



## **Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

**September 11- 15 2017**

**Geneva**

### **Transparency and Reporting**

Mr President,

We call on all States to be transparent. Transparency is an antidote to corruption. It is a tool to tackle diversion and expose Treaty violations, and ultimately, to save lives.

Yet, despite the hard work of many States Parties and the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting, overall progress on reporting has been disappointing.

Reporting is a clear Treaty obligation. But, so far, as so clearly demonstrated earlier by the Head of the ATT Secretariat, less than 75% of required reports have been submitted.

We are however encouraged to see the overwhelming majority of countries that HAVE submitted reports have done so publicly. But we note that three countries, Liberia, Panama and Senegal, have kept their Annual Reports confidential this year.

Worryingly, several annual reports have also withheld transfer data without elaborating how much, or why. Such secrecy can convey the impression that States Parties withholding information have something to hide.

In addition, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo have all chosen to keep their Initial Reports confidential. We urge all States Parties to report in full and in public.

We encourage State Parties to see Initial Reports not as a burden, but as a tool to demonstrate progress, and to highlight their assistance needs. It is also important that States Parties update their Initial Reports as they address implementation gaps. This will help them to show what progress has been made, and to best guide future international assistance efforts.



Control Arms believes that it is important that any database of national points of contact should be posted on the public part of the ATT Secretariat website. We fail to see how restricting access to the database would be consistent with the Treaty's declared commitment to transparency.

Civil society has a role to play here. Control Arms members have provided guidance and tools to assist reporting, and stand ready to support States in meeting their reporting obligations in future.

Mr President

There are four things that are needed in reporting. 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.