



**Working Group on Transparency and Reporting  
January 31, 2019  
Geneva**

**Delivered by: Katherine Young**

Statement One

Thank you Chairs,

Promoting transparency is a key purpose of the Treaty, as stated in Article 1. Transparency with regard to exports and imports can help shed light on global arms transfers, mitigate the risks associated with an arms trade conducted in secret, and serve as a confidence-building measure that promotes international cooperation and assistance. Public, comprehensive and timely reporting is essential to assist States Parties in making export-licensing decisions and is an important component of proper implementation of risk assessments set out in Article 7 and preventing diversion in Article 11.

Though some progress has been made, as made clear this morning in the presentation by the ATT Secretariat, a worrying number of States Parties have not complied with their reporting obligations. Article 13 is clear: States Parties **must** submit initial reports on their control systems and annual reports on their exports and imports. To date only 68 of 92 Initial Reports due to be submitted have been received. This past year, only 36 of the required 89 Annual Reports for calendar year 2017 were submitted by the legal deadline. Though more States Parties have since submitted reports, as noted today by the ATT Secretariat, Control Arms calls on all States Parties to meet their reporting obligations, and to do so on time.

We note that the ATT Secretariat did not touch upon the *quality* of reports that have been submitted. The analysis we have undertaken, which can be found in the ATT Monitor Annual Reports and which we encourage States Parties to examine, shows there is still a great deal to be done in this regard as well. We urge States Parties not to focus only on quantity, but to also look at how to ensure reports are accurate and comprehensive.

Article 13 requires States Parties to report on any new measures taken to implement the Treaty. We welcome that Sweden submitted their updated report to the ATT Secretariat in September 2018. Control Arms encourages other States Parties to submit updates to their reports as well. These updates are an important means of informing on efforts to implement the Treaty and in identifying assistance needs and gaps. Control Arms encourages all states to update their reports



to reflect any recent changes to national systems in a step that would help demonstrate the ATT is meeting one of its core objectives.

Additionally, of the 68 Initial Reports that have been submitted, 11 have been kept confidential. Control Arms believes it is crucial that ATT processes and outputs are properly transparent, that is: in the public domain.

There are worrying signs that this is not getting the attention it needs. For example, this morning's report by the ATT Secretariat regarding the extent of confidential reporting was met without any apparent concern from States Parties. We see this as an issue that should receive the attention of this Working Group.

To summarise, Control Arms calls on all States Parties to submit public, timely and comprehensive Annual Reports.

Thank you.

## **Statement Two**

Thank you Chairs,

As we stated during the meeting of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation sub-group on General Implementation, Control Arms strongly endorses discussions with the World Customs Organization to better harmonise HS customs codes with items subject to control within the ATT context. Beyond transparency, this has great significance for improving general implementation of the Treaty's other provisions. It will ensure government export and trading systems relating to wider control of goods, such as customs controls, or import and transit and transshipment can more easily identify ATT controlled goods within those national systems, a task that remains difficult while the relevant data is not harmonised.

Also with respect to the question of full transparency, which was touched on in our earlier intervention, Control Arms supports an informal meeting that allows States Parties to discuss concrete examples of diversion in the margins of the April Working Group meetings. However, in order to best respect the Treaty's purpose of promoting transparency it is important that any such informal meetings are open to civil society and international organisations.



Finally, Chair, referring back briefly to the previous agenda item, I would like to advise that Control Arms feels a number of improvements could be made to the existing templates. We plan to submit these to you in writing in the very near future. For example, we think changes can be made to the treatment of so-called mandatory and optional reporting requirements.

Thank you.