

Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP 2017) Geneva, 11 September 2017

Daily Summary: Day 3 (Wednesday 13 September 2017)

Transparency and Reporting

Dumisani Dladla, Head of the ATT Secretariat, began Day 3 of CSP 2017 with a presentation on current reporting rates.

Initial Reports

- 61 of 85 States Parties (72%) have submitted their Initial Report
- 6 have been kept private (9%)
- 38 have been submitted on time (62%)

Annual Reports

- 48¹ of 75 States Parties have submitted their Annual Report for 2016
- 3 have been kept private (3%)
- 31 were submitted by the 31 May deadline (41%)

The Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR - Sweden and Mexico) presented seven recommendations to CSP 2017, including two newly prepared papers. Belgium has developed Q&A document to address common reporting challenges, and Sweden has written a working paper to help States to streamline their national reporting process. Another proposal is for there to be a database of national points of contacts, posted on the restricted part of the ATT Secretariat website.

Twenty-two states spoke during the session, as well as the ICRC and Control Arms.

Governments spoke in strong support of the recommendations made by the WGTR Co-Chairs, including the working papers, and no dissent to these proposals was heard.

All States affirmed their commitment to transparency in their statements. Several called for reports to be submitted:

- Publicly (Bulgaria, Germany, Norway and the UK)
- Timely (Bulgaria, Japan, UK and the EU)
- Accurately and comprehensively (Norway, the UK and the EU).

Burkina Faso, who have kept their reports private so far, committed to submitting its reports on time in the future but did not commit to public reporting.

A few additional issues were raised by States. The Netherlands and Spain raised the need to translate documents into other languages. Mexico thanked NGOs for their assistance in providing reporting guidance. Norway recommended that experts in risk assessments and export controls are integrated into the working discussions of the WGTR and the group on implementation, and Peru also called for human rights to be integrated into Annual Reports.

Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama all called for further work to develop an information exchange to detect and prevent diversion.

The UK took the opportunity to highlight their concern that public reporting might become a disincentive if it is used as a basis to criticise government decision-making.

Folade Mutota, on behalf of Control Arms, gave a [statement](#) reminding States that four things need are needed for good reporting (See photo below). "They must be timely. They must be comprehensive. They must be accurate. And they must be public. If States Parties can achieve these four simple steps, we will already be a good way down the road to achieving the transparency that the world desperately needs."

¹ Greece in addition submitted a report for 2016 despite not being required to do so yet.

Only Control Arms called for the national points of contact database to be kept public.

General Debate (continued)

The remaining speakers that were unable to deliver their General Debate statements were finally able to speak on the afternoon of Day 3.

Brazil used its General Debate statement to urge greater compliance with the ATT. Haiti, Angola and Kazakhstan all gave positive statements, and declared themselves to be in the final stages of becoming ATT State Parties.

Senegal, whose ATT Annual Report for 2016 is currently private, took the floor to say that this was the result of a misunderstanding, and that they did not mean for their report to be kept classified. Senegal's ATT Initial Report was not addressed in the statement.

UNMAS, ECOWAS and the Wassenaar Arrangement, Control Arms and a Youth Delegation Switzerland all gave interventions.

Control Arms [called](#) for states to make the ATT a reality for the millions of people who suffer from armed violence, while the [Youth Delegation](#) Switzerland reminded delegates that youth have an important part to play in the ATT implementation process and should be able to meaningfully participate in it.

Universalization

Day 3 ended with a session on ATT Universalization. Dumisani Dladla gave a presentation on the current Treaty status, noting that there are significant regional differences, and that while 27 of the top 50 arms exporters are part of the ATT, only 15 of the top recipients are members.

The Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Universalization (WGTU – Nigeria and Finland) gave presentations on outreach trips to Asia, Africa and the Americas by the President of CSP 2017.

Seventeen speakers took the floor during this session, which will continue on Day 4.

The following key themes emerged in statements given on Day 3:

- The role of civil society (Australia, Bulgaria, Japan, Sierra Leone, Uruguay)
- The role of regional bodies (Argentina, Sierra Leone)
- The link between good implementation of the ATT and its universalization (Australia, Bulgaria)
- The need for material to be translated into more languages (South Africa)
- Australia introduced their new report, 'Reinvigorating the Narrative', produced with the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction.

France reiterated their proposal for a 'Troika' system. This was first suggested by France and Italy at CSP 2016, and involves the former, current and future Presidents of the CSP working together to ensure a longer-term approach to universalization. This proposal was supported by Bulgaria and Sweden.

Side Events

There were five side events on Day 3.

Control Arms, SIPRI and Sweden co-hosted an event on the role of outreach and assistance activities in aiding ATT Universalization and Implementation. The panellists discussed lessons learned and best practices from various ATT implementation assistance activities and stressed the importance of establishing synergies between the ATT and other instruments.

Australia and the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction launched their new publication on the broader benefits of the ATT, which seeks to persuade ATT sceptics and promote a wider membership of the ATT particularly in Asia and the Pacific. Areas of ATT benefits examined by the report include, human and regional security, synergies with the SDGs, and adding market values for responsible industries.

Small Arms Survey and the Stimson Center presented key findings from their new reports relating to transparency and reporting experiences and practice. Germany top this year's barometer, measuring the openness of major exporters, closely followed by Switzerland, the Netherlands and Serbia.

UNIDIR, France and Finland led a discussion of the synergies between the ATT and the POA. The event explored approaches to better regulate the transfer of small arms and light weapons, including promoting greater transparency in transfers.

Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung and the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons co-hosted a panel event on the role of parliamentarians and civil society in implementing and universalizing the ATT in Africa. Panellists discussed national experiences in Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone where parliamentarian networks had, or could, benefit ATT universalization, but may require further engagement and capacity building to utilise their potential.

See Control Arms' [video diary](#) from Day 3

