**CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTY TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS (cifta)**

**SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE** OEA/Ser.L/XXII.4

**STATES PARTY TO THE CIFTA** CIFTA/cep-II/doc.7/08 rev.2

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Mexico City, Mexico Original: Spanish

TLATELOLCO COMMITMENT

(Approved during the Fourth Plenary Session of

the Second Conference of the States Party to the CIFTA, held on February 21, 2008)

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We, the States Party to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), meeting at the Second Conference of the States Party to the Convention, in Mexico City, on February 20 and 21, 2008,

BEARING IN MIND that resolution AG/RES. 2341 (XXXVII-O/07), “Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA),” convened this Conference to examine the functioning and application of the Convention, pursuant to Article XXVIII thereof;

REAFFIRMING the validity of the decisions adopted by the First Conference of the States Party to the CIFTA, held in Bogotá, Colombia, on March 8 and 9, 2004, and in particular the commitments and measures agreed to in the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and Application of the CIFTA (Declaration of Bogotá);

REAFFIRMING the principles of the sovereignty, nonintervention, and legal equality of states;

CONCERNED over the tragic consequences of insecurity, crime, destruction, and death resulting from illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials;

RECOGNIZING the importance of strengthening national, regional, and international law on the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and diversion of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, as well as its enforcement, to reduce the proliferation of unauthorized weapons in civilian hands, and the number of victims and civilian deaths, both accidental and criminal;

REAFFIRMING that the fight against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials requires increased international cooperation and collaboration to promote the prevention of violence in the Hemisphere;

CONVINCED that the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and diversion of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials are a threat to hemispheric security and, when these are used by terrorists and criminals, undermine the rule of law, breed violence and, in some cases, impunity, exacerbate conflicts, and represent a serious threat to human security;

CONVINCED ALSO of the need for effective hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eradicate this threat and recognizing the juridical value of the full implementation of the CIFTA;

REAFFIRMING the determination to continue working with international, regional, and subregional disarmament agencies, civil society, and nongovernmental organizations;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the presentation to this Second Conference of the States Party of national experiences and developments concerning the CIFTA, as well as of the diagnostic assessment of the status of implementation of the CIFTA at the national level;

EXPRESSING OUR DEEP APPRECIATION for the work of the Technical Secretariat in support of the CIFTA and the States Party thereto; and

BEARING IN MIND the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the importance of taking concrete measures in the Hemisphere toward implementation of the national, regional, and global components of that Programme of Action,

AGREE:

1. To urge the signatory states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).

**LEGISLATIVE IMPLEMENTATION**

1. To promote and adopt the legislative or other measures necessary to guarantee the implementation and enforcement of the CIFTA’s provisions. To that end, the Technical Secretariat shall provide technical and legal assistance to OAS member states at their request.
2. To urge the OAS member states to incorporate into their national law, as appropriate, legally binding subregional, regional, and international instruments to strengthen border control in the region to combat illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
3. To acknowledge the excellent work done by the Technical Secretariat and the OAS Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation in the Areas to Which the CIFTA Refers, as entrusted by the Declaration of Bogotá, on the following: Marking and Tracing of Firearms (Article VI); Strengthening of Controls at Export Points (Article X); and Legislative Measures to Establish as Criminal Offenses the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (Article IV).
4. To encourage the OAS member states to implement, as appropriate, the aforementioned model legislation.
5. To invite the OAS member states to report to the Technical Secretariat, as appropriate, on the measures they have taken to implement the model legislation.
6. To request the Group of Experts to complete as early as possible the other model legislation entrusted by the Declaration of Bogotá on the following: Confiscation or Forfeiture (Article VII); Security Measures (Article VIII); Recordkeeping, Confidentiality, and Exchange of Information (Articles XI, XII, and XIII); and Controlled Delivery (Article XVIII).
7. To take the necessary operational and legislative measures pursuant to the provisions of Articles VI and VIII of the CIFTA, respectively, to guarantee the marking of manufactured, imported, and confiscated or forfeited firearms, as well as the security of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials that are imported into, exported from, or in transit through their respective territories.
8. To seek more inclusive and active measures with regard to the topic of ammunition, explosives, and other related materials in the framework of the Convention to make it possible to develop more effective controls over their illicit manufacturing and trafficking therein.
9. To thank the Technical Secretariat for presenting document CIFTA/CEP-II/doc.5/08, “Summary of country compliance with CIFTA: Current status of ratifications and national firearms legislation in force,” and to ask the States Party and Signatory States to provide the Technical Secretariat with the information needed for the regular updating of that document.

