



**Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR)
ATT Monitor Complete Intervention, April 2021**

State of play of compliance with reporting obligations

Thank you, Co-Chairs:

The ATT Monitor, an independent project of Control Arms, would like to first commend both the Working Group Co-Chairs and the ATT Secretariat on the efforts taken to continue the important work of supporting States Parties in fulfilling reporting obligations. As the challenges raised by COVID-19 circumstances have yet to subside, these efforts are especially appreciated as a useful means of moving work forward without the opportunity for in-person discussions.

ATT Monitor analysis of 2019 ATT annual reports shows that challenges raised by COVID-19 may have affected some States Parties' ability to submit reports last year. The on-time completion rate for 2019 annual reports is the lowest of any year at 37 percent, as is the overall reporting compliance rate at 62 percent. The public-health crisis forced many governments to reorient their work patterns to focus on more immediate priorities, and to accommodate a virtual environment. Government officials may have had limited capacities or limited access to the information necessary to complete their reports. However, despite these challenges, the geographic and systemic diversity of those that were able to report by the deadline demonstrates that lack of political will likely remains a significant impediment to ATT reporting.

It may be the case that challenges raised by COVID-19 will again affect States Parties' ability to submit reports this year, and ongoing analysis of reporting trends will have to take stock of such challenges when identifying reporting patterns over time. To better support States Parties in fulfilling reporting obligations, the ATT Monitor will be interested in identifying why COVID-19 may have presented challenges for States and in developing recommendations to help increase resilience in reporting capacity. Because annual reporting is an obligation in Article 13.3, there is still work to be done to support full compliance of these obligations by all States Parties now and in the future.

Private reporting continues to pose a challenge to transparency. The rate of public reporting continued to drop with the submission of 2019 annual reports, as only 49 percent of States Parties obliged to submit a report submitted one that was publicly available, and several States appear to have altered their reporting behaviours towards more privacy. The continued trend of private reporting is concerning, as private reports create a challenge for identifying global arms exports and imports, prevent a public accounting of arm sales, and impede the identification of particularly troubling transfers or potentially troubling arms accumulations.

As with annual reports, there remains an upward trend towards private reporting for initial reports, as 21 percent of all those submitted are confidential. Additionally, 25 percent of States Parties due to submit an initial report have yet to do so. However, the lack of updates to initial reports is also concerning, as each State Party has an obligation to report to the ATT Secretariat on any new measures undertaken in order to implement the Treaty. So far, only four States - New Zealand, Slovenia, Japan and Sweden - have



provided such updates. We welcome updates from States, such as Belgium, who have recently signaled its intentions to provide relevant information on updated national systems.

The ATT Monitor supports efforts by the Working Group Co-Chairs and ATT Secretariat in increasing States Parties' awareness of this obligation and in supporting States in making such updates, including amendments to the initial reporting templates. We look forward to these discussions in the agenda items to follow.

Thank you.