



Arms Trade Treaty
4th Conference of States Parties
Tokyo, 20-24 August 2018
Agenda Point 6: Transparency and Reporting

**General Remarks concerning
Transparency and Reporting**

Co-Chairs

Switzerland considers the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty's reporting obligation an important step towards transparency in the global arms trade. The Initial and Annual Reports provide us with information about the arms trade itself but also on the national systems States Parties have set in place in order to monitor and control the arms trade.

This information is essential to strengthen transparency and build mutual trust about adherence to the Treaty.

We therefore thank the Secretariat for providing a very useful overview on compliance with the Treaty's reporting obligations. As the numbers show, there seems to be room for improvement. We would like to recall that the initial and annual reports are obligations under the treaty and not voluntary. In this context, it is important that we take steps to ensure that these obligations are fulfilled by all States Parties.

In that regard, Switzerland would like to highlight two things:

1. First, we are fully aware that accurate reporting is a challenging task. For the Annual Report, States Parties must keep detailed records of all transfers of conventional arms that were approved. This is particularly challenging when a State Party does not have an electronic database. We therefore believe that there is great value in the provision of assistance to States Parties that may be facing challenges in putting in place such systems and welcome initiatives in this area. In this regard, we would like to point out that the *Center for Armed Violence Reduction* has developed a cost efficient and easy to use software called *National Arms Transfer Database*. It can be used as a national database for the registration of firearms and also as a database for import- and export licenses. The software contains different modules and can be fitted to a state's specific needs. With this database, the Annual Report for the ATT or the Report for UNROCA can be produced basically with one click on a button.

We therefore encourage all States Parties interested in an electronic database to consider contacting the *Center for Armed Violence Reduction* and to evaluate the software.

2. The second point we wish to highlight is the availability of the reported information. Having a web-based reporting tool is necessary in order to work with the provided data. We therefore appreciate the Secretariat keeping us up to date on developments in that regard.

Specific Remarks regarding the WGTR recommendations

Co-Chairs

First, we wish to thank you for your very able chairing of the Working Group. It has been a productive cycle that enabled the Convention to take the issue of transparency and reporting forward.

We welcome the recommendations that you put forward to the Conference of States Parties.

We welcome in particular

- Recommendation c. as we believe that cooperation in support of fulfilling reporting obligations is key to meet this important and challenging obligation under the Treaty;
- Recommendation d. as an improvement of the information exchange portal is necessary to facilitate exchanges among States, and we are looking forward to the new ATT website going online;
- We also welcome recommendation e. on diversion. Our work in the framework of the ATT in the preparation of CSP4 has underlined the significance of this issue that has been addressed by several working groups. In this regard, let me underline that this recommendation will have to be consolidated with those on the same issue appearing in the report of the WGETI.
- Finally, we believe that it is vital to continue the important work of the WGTR and we therefore support its proposed mandate for the period up to CSP5.

Thank you, Co-Chairs