

CSP5 Transparency and Reporting: UK Statement

Thank you Co-Chairs,

I would like to align myself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and offer a few comments in a national capacity.

Firstly, we commend the co-chairs of Belgium and Mexico for your substantial work and contributions to this Working Group.

Transparency and reporting are key to the success of the ATT. We are therefore disappointed to note that the reporting rate has fallen this year. **The UK continues to encourage all States Parties to report fully, transparently and on time, in line with Treaty obligations.**

Several elements could be considered in order to improve the current state of reporting in the ATT.

Firstly, we welcome the online reporting mechanism as an additional option for completing annual reports, and we note the update to the Question & Answer guidance document on annual reporting obligations. However, **we must retain flexibility in reporting methods**, ensuring that all available options are clearly highlighted. The Treaty does not specify the use of a particular type of template. Reporting should be a simple and intuitive process, no matter which template or document is used, whether online or manually.

Second, the ATT should ensure a co-operative environment that promotes and encourages transparency between states. It is right that concerns are raised, but it remains the **responsibility of States** to establish appropriate ways to enable review within their **own jurisdictions**.

Third, **we must consider the risk of reporting fatigue**. Many States are party to a number of treaties and regimes, and have competing priorities when it comes to annual reporting. Anything that can simplify the reporting process will not only improve transparency, but also remove one of the disincentives to states contemplating joining the ATT.

Finally, a word on informal meetings ‘to discuss concrete cases of detected or suspected diversion’. We support this in principle, as it may provide an opportunity to identify common concerns and share best practice. However, **we reiterate that some elements might benefit from closed format discussion**, to allow states to openly exchange views.

Co Chairs, we stand ready to support further work in this area, thank you.