

## **Ireland – Transparency & Reporting**

**ATT CSP8, 22 – 26 Aug**

**Geneva**

- Thank you Mr. President
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the co-chairs for their tireless efforts in taking forward the important work of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting during this CSP cycle.
- Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to offer the following remarks in a national capacity.
- Ireland is increasingly concerned at the deteriorating state of ATT reporting. Timely, accurate, and comprehensive reporting are at the core of achieving the object and purpose of this Treaty. The uptick in private reporting is equally of concern; we would like to reiterate the significance of non-confidential reporting, as it increases the relevance of reports and facilitates accountability for export decisions.
- We recognise that many States Parties continue to experience difficulties meeting their ATT reporting requirements, including due to a lack of capacity and resources, internal coordination challenges and difficulties in conducting technical assessments, to name a few. In light of these various challenges, it is important that we redouble our collective efforts to overcome these obstacles, to increase the rate and quality of reporting and ultimately contribute to accountability and transparency in the international arms trade.
- Over the years, the ATT community has developed a myriad of guides, templates, reports, and working papers, including from a range of NGOs and think tanks, which do a fantastic job of clearly identifying the difficulties and obstacles in reporting, and offering concrete recommendations. At this stage, the reasons for reporting challenges are clear, as are their potential solutions.
- In this spirit, it is time that we as States Parties harness these resources to proactively tackle the growing issue of reporting rates, through exchange of best practices and through coordinated outreach under the remit of the WGTR, as envisioned in the ‘outreach strategy on reporting’ document adopted at CSP4. Addressing these challenges will in turn support our efforts across other critical aspects of Treaty implementation.
- This should form part of broader discussions within the stock taking initiative, as discussed in the side event yesterday hosted by Germany, to reinvigorate our work and optimize working methods.

- Finally, Ireland welcomes the draft mandate for the WGTR for the period September 2022 to August 2023, in particular the reference found in 3(a) to continue to exchange on substantive issues including gender considerations. We also look forward to continue discussions surrounding a potential online searchable database, which would go a long way in facilitating information exchange and transparency. The European Union presentation on their online database during our meetings in February was a great example of the functionality and utility of such a tool.

Thank you Mr. President.