**COOPERATION AND INFORMATION-SHARING**

1. To strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation efforts; and to strengthen the coordination and cooperation of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and with the competent United Nations agencies.
2. To promote cooperation and information-sharing among the OAS member states, in particular among law-enforcement authorities and customs officials, to facilitate the adoption of best practices, at national customs facilities and borders, for control in the Hemisphere of illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
3. Instruct the Consultative Committee of CIFTA to organize a meeting of the appropriate national customs authorities dedicated to enhancing cooperation on the enforcement of international regulations on the movement of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
4. To request the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA to develop measures to facilitate, streamline, and step up information-sharing regarding, among other things, firearms, ammunition, and explosives; the origin, routes, and mechanisms of current illicit trafficking; and entities and individuals involved in such illicit trafficking.
5. To instruct the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA to establish an information-sharing system among the OAS member states for the tracing of firearms, ammunition, and explosives (CIFTA Article XV), so as to effectively combat illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials. To that end, the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA and the Technical Secretariat may conduct training courses for government staff responsible for the proposed information system.
6. To request the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, under the leadership of the Secretariat pro tempore and with support from the Technical Secretariat, to continue promoting opportunities for reciprocal cooperation among the OAS member states in terms of training (CIFTA Article XV) and to promote information-sharing in that regard, including possibilities for technical and financial support from international organizations and national and multilateral cooperation agencies, *inter alia* for designing public policy, development programs, and a culture of peace in our societies, in order to prevent the illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
7. To promote bilateral, subregional, and regional cooperation to fight the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and diversion of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, so as to support the full implementation of the CIFTA as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and, as appropriate, its Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.
8. To thank the participating organizations for presenting their actions to combat illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials and for their offers for strengthening the implementation of CIFTA as well as promoting cooperation and technical assistance toward that end, and to ask the Technical Secretariat to follow up on those offers and report to the Consultative Committee on the results for its consideration.

**IMPLEMENTATION/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

1. To fight decisively against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials by, among other actions, destroying excess national stocks of firearms designated by each OAS member state, securing and managing national stockpiles, and, in accordance with the commitments made under the Declaration on Security in the Americas, regulating firearms brokering, including sanctions for illicit arms brokering so as to prevent diversion through illicit channels.
2. To begin a process of consultations to create, in the short term, a system for exchanging information on firearms and ammunition confiscated from criminals, and/or reported as stolen or lost, including the possibility of a hemispheric register, regional, subregional, bilateral, and national registers, or other appropriate measures to implement Article XIII.3 of CIFTA, in order to increase our capacity to fight the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials and violence.
3. To instruct the Technical Secretariat, in coordination with the CIFTA Group of Experts, to present to the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, with information provided by the OAS member states, detailed standards and procedures regarding the security, handling, and destruction of arsenals.
4. To implement strict control and security measures for the handling of firearms, ammunition, and explosives under the CIFTA, especially to strengthen controls at import and export points (CIFTA Article X and Chapter III of the Declaration of Bogotá) and for information-sharing among the OAS member states (CIFTA Article XIII.1, items a, b, and c).
5. To instruct the Technical Secretariat to promote training programs in identification, marking, tracing, inventory control, and the diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, and to improve the security of stockpiled weapons. To this end, the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA and the Technical Secretariat will promote the broadest cooperation for those OAS member states that request it.

**FOLLOW-UP**

1. To request the Technical Secretariat, in coordination with the Secretariat pro tempore, to present a report on the fulfillment of the recommendations of the CIFTA Consultative Committee, as mentioned in paragraph 45 of Chapter IV of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in connection with the fifth anniversary of the Declaration, to be celebrated in Mexico, on October 8 and 9, 2008.
2. To invite the OAS member states to consider contributing, on a voluntary basis, the necessary financial and human resources for the full implementation of the CIFTA, and for strengthening its Technical Secretariat.
3. To request that the Consultative Committee of CIFTA consider the financial and human resources required for the activities to be undertaken in support of the full implementation of the Convention.
4. To request the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA to follow up on the provisions contained in this Tlatelolco Commitment.
5. To hold, in accordance with Article XXVIII of the Convention and with Article 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the next Conference of the States Party in the course of 2012, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 9 of those Rules of Procedure.
6. To thank and recognize the Government of Mexico for hosting this Second Conference of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).

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