



Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Working Group on Transparency and Reporting Agenda Item 3: Substantive Reporting & Transparency Issues

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Thank you Co-Chairs,

The ATT Monitor would like to commend the Working Group co-chairs and the ATT Secretariat for continuing to provide resources and guidance on reporting during this intersessional period prior to CSP8. We welcome the presentation by UNIDIR and would like to take this opportunity to provide our own comments on the issue of data aggregation.

Transparency in arms transfers is a central component of the ATT and fundamental to achieving its goals and objectives. We would like to draw attention to our most recent paper, titled "*Transparency and Reporting in the Global Arms Trade. Identifying Gaps in Reported Arms Transfers and Assessing States' Commitments to Transparency*" where we analyze ATT annual reporting practices and identify gaps in reported transfers in the context of the humanitarian crises in Yemen and Myanmar.

One of the identified gaps in the paper, and where we would like to focus our intervention today, is the issue of data aggregation in annual reports and the limited number of States Parties that share fully disaggregated data. This means: annual reporting that clearly and comprehensively breaks down individual weapon transfers by: (1) the number of units, (2) the final importing or exporting state, (3) the weapon sub-category and (4) that specifies whether all transfers are authorized or actual. This ensures that there is a clear record of how many weapons were transferred to or from a given country.

In 2020, 27 States Parties submitted fully disaggregated information for all the transfers they reported, representing 68% of the states that submitted publicly available reports. This figure has dropped consistently since 2017 and 2018, when 31 states reported in a fully disaggregated manner.

More broadly, only 16 States Parties have consistently provided fully disaggregated information for all their reported transfers between 2015 and 2020.

Our analysis also shows that small arms are the most frequently aggregated category of weapons, responsible for 57% of all aggregated transfers since 2015. ATT Monitor research has identified three specific sub-categories which are most prone to aggregation. These are the sub-categories "Revolvers & self-loading pistols", "rifles and carbines" and "Others (in small arms)."

From the trends that have been mentioned today, it is clear that the increase in private reporting, the declining rates of compliance with ATT reporting obligations and the enduring issue of data aggregation in annual reports, are reducing the share of reports submitted each year that contribute positively to the transparency aims and objectives of the treaty.



It is, however, also clear that some States Parties have shown a consistent commitment to meaningfully transparent and disaggregated reporting, but more can be done. We encourage the Working Group to explore ways in which those States Parties that stand out by their reporting, can share their good practices with others to help further transparency in the global arms trade. The ATT Monitor also stands ready to assist States Parties in strengthening their reporting practices, by providing practical advice and support throughout the reporting period.

I thank you Co-Chairs.