

Oral Intervention

Transparency and Reporting in the Conventional Arms Trade Treaty – item 8

Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing Maat for Peace, Development, Human Rights and the Global Coalition for the Limitation of Armaments (GCLA) to participate in this important discussion about transparency and reporting under the 8th item of the Agenda.

Mr. President,

Both Maat for Peace, Development, Human Rights and the Global Coalition for the Limitation of Armaments (GCLA) underline the importance of public disclosure of all issues relevant to the global arms trade so that the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) could actually influence the behavior of the state parties.

The complete announcement of the operations of arms trade and legitimate deals between countries builds confidence among countries. This disclosure lays the basis for states and civil society in assessing the forms of implementing the ATT on the ground.

Therefore, the Conventional Arms Trade Treaty stressed the need to enhance cooperation, transparency and responsible work among state parties in the field of international trade of conventional weapons, which is necessary for building confidence among states.

Mr. President,

Enhancing international transparency is necessary to minimize illicit arms trafficking, and facilitate the joint efforts made by law enforcement agencies to identify, track and arrest black market traders. The absence of an effective transparency system makes it easier for illegal traders to carry out their illicit operations in secrecy.

Besides, reporting governments' exports and imports of weapons is an essential pillar through which civil society, journalists and the concerned citizens can ensure that governments fulfill their obligations in implementing the provisions of the treaty. The failure to obtain this statistical information in a timely manner will make the follow-up process very difficult.

Mr. President,

It is well known that countries have agreed to provide selected information about their exports and imports of weapons to certain mechanisms, such as the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms or the exchange of information on conventional weapons transfers between the countries participating in the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE). These mechanisms

Organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2016

Headquarters: 148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, Hadayek El Maadi, 4th Floor, No 41, Cairo, Egypt

Maat Training Center: 380 Corniche El Nil St., Gawhareet El Maadi Tower, 38th Floor, Tower B, Cairo, Egypt

490 El Maadi www.maatpeace.org

00(20) (2) 25266026 00(20) (2) 25266019



maat@maatpeace.org

+201226521170

highlight the value of monitoring weapons flows to detect the accumulation of weapons that are likely to be destabilizing.

However, the problem lies in knowing the type of information that the contracting countries will be binding to report, and the information that must be provided only on a voluntary basis, because many member states want to share only the minimum rate of exports and imports of traditional weapons, which threatens international stability. Hiding information and lack of transparency in the reports of both Armenia and Azerbaijan, for example, has contributed to fueling the conflict between them, leading to committing more violations of all relevant laws and norms. Russia has also hidden some information about its exports from the Iskander-M Ballistic missiles to Armenia in 2016. Israel also has hidden all its weapons exports to Azerbaijan,¹ which is a key reason behind the escalation of the conflict between them in 2020.

Mr. President,

Maat for Peace and the GCLA confirm that transparency and preparing reports are two basic elements of the effective controls for double use and arms trade, under Article 13 of the ATT.

They represent proof that countries implement monitoring policies that are in line with their national laws and international obligations and help identify and prevent the accumulation of destabilizing weapons.

Therefore, Maat for Peace and the GCLA recommend the following:

- The need to promote and improve the multilateral transparency instruments in the field of weapons transportation in order to ensure effective and consistent use of weapons transport controls aimed at limiting the possibility of armed conflict.
- At the national level, national governments must publish detailed annual statistics for imports and weapons exports;
- At the international level, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms must be gradually expanded to include all types of ammunition, including small and light arms.

Thank you, Mr. President