

Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR) 2nd Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 6 April 2017

The second meeting of the WGTR was co-chaired by Sweden and Mexico. At least 43 states participated in the meeting, with 13 taking the floor during discussions.

Dumisani Dladla, Head of the ATT Secretariat, provided a breakdown of reporting rates so far. Key findings included:

- 57 States Parties have submitted an **Initial Report**. 23 States Parties due to submit a report have not done so yet.
- 93% of Initial Reports have been submitted publicly. Only four reports have been kept confidential.
- Lowest regional reporting rates for initial reports are in the Americas (11/20), and Africa (9/17).
- 49 States Parties have submitted an **Annual Report** (77% of the 61 due to report by 31 May 2016).
- Two States Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Luxembourg) have already submitted their annual reports for this year.
- Only one country (Slovakia) has kept their annual report for 2015 private.

The ATT Secretariat has sent reporting reminders in January, and will be sending new reminders out to States Parties at the end of April. Bulgaria, Guatemala, Japan and Switzerland all questioned if the ATT Secretariat could follow-up with states that had not reported yet to identify reasons for non-compliance. The ATT Baseline Assessment Project will be distributing a questionnaire to states to identify some of the challenges faced in meeting reporting deadlines.

An issue in the initial report template was identified whereby states were not explicitly asked to provide a name and contact details for a point of contact (only whether one existed), and it was agreed that the ATT Secretariat should identify active national points of contacts for each ATT State Party.

States discussed ways to improve reporting compliance. Belgium outlined proposals to develop reporting guidelines, based on existing resources such as guidelines already prepared for the UN Register on Conventional Arms (UNROCA). This proposal was supported by the Netherlands and Sweden. While it was felt that new guidelines could not be developed before CSP 2017, Belgium has agreed to try and develop a draft Frequently Asked Question resource in time for this year's Conference.

Sweden introduced a [paper originally submitted at CSP 2016](#) to help States to reduce confusion and fatigue over their multiple reporting obligations. The proposal outlines a process to identify key deadlines, what information is needed for each report, which agencies and personnel have the necessary information, and how data collection can be coordinated. Several countries (Germany, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Japan, Belgium) spoke in favour of this document as a way to streamline the administrative reporting burden, although it was noted that it may be less relevant for countries with very different approaches. The Co-Chairs requested that states with different national administrative experiences should provide

alternative guidance so that a broader range of advice for states could be submitted to CSP 2017.

Control Arms highlighted the useful role that civil society can play in helping states to manage their reporting obligations, and stressed that any guidance produced (e.g. about required information for reporting) recognised that the ATT urges states to go beyond the minimum levels outlined in the Treaty itself.

Mexico introduced its new paper outlining an information exchange mechanism to prevent diversion. The proposal outlines a structured approach between States Parties that can be undertaken at several stages throughout the transfer decision-making process. The ATT Secretariat would help to facilitate any exchanges, and would provide data on subsequent denials or authorizations in support of the ATT's goal to ensure greater transparency in the arms trade. Control Arms made an intervention encouraging further work on this topic, noting that unless you have a mechanism in place for information to be shared, less information is shared as a matter of course. Several states (Guatemala, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, UK) raised initial questions and supported further discussions, but as the paper was only issued shortly before the meeting states had not prepared more developed views.

A [new statement of work](#) has been issued for an improvement project for the ATT Secretariat's website. Work has been delayed while the ATT Secretariat held consultations to try and reduce the cost.

Japan proposed that the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting should be merged with the Working Group on Implementation, or turned into a subsidiary body. The UK and Netherlands spoke in support of the proposal, but no decision was made.

Decisions on future work:

- Developing an FAQ guidance document for states on reporting obligations (Belgium)
- Identifying active national points of contact (ATT Secretariat)
- Issuing reporting reminders to states (ATT Secretariat)
- Draft proposal for reporting compliance to be a permanent feature on CSP agendas (Co-Chairs)
- New inputs on national administrative procedures (all States)
- Feedback for 'food-for-thought' paper on diversion information exchange (all States)
- Draft mandate for work between CSP 2017 and CSP 2018 (Co-Chairs)