



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

## **Fifth Conference of the States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty**

*Geneva, 26-30 August 2019*

### **Transparency and reporting**

#### **Statement by Amb. Gianfranco Incarnato Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to express Italy's sincere appreciation for your and the Co-Chair's work throughout this year.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and would like to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Like others, Italy views with concern the low rate of reporting within the ATT, and the fact that it has been steadily decreasing since the Treaty's entry into force. In this light, we greatly welcome the continuation of discussions on ways to increase such rate, including by examining challenges that States Parties face in reporting, and possible, related solutions. We also welcome the guidance documents that were developed in the framework of the WGTR, as well as the development of the online reporting platform, for which we thank the Co-chairs and the Secretariat.

Concerning the way forward, in particular the proposed mandate of the Group for the next intersessional period, Italy remains convinced that continuing to review of the reporting templates is not, for the time being, the right way ahead, for a number of reasons.

First, as outlined in the Group's report to this CSP, the low reporting rate seems to be connected more to political, technical, and administrative reasons than to the format of the templates. Second, the templates were endorsed by the CSP only three years ago. While we are open to their periodic review, we believe that piecemeal and continuing changes may be counterproductive for those States that already abide by the reporting obligations, while not necessarily favoring the increase in the reporting rate. Third, while we understand the desire for a reporting format that allows for comparability and analysis, we also recall that the use of the

templates is voluntary, and States can use other formats if that makes the reporting process easier.

In light of the above, we believe that the WGTR should continue to focus on the political, administrative and technical challenges to reporting, building on the excellent work already conducted so far. In this context, we particularly welcome the FAQ guidance document as well as the document on national level measures to facilitate compliance with reporting obligations, and agree with their possible, further development. In addition, we are keen on discussing how all relevant stakeholders can contribute to the implementation of the "Outreach strategy on reporting" developed by the Group last year.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.