



Arms Trade Treaty 5th Conference of States Parties

Geneva 26-30 August 2019

Australia - Transparency and Reporting Statement

Mr President

First, we wish to thank Belgium and Mexico for their continued leadership of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting.

One of the aims of the ATT is to promote cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms so as to build confidence among States Parties.

Annual reports submitted by States Parties on their imports and exports of conventional arms are central to achieving this. Regrettably, the trend of reporting compliance by States Parties continues downwards. From 79% compliance in 2015, only 57% of states parties have submitted the reports due¹.

Therefore, we consider work of this working group to be vital to address this trend as a matter of urgency. We endorse the proposed mandate for the coming year as laid out in Annex C of the Working Group's report.

We will continue to explore options for mechanisms for information exchanges with States Parties with similar structures and challenges to Australia. We are particularly grateful for the Working Group's focus on diversion and we value the side events on this topic this week.

Consistent with the encouragement of the working group's co-chairs, Australia has been taking a proactive role in providing practical bilateral assistance to States Parties to meet their Article 13 reporting requirements.

Australia has supported the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction to develop the ArmsTracker database. ArmsTracker was developed with low capacity

¹ <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/annual-reports.html?templateId=209826>

states in mind to maintain accurate records of conventional weapons. This simple software also helps generate ATT compliant departmental and national reports at the press of a button.

It has already been installed in Samoa and Fiji and will soon be operational in Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Palau and West Africa's ECOWAS Secretariat.

We see great potential in ArmsTracker. It could be rolled out to many States Parties to help generate their annual reports.

We are also interested in the development of an information exchange portal through the ATT website, but note its success will depend on the degree to which States Parties engage with it and volunteer information.

Thank you Mr President