Arms Trade Treaty
Third Conference of States Parties
Working Group on Transparency and Reporting
6 April 2017

**ATT Working Group on Transparency and Reporting
Co-chairs' Report from the Group's Second Meeting**
(1 attachment)

The ATT Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR) held its second meeting on 6 April 2017 in Geneva, at the Geneva International Conference Center (CICG). The attached Draft Agenda was adopted.

The meeting was attended by 69 participants, representing 31 States Parties, 10 Signatory States, 1 non-signatory state, 2 international organisations and 3 civil society organisations (including Control Arms, which gathers a large number of civil society organisations).

The primary purpose of the meeting was to start work on priority topics identified at the Group's first meeting and outlined in a revised issues paper provided by the Co-chairs shortly after that meeting. Additionally, an update on the current status of mandatory reporting was provided by the Head of Secretariat, who also provided an update on the efforts to upgrade the ATT's IT platform in order to better serve the needs of the Treaty (as described also in the Information Update on the IT Improvement Project issued by the Secretariat on 31 March 2017).

Discussions were held on the basis of a common view reached at the first meeting that the mandate of the WGTR did not preclude initial work on priority topics given the unique situation - the need to start up the Group without detailed guidance from CSP2, which created the Group but did not have the necessary time to develop a mandate for the Group's initial period.

On the topic of **improving compliance with mandatory reporting requirements** the Secretariat shared feedback received from non-compliant States Parties on the underlying issues. The Group identified the development of an 'FAQ'-type guidance document as a deliverable for CSP3, and Belgium undertook to produce a first draft in collaboration with other interested parties. The role of POC:s in facilitating reporting was also touched upon, but here issues related to the activation of a POC system were identified and it was felt that there was considerable potential for overlap with the WGETI that needed to be addressed before substantive outputs could be considered. Other ideas discussed included exchanges of experiences/good practices regarding ATT reporting, and the need to tailor assistance to the specific needs of a State Party. There was broad support for the idea of recommending that compliance with reporting obligations be made a regular item on CSP agendas. This was tagged as a Group recommendation to CSP3 that appeared to require no further work.

On the topic of **broader measures to strengthen reporting capabilities**, the document ATT/CSP2/2016/OP.3 was considered generally adequate as a basis for a recommendation to CSP3, but participants were requested to consider whether there were specific administrative environments which the paper did not cover sufficiently, and to provide the Co-chairs with

suggestions for improvements if this were the case. It was noted that the paper could contribute not only to better overall national reporting performance but simultaneously to improved compliance with ATT reporting requirements (the preceding topic).

On the topic of **developing more structured means of exchanging information on treaty-related matters**, Mexico introduced a paper dated 6 April proposing a more structured approach to collaboration and information exchange on diversion-related issues. A wide range of initial questions/reactions were obtained, but as the paper was a late submission participants were encouraged to provide more developed views to Mexico after consideration in capitals, in order to allow Mexico the opportunity to further refine its proposal. There were no contributions to the meeting on facilitating other types of information exchange. The Co-chairs therefore undertook to elaborate a new food for thought paper in this area in order to encourage additional input from participants for the next meeting of the Group.

Regarding **the ATT's IT platform** and its possible uses in the context of transparency and reporting area the Group noted, on the basis of the Head of Secretariat's update, that the delay necessitated by procedural and economic factors gave participants the opportunity to provide additional direct input to the Secretariat's plans. At the same time it was noted by the Group that this opportunity should be used to provide general guidance, not to micro-manage the Secretariat's IT-related work.

On the subject of **a mandate to the Group for the period between CSP3 and CSP4**, the 'rolling' character of the Group's work was noted, and the Co-chairs were requested to provide an initial draft of such a mandate, drawing upon both the first and second tier of priority issues and taking into account the expected deliverables for CSP3.

Under Any Other Business, **comments to the Revised Issues Paper** were received, concerning the potential for identifying commonalities between different international reporting regimes; the need to tackle overlaps between, primarily, the WGTR and the WGETI; and the need to safeguard the possibility of delivering reports in national format also when an on-line reporting format based on the endorsed templates has been put in place. The Co-chairs will consider drafting changes to the Revised Issues Paper to take these points into account.

There was also a proposal to **merge the WGTR with the WGETI**, or to turn the WGTR into a subsidiary body of the WGETI. The Co-chairs noted that this was a proposal more appropriately treated in the preparatory meeting, since that forum would be looking at the question of working group status and terms of reference.

In general, participants emphasised the desirability of harnessing also **the efforts of civil society** for the fulfilment of the Group's tasks, and during the course of the meeting civil society representatives provided several examples of ongoing analytical and empirical work that should provide results relevant to the WGTR's work.

In the Co-chairs' assessment there is need for **a third meeting of the WGTR in conjunction with the CSP3 Preparatory Meeting to be held on June 1**, in order to finalise possible deliverables to CSP3 on the basis of the written inputs foreseen above. As a context for these deliverables, the Co-chairs will circulate a first draft of a final report of the WGTR to CSP3, to which the various recommendations agreed by the Group will be annexed.