



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands

delivered by

Ms. Henriette van Gulik

at

**Eight Conference of States Parties to
the Arms Trade Treaty**

Transparency and Reporting

Geneva, 24 August 2022

Thank you Mr. President.

The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

The Netherlands would like to thank both Co-Chairs, Ms Rodriguez and Ms Visser, for their dedicated and diligent efforts leading the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting over the past year.

Mr. President,

The Netherlands attaches great importance to transparency in arms trade. It is the absolutely essential building block for a meaningful and substantive exchange on arms export control and tracking progress towards full treaty implementation.

It is not acceptable that around half of all States Parties have not fully met their reporting obligations under the ATT. We are grateful that some States Parties have gone back and reported over previous years and encourage other States Parties to follow this example.

We are equally worried to see the continued rise of States Parties submitting their reports confidentially. We understand some of the sensitivities attached to arms trade, but we encourage states to submit as much information publicly as possible. This holds particularly true for the major arms exporters that have a special responsibility here.

The Netherlands has some of the most far reaching and comprehensive reporting practices. We report on a bimonthly basis on all licenses that we issue both for export as well as transit. These reports include information on the type of goods, final destination, and value of the goods. We report on all transit movements that do not require a license. Finally, we report on all denials, including the reason for the denial.

We feel that it is possible to have a thriving arms industry while maintaining a high level of transparency and therefore accountability and democratic legitimacy surrounding that trade. We stand ready to share our experiences with our ATT-partners.

I thank you