Taking Stock of Arms Trade Treaty Reporting

Rachel Stohl | Stimson Center
rstohl@stimson.org
Transparency Challenges

Compliance Issues
• Decreasing rates of compliance with reporting requirements

Private Reporting
• Increasing rates of private reporting

Information Issues
• Failing to update outdated reports
• Providing less detail than in other reports
• Omitting or withholding information
• Aggregating information
Reporting Challenges

1. Awareness and Understanding of ATT Obligations
   - Uncertainty/confusion regarding:
     - Reporting requirements/deadlines
     - Public reporting vs. private reporting vs. excluding information
     - How to collect information in ways that align with deadlines
     - Use of the reporting templates/online reporting tool
     - When updates are required and how to submit them

2. Capacity and Resource Challenges
   - Limited capacity and resources
   - Limited availability of relevant information
   - Lack of national point(s) of contact
   - Lack of time to complete report(s)
   - Underdeveloped/lack of internal systems to collect, compile, and store relevant information

3. Internal and Bureaucratic Challenges
   - Poor coordination between government agencies or lack of interagency process to facilitate report completion
   - Difficulty accessing and compiling relevant information
   - Difficulty conducting assessments of transfer control system
   - Difficulty preparing statistical data for ATT annual reports

4. Political/Security Challenges
   - Confidentiality concerns
   - Concerns related to the release of information regarded as sensitive
   - Reporting fatigue
   - Political interference
Recommendations

States Parties:
- Develop effective intragovernmental coordination systems
- Establish robust record keeping and database management systems and practices
- Promote accurate and transparent reporting
- Identify and leverage synergies across reporting frameworks

The WGTR, ATT Secretariat, and other stakeholders:
- Engage in detailed and coordinated outreach to identify obstacles and implement solutions
- Continue to address reporting concerns, uncertainties, and confusion
- Evaluate the use and impact of the revised templates
- Establish public databases of implementation measures and initial report responses
- Provide additional insights on the reporting webpages
Conclusion

• ATT reporting has yet to live up to its full potential
• States Parties can leverage existing resources and good practice to enhance reporting and broader ATT implementation
• Opportunities exist to better support States Parties’ reporting efforts, particularly with new EU funding
• The ATT’s 10th anniversary is an important milestone that States Parties can use to reaffirm their commitment to transparency by submitting overdue reports