

Statement delivered by Najla Dowson-Zeidan on behalf of Transparency International Defence & Security, as part of Agenda Item 7 (Treaty Implementation), Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

Thank you, Mr President.

Transparency International wishes to highlight the issue of corruption in the arms trade and to urge delegates and states parties to apply anti-corruption standards in arms transfers decisions, including during the risk assessment process as part of their faithful implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

It is no secret that corruption in the arms trade is widespread, affecting both supplier and recipient countries in ALL world regions.

Mr President, Corruption in the defense and security sphere is increasingly understood to exacerbate conflict, violence and instability around the world, undermining human security, and leading to distrust of institutions.

Corruption is about much more than petty crime and bribery. It can be about inflated prices, and kickbacks to divert public funds that have the potential to be life savers if spent responsibly. It can be about undue influence of private actors on development of defence strategies, the definitions of threats and export decisions. It can be procuring weapons that are unjustified or unfit for military needs, therefore endangering security by rendering frontline soldiers ineffective in fighting opponents. It can be forging end user documentation leading to arms being diverted to unauthorised end users or ending up in the hands of organised crime networks, an issue about which we have heard a lot in the sessions this week, both from those delegates whose states feel the impact of arms proliferation, and those concerned with implementing post-shipment controls.

The ATT treaty text builds robust bridges with other legal obligations to tackle corruption and organised crime at the various stages of an arms transfer. Article 6.2 and article 7.1. made clear reference for states parties to consider their relevant obligations under international agreements to which they are Parties. In this regard Transparency International would like to draw attention to the UN Convention against Corruption and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, of which most states parties of the ATT are also parties. The first element listed in Article 11.5 in terms of information states should share to better prevent diversion is corruption. And Article 15.6 also encourages States Parties to take national measures and to cooperate with each other to prevent the transfer of conventional arms becoming subject to corrupt practices.

Transparency International therefore urges states parties to join the dots between the text of the ATT and that of their other international obligations, and to turn this text into practice. Given the devastating impact that corruption on the arms trade continues to have it is vital that states recognize the need to apply an anti-corruption lens to arms transfers decisions, including developing key questions to help officials assess corruption risks in the recipient country, build their knowledge and understanding of corruption, and that states parties fully commit to transparency and reporting to ensure that corruption can be detected and deterred.

Thank you, Mr. President