We believe that this will allow the future tasks and responsibilities of the secretariat to be decided upon by the States Parties and not be constrained by the treaty text. This will assist the Secretariat in maintaining its relevance as Treaty implementation develops over time.