



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, GENEVA

LT-MTA-13-2017

30 January 2017

Dear Mr. Beijer and Mr. Michel,

With reference to your letter dated 6 December 2016 requesting topic proposals for the Arms Trade Treaty - Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (ATT-WGTR), the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva has the honor to submit the following topics:

- Reporting template/format
There is a need to refine the reporting template/format to better suit the unique conditions of each State given the different sets of issues that each country deals with in their respective territories. A one size fits all approach to reporting may not be feasible. The template/format must be tailored based on the practical experiences of a State rather than a rigid structure focused on the technical aspects of reporting, which may not accurately reflect the actual situation in the State.
- Definition of "commercially sensitive" goods
In the mandatory annual reports on exports and imports of conventional arms, the definition and classification of "commercially sensitive" goods must be clarified to properly categorize and identify these items.
- Database use
The database can also be utilized to analyze trends in the submitted reports.
- Technical capacity-building for States Parties and Signatory States
Capacity-building training for personnel of Signatory and Member States may also be conducted to ensure proper and accurate reports. In a related matter States Parties and Signatory States, such as the Philippines, may require technical assistance in establishing a national control list, based on the EU Control List.
- Sharing of best practices, seminars and conferences
Technical working groups (TWGs) could become venues for sharing of best practices and conducting seminars/conferences on the general conduct of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). There must be a more structured method of information exchange to promote transparency.

We look forward to the discussions on this matter during the working group meetings and assure you of the Philippines' continued support in the full and effective implementation of this treaty.

Sincerely yours,


MARIA TERESA T. ALMOJUELA
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Mr. Paul Beijer and Mr. Guillaume Michel
Co-Chairs
Arms Trade Treaty - Working Group on Transparency and Reporting