

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

STATEMENT ON TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

**Delivered by: Matthew Steadman
24 August 2022**

Thank you Mr President,

The ATT Monitor would like to commend the Working Group co-chairs, the German presidency and the ATT Secretariat for continuing to provide resources and guidance on reporting during the intersessional period prior to CSP8. We fully support the collective work done to improve compliance with reporting obligations so that all States Parties can report fully, accurately and on time.

Our analysis shows that the overall rate of reporting compliance for 2021 annual reports is the lowest in seven years of annual reporting. As the ATT Secretariat presented this morning, to date, just 57 per cent of 2021 annual reports have been submitted, compared to 84 per cent for 2015.

In conjunction with this, our research highlights that the rate of public reporting continued to drop in 2021. To date, only 37 per cent of States Parties required to submit a report have submitted one that is publicly available.

Confidential reporting, on the other hand, has continued its upward trend. 35 per cent of the 2021 annual reports submitted to date are confidential, compared to 30 per cent of 2020 reports and just 4 per cent of 2015 reports.

These trends are concerning as they threaten to significantly undermine the Treaty's transparency aims and objectives.

However, there is a notable positive trend that I want to highlight. We welcome the submission of past due reports by a number of States Parties over the last year. We want to commend these States Parties for abiding by their reporting obligations and encourage others to follow their example and submit past due reports. We recognise that building national reporting capacity takes time and we want to emphasize that it is never too late to report.

Finally, the ATT Monitor welcomes the recommendations of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting for CSP8, in particular, the call to States Parties to make use of the information exchange platform to share information on reporting challenges and good practice. Similarly, we welcome the call to continue implementing the Outreach Strategy on Reporting that was adopted at CSP4, and to use all available means to actively engage with States Parties on reporting issues.

The ATT Monitor also stands ready to engage bilaterally with States Parties and to assist them in strengthening their reporting practice.

I thank you Mr President.