

## Launch of the ATT Monitor Arms Transfers Dashboard

### Slide 1

Thank you, Chair. Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ms. Chair Andrea Quezada, Ms. Carina Solmirano and her team at the ATT Secretariat, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. First, I wish to thank the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting for the kind invitation to the ATT Monitor. It is a great honor for the ATT Monitor to be able to speak in this forum, and a testament of the excellent work that this project, and many colleagues who have worked at this project over the years, have conducted since the launch of this project in January 2015. My name is Andrea Edoardo Varisco, and I now lead the ATT Monitor Project. Today, along with my colleague, Ms. Sol Zoe Nottage, we will present to you the ATT Monitor Arms Transfers Dashboard, a resource that has been developed thanks to the kind support of the Netherlands, which we would like to thank, along with Canada, for their continuous support to the work of the ATT Monitor. Sol has developed the Arms Transfers Dashboard; she has been following the technical work behind the creation of the dashboard, and responded to queries from the public since then. For this reason, I will begin with a brief introduction, then hand over to Sol, who will guide you through the dashboard. After that, I will share some short concluding remarks from the ATT Monitor.

I wish to begin by looking at the general picture and at how the work of the ATT Monitor supports the main object and purposes of the Treaty. The ATT was adopted with the primary objective of promoting responsible arms transfers, and one of its main purposes is to promote cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms, thereby building confidence among them. In this regard, the ATT Monitor has been a critical tool for ensuring that the spirit of the Treaty is not only upheld, but actively implemented. Over the past 10 years, the ATT Monitor has played a significant role in amplifying the dialogue around arms transfers, their impact, and the importance of state responsibility. Last year, we conducted a survey about the work of the ATT Monitor and collected information and feedback from more than 40 representatives of governments and civil society. More than 95% of the respondents stated that they read the ATT Monitor annual report ‘often or sometimes’, and that they read all parts of it (**slide 2**). All respondents said that the ATT Monitor report was useful for their work (with almost 55% stating it was very useful) (**slide 3**).

So, based on the work carried out since January 2015, last year the ATT Monitor team has developed the **ATT Monitor Arms Transfers Dashboard**, a tool that encapsulates almost a decade of meticulous data gathering, reporting,

and analysis aimed at improving transparency and accountability in the global arms trade. The tool provides a graphical representation of the distribution, dimensions, and dynamics of the arms trade. It has been developed to assist states, researchers, and civil society in accessing and analyzing vital data on arms transfers.

**Slide 4:** So what is the dashboard?

First, it is a civil society-based global resource that provides information and a visual representation on arms transfers reported by States Parties to the ATT. It is important to underline how the Dashboard is based on and includes the data that have been submitted publicly to the ATT Secretariat in annual reports. We will return on this later in our presentation, but, in this regard, let me thank all States that, over the years, have publicly reported their arms transfers.

Second, it is a comprehensive dataset on the international arms trade.

And third, its primary aim is to offer independent analysis and insights. It is a judge-free tool.

**Slide 5:**

So let me now leave the floor to Sol, who can tell you a bit more about the background of the Dashboard, guide you through the work that has been done to develop it, and show you some of its key features.

As you might be aware, the ATT Monitor Report has analysed data and trends in reporting over the years. Since we started collecting data from ATT annual reports, we realized that we had an immense amount of information that was not being properly used, except for our own research in the ATT Monitor Report. With over 25,000 rows of data compiled from 453 annual reports since 2015, our goal was to enhance and better organize this information for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The ATT Working Group on Transparency and Reporting had discussed the feasibility of developing an online database to harness information from annual reports submitted to the ATT Secretariat, but this issue did not go any further.

Since we had been eager to develop this tool for a long time, we decided to take the lead ourselves.

**Slide 6: main menu:**

So, let me guide you through the ATT Monitor Arms Transfers Dashboard and its different pages and features.

With this tool you can:

- easily look for information from States Parties on global arms transfers
- create reports with up to date information
- confirm or double check previous data reported by your country

On the screen, you can see the home page of the dashboard. The dashboard has 5 sections, where you can find information from a broader view, a regional analysis and a more detailed perspective (including some country profiles).

### **Slide 7: Overview of Reported Transfers:**

The first section is the “Reported arms transfers overview map”. The Dashboard provides a clear **summary of arms transfers** reported by States Parties, categorized by **types of arms, number of transfers, and reporting periods**. This section allows users to get an overview of global arms transfers over time, making it easy to identify patterns.

Additionally, this page features a global map where each circle represents the total number of transfers reported by each country.

One thing to emphasize is that the information included in the dashboard refers **only to the number of units** reported by States, not their financial value.

### **Slide 8: Arms Transfers Summary:**

A second section of the Dashboard offers a breakdown of **different arms categories** that have been transferred. Whether you are looking at **major conventional arms** or **small arms**, the Dashboard allows for easy sorting and viewing by **type of arms** and by specific **exporting and importing countries**.

A feature worth mentioning is the ability to view the different arms categories covered by the ATT and **regional trends**. Here on this tab, you can see **the flow of arms transfers across different regions**, with specific emphasis on certain categories of arms.

This allows for **comparative analysis** between regions, and you can track how particular arms categories have shifted across different geopolitical landscapes over the years, or look for transfers to specific regions to understand risks for regional security.

