

Draft intervention on Reporting

Control Arms believes that comprehensive and public reporting is a mandatory requirement of the ATT and a cornerstone of effective Treaty implementation. Transparent reporting serves a number of key purposes, enabling States Parties to demonstrate that they are implementing the Treaty while helping to identify gaps in controls which can be useful in the context of accessing appropriate international co-operation and assistance. It can also help build confidence among states regionally and internationally. Public reporting will also help citizens better understand the arms transfer policies and practices of their governments.

We also note that civil society has provided guidance and tools and other forms of assistance to enable States Parties, as well as to fulfil their Article 13 obligations. This assistance has enabled the identification of good practices as well as challenges to reporting.

Control Arms congratulates those States Parties that have thus far submitted public initial and annual reports to the Secretariat in accordance with ATT Articles 13.1 and 13.3 respectively. However, we are concerned that some States Parties have not yet submitted reports and that the reports that have been completed are of variable quality.

It is therefore important to consider the reasons that may lie behind this patchy reporting so far. For example, are capacity or other constraints preventing some States Parties from compiling and submitting comprehensive reports? Are there region-specific factors at play? Is there a lack of awareness regarding the benefits of reporting for regional security and confidence-building? If so, one solution could be to address such issues in the context of regional or sub-regional discussions on the ATT or on arms and security issues in general. In the African continent, for example, discussions on transparency and reporting in a sub-regional context have helped to allay initial concerns expressed by States on these issues.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, Control Arms believes that continued efforts are required to encourage transparency and support comprehensive and public reporting under the ATT and that these efforts should be specific to the needs and requirements of those States Parties for whom reporting remains a challenge.