

## Statement at the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting

Under the ATT all States are legally obliged to report fully and accurately both on steps taken to implement the Treaty and on imports and exports of conventional arms covered under Article 2.1. One hundred per cent compliance is required, yet it remains to be achieved.

Nevertheless, examples of good practice do exist. Some States Parties have submitted detailed arms export and import data, in some instances including such information as the make of weapons exported or imported and details of their end user. These practices represent the standard to which all States Parties should work towards. However, it must be said that too many States are failing to report, while the quality of reporting among those who do is variable.

There has been a notable level of inconsistency in States Parties' annual reporting over the past few years: for example, Australia and Hungary reported some additional comments on heavy weapons exports in their reports for the calendar year 2015 but not in their reports for 2016, while for Germany and Slovenia the reverse was true. Also, an increasing number of States Parties are opting for secrecy: for example, Liberia, Panama and Senegal made their 2015 annual reports public but not their 2016 reports. And in some cases, States Parties' ATT annual reports have covered less information than the same report that is submitted to the UN Register of Conventional Arms.

At the same time, thus far, not one single State Party has provided an update to their initial report. It is hard to believe that there have been no further developments in legislation, regulations or other provisions among any of the States Parties since they first reported.

Furthermore, an analysis conducted by Control Arms in the 2017 ATT Monitor shows discrepancies in reporting across states. In 2016, there were a number of cases of mismatches between reported imports and corresponding exports of States Parties. When the data provided on small arms and light weapons transfers by 17 countries was examined, only six per cent of the 435 export entries corresponded exactly with the import entry provided by the importing state. There are likely to be a range of explanations for this: for example some States Parties may not be entirely clear on what information they should be providing; others may have capacity constraints that prevent them from reporting fully; others may be reluctant to make full details of their arms exports or imports available. The Baseline Assessment Project has done extensive research into this along with thoughts on responses to the different types of problems that have been encountered by States Parties and would be happy to share this in the context of a future meeting of this Working Group.

Nevertheless, it is important to recognise that reporting is challenging for some States Parties – notably those facing capacity constraints and/or that have limited experience in reporting in the field of arms transfer control. However some States Parties with a great deal of experience in this area are failing to report fully – suggesting a lack of political will or commitment to providing all the information that is required.

We commend the facilitators for their exhaustive efforts to provide resources and guidance for reporting. We worry, however, that some States Parties that are struggling to report will be looking for simpler, more practical solutions and that there needs to be more of a focus on individual circumstances and needs. We need to help States to engage in the reporting process in a meaningful



way – going beyond the people in this room, as necessary, to those in capitals who will have the primary responsibility to produce their national reports.

We believe that it will be essential to develop a practical partnership between those with the knowledge of how to report and those facing challenges in this regard. This Working Group should develop mechanisms/processes to enable the provision of appropriate assistance. Perhaps this could include the development of a 'roster of experts' who could provide advice or assistance, upon request, to those States Parties seeking help with fulfilling their reporting obligations. Control Arms colleagues have significant experience in identifying and analysing the challenges to full and accurate reporting and have also developed tools that could assist in the reporting process. We would be happy to share these experiences and resources with this Working Group, perhaps at the next meeting.

Thank you.