## **Slide 9: Country profiles:**

One of the most user-friendly features of the Dashboard is the ability to **filter data** by country, time period, and type of arms. This feature lets you drill down and isolate the relevant data, whether they are exports, imports, authorized or actual (or both), etc.

So the **dropdown menus** you see on the left of this section allow users to select specific countries and reporting years, making the analysis tailored to your needs.

## **Slide 10: Reporting good practices**

This section shows detailed information about State's Parties reporting practices. **It is crucial information for this Working Group because it showcases how States are reporting, their good practices in reporting and includes suggestions for improvement.** Similar information has been included in the country profiles section in the annual ATT Monitor Reports since 2018. Users can select a State and see its reporting practices since it has become a State Party.

With regard to reporting practices, we highly value States Parties that offer as much transparency in their annual reports as possible. Additionally, the ATT Monitor offers suggestions to States Parties for ways to improve reporting. For example, one excellent way to be recognized for good reporting is for a State Party to report:

1. disaggregation of weapon types
2. trading partners
3. include units or financial value
4. as well as descriptions and comments.

Last year, only 14 States Parties provided this additional information.

## **Slide 11: Reporting practices**

The final section of the dashboard shows different annual reporting practices including number of reports submitted by year (either public or confidential), nil reports, and reports that indicated they had withheld information. You may be familiar with this information, as it is also included in our annual ATT Monitor reports.

This section ties back to the need for transparency, as even ticking the category withholding information can be considered good practice.

Thank you for listening. Now, I'll turn it back over to Andrea.

## **Slide 12: What the Dashboard Does Not Include**

Thank you, Sol.

While the **ATT Monitor Dashboard** is a rich tool for analyzing the global arms trade based on data provided by States Parties, there are some important limitations to acknowledge:

**It is not a Comprehensive Global Arms Trade Database:** Unlike databases such as (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) **SIPRI's Arms Transfers Database**, which tracks major arms transfers globally compiling data from a variety of open sources, the ATT Monitor Dashboard is focused solely on the data **reported publicly by States Parties** to the ATT.

This means that it does not cover all global arms transfers, as some states are not States Parties to the ATT, may choose not to report certain transfers, or might not report publicly. Therefore, the **Dashboard** is not directly comparable to SIPRI in terms of breadth and sources of data.

Second, it does not include ammunition, even when some States Parties report it voluntarily. We would like to explore the feasibility to include this information in the dashboard in the future.

However, the ATT Monitor Dashboard **can allow for comparisons with other reporting mechanisms**, such as the **United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA)**. States often report similar or overlapping information to both the ATT and UNROCA, so users of the Dashboard can compare data across these platforms for a more comprehensive view of specific arms categories. This, taking into account, however, that ATT annual reports also include authorized transfers whereas UNROCA reflects actual transfers.

## **Slide 13: Why is this important?**

Transparency is one of the most critical pillars of the ATT, and the ATT Monitor Arms Transfers Dashboard enhances transparency more than ever before. It makes it possible to analyze **State reporting patterns** and assess how the Treaty is being implemented across different regions.

From a data and transparency point of view, I believe that the dashboard could provide some very important information. For example, the data in the dashboard, along with its comparison to other sources of data, could help to understand the volume of global trade that is covered by the ATT and its States

Parties, the percentage of this trade information which is publicly accessible to all ATT stakeholders, as well as reporting patterns vis-a-vis other instruments, such UNROCA.

This tool can be critical in understanding the flow of arms and the risks associated with certain transfers. It can track how arms transfers intersect with regions in conflict and can provide insights into arms transfers to areas that witness or have experienced cases of **gender-based violence** and **violence against children**, issues that are part of Treaty implementation. Thus, by analyzing arms trade data through these lenses, the Dashboard contributes directly to the practical implementation of the ATT.

Of course, the creation of the Dashboard would not have been possible without the continuing efforts of States Parties toward transparency and reporting. I therefore want to acknowledge the role of the **States Parties**. The success of this Dashboard, and indeed the ATT as a whole, is dependent on your continued commitment to transparent reporting. Your willingness to submit comprehensive and timely reports not only helps improve our data, but it strengthens the global effort to regulate the arms trade effectively. The more complete the data are, the more powerful our analysis will be, and the more transparent the arms trade will be.

#### **Slide 14: Looking ahead**

Finally, let me say a few words on the next steps for the dashboard. The ATT Monitor Dashboard is not a static tool. As we move forward, we intend to expand its capabilities, incorporating **new data** and enhancing its functionalities to meet the evolving needs of its users. Since last year, we have already made some changes to facilitate end users' experience of the dashboard. The ATT Monitor team remains committed to updating the database regularly and ensuring that it remains a **reliable source of information** for years to come. I hope that you, as States Parties committed to transparency and reporting, can support this effort moving forward, and I will be very happy to talk separately with you on possible ways in which you could support this work and the work of the ATT Monitor.

In closing, I encourage you all to explore the Dashboard, utilize it in your work, and provide feedback to help us improve it. The success of this tool lies in its use, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an indispensable resource in advancing the objectives of the ATT.

Once again, I thank you for your attention. My colleague Sol and I look forward to receiving your questions.