**Statement to the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting**

**Morning or afternoon Statement depending on the agenda**

**Transparency and access to information in arms transfers**

Thank you for giving me the floor,

Transparency and open access to information are crucial to effectively regulating arms transfers. Many countries lack transparency in the arms trade, with limited public and domestic oversight of arms transfers. Many countries keep their reports confidential. This makes it difficult to track the types, quantities and destinations of weapons.

In 2023, 69 States Parties submitted their annual reports to the ATT Secretariat, 17 of which made their reports for the same year confidential and chose not to make them publicly available. There are also a large number of States Parties that have not submitted any reports since their accession to the Treaty, including Afghanistan, Lebanon, Togo, Gabon and the Philippines.

Some governments avoid disclosing details of arms supplies for reasons of national security or bilateral relations. This affects transparency.

In contrast, the level of parliamentary oversight of arms transfers varies widely between countries.

**Maat believe that** if we want to enhance transparency and open access to information in international arms transfers, **we recommend:**

1. Review the confidentiality of reports and publish them fully to ensure transparency.
2. Update the laws on arms transfers in countries in line with the standards of the Arms Trade Treaty.
3. Include strict mechanisms for reporting arms transfers.
4. Strengthen parliamentary oversight of arms transfers in all countries.