



Statement of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Arms Trade Treaty

Eleventh Conference of States Parties (CSP11)

Agenda item 8: Transparency and Reporting

Geneva, 28 August 2025

delivered by

Daniël Koolen

Policy officer conventional arms control & arms export control

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In our national capacity, we would like to add the following remarks.

Mr. President,

Continued transparency and timely reporting are more than formal obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty; they are, in our view, the backbone that supports the Treaty's integrity and long-term relevance. Transparency contributes to confidence-building between States Parties, provides the factual basis for constructive exchange of information, and enables us to collectively assess progress toward the Treaty's objectives. Without it, our collective ability and responsibility to regulate the international arms trade risks being weakened, and the relevance of the Treaty being diminished. Thus, The Kingdom of the Netherlands greatly appreciates the efforts of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting, as well as the work of the ATT Secretariat, in assisting States to meet their obligations.

The Netherlands publishes regular up-to-date overviews on all licenses granted and denied, including information on the type of goods, destination country and if applicable the reason for the denial. Since 1996, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also submits an annual report to the Dutch Parliament. This report not only provides an overview of granted and denied licenses but also offers insight into broader decisions shaping Dutch arms export control policy.

Unfortunately, and again, it is very concerning to witness a continued downward trend in reporting under the ATT. In 2023, only 62% of States Parties submitted their annual reports, marking the lowest participation rate since the inception of ATT reporting. Moreover, just 24% of those reports provided a level of transparency that enables meaningful analysis, which is also a record low. While the number of reports marked as confidential has decreased, the rate of timely submissions remains unchanged at only 44%, and many reports still leave unclear whether the figures refer to authorizations or actual transfers. This persistent shortfall makes it more difficult to identify risks, address potential diversions, and take informed decisions on arms export controls. In the longer term, it risks eroding the very trust and cooperation on which the ATT depends. As we have previously done, we call on all States Parties that have not done so to submit the required reports on time. We also encourage States to submit as much information publicly as possible.

Mr. President,

We wish to thank the facilitators of this working group for the draft report for CSP's consideration. While we endorse this draft report's recommendations almost entirely, we would ask States to reconsider mandating this working group to further investigate the creation of a searchable database that makes available the information that States have provided in their annual reporting. This would be an important development to help increase transparency while maximizing the use of the data that is collected via reporting. As States Parties, we are collectively bound by the transparency and reporting obligations of the ATT.

Our Treaty is not just a set of articles on paper; it is a living instrument which is built on trust and shared responsibility. Let us work together to uphold this commitment, ensuring the ATT remains a trusted framework for regulating the conventional arms trade; an achievement we have dedicated great effort to building. The Kingdom of the Netherlands remains ready to share its national practices and experiences, and to support initiatives aimed at overcoming obstacles to transparency and reporting.

Thank you.