



2026 Arms Trade Treaty Working Group Meetings, 16-19 March 2026

Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation

Establishing a national control system

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Fundamental to the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is the establishment of the national control system and national control list. Implementation of a national control system should demonstrate that there is regulation in both law and government institutions of the transfers of weapons into, out, and through a country. In other words, there is regulation of the imports, exports, transit and trans-shipment of conventional arms.

Following the presentation at last year's ATT Working Groups by UNIDIR which highlighted that a considerable number of ATT States Parties, up to approximately 50% of ATT States Parties, have not yet established a national control system or a national control list, it is clear that there is much work to be done.

While the adoption of the Wassenaar Arrangement's Munitions List by a number of ATT States Parties has enabled them to fulfil the requirements of Article 5 of the Treaty and keep abreast of updates to that list, this list has not been the solution for all States Parties.

For these reasons, we welcome continued discussions on this matter and hope they can proceed within this Sub-Working Group.

In the meantime, Control Arms encourages States Parties that have already established a national control system and control list to take two actions:

1. update their initial reports, reflecting the establishment of national control systems and the adoption of a national control list; and
2. present to the ATT Working Groups or an Informal Preparatory Meeting on how they developed their national control system and outline the key factors that enabled them to complete this work. For example, whether consultations were undertaken with a State of similar size or external assistance received for a particular project.

Sharing this information would provide a more up-to-date picture of progress in implementing Article 5 and help inform other States Parties that are still working on this issue about possible avenues of support.

Finally, Control Arms also encourages States Parties that have provided their national control list to the Secretariat, as per Article 5(4) of the Treaty, to indicate that they agree for these

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control lists to be made publicly available. The lists could be hosted on the ATT Secretariat website.

In this way, other States Parties can see how other States have implemented their national control lists, what they include, and possibly seek peer-to-peer assistance to develop one too. Similarly, organisations that have the knowledge and competence on this can support States Parties that do not have a national control list in the creation of these national control lists.