Thank you, Chairs.

Public, comprehensive, comparable and timely reporting is essential, and can assist States Parties in conducting risk assessments, making export-licensing decisions and preventing diversion. Reports can reveal trends and dynamics in the arms trade and may also point to the potential for destabilizing accumulations. Public reporting also provides information vital to distinguishing legal transfers from illicit ones, and can act as a brake on diversion. These are key security benefits arising from the Treaty.

We welcome the Working Group’s efforts to think about ways to improve the reporting templates and also to facilitate information exchange in relation to concrete cases of diversion. With regard to who should be involved in such exchanges, civil society has significant experience in uncovering, documenting and analyzing cases of diversion and of generating ideas and facilitating discussions as to how to respond to such events. As a result we would strongly argue that civil society - and industry, who also has an important role to play in tackling diversion - should be included in any information exchange and discussion fora that will address this topic.