

**EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
ARMS TRADE TREATY
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General Debate Statement

**Ambassador Philip Griffiths
Head of Secretariat
Wassenaar Arrangement**

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual Use Goods and Technologies, it is an honour to join you again in person after three years. I look forward to a further successful Conference.

Both the WA and the ATT promote greater transparency and responsibility in transfers of conventional arms, thus contributing to international peace and security by preventing destabilising accumulations of arms, as well as their acquisition by terrorists. In these unsettled times, this work remains more essential than ever.

Since marking its 25th anniversary in 2021, as the first global multilateral body on export controls in this area, the 42 Participating States of the WA have been navigating an increasingly challenging international security environment, accompanied by rapid technological development in the field of conventional weapons.

In the years since the ATT's creation, the WA has welcomed opportunities to share its experience and expertise in intergovernmental information-exchange and standard-setting. The legal framework underpinned by the WA's work complements the ATT's requirements to implement a strict and effective export control system.

Of particular interest to ATT States Parties, the WA *Munitions List* is a publicly available resource for developing or strengthening a national control list consistent with the provisions of the ATT. The WA keeps both its *Munitions List* and its *List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies* under comprehensive and systematic review in order to ensure their ongoing relevance.

The scope of the WA *Munitions List* encompasses all types of conventional armaments, as well as specially designed components, accessories and ammunition. Related production equipment and technology are also controlled in order to prevent unauthorised transfers of “know-how”, as well as illicit manufacturing of these weapons.

ATT States Parties may also find the WA's non-binding best practice guidelines a useful reference. These guidelines, covering the spectrum of export control-related practices, including those which are essential to fulfilling the purposes of the ATT, are also regularly reviewed and updated, taking into account national implementation experience of WA Participating States, as well as latest developments in industry and elsewhere. Both the *WA Munitions List* and the *Compendium of Best Practice Documents* are found on the WA website (www.wassenaar.org).

Previous contacts have highlighted shared areas of focus such as prevention of diversion. In this regard, opportunities have been taken to share insights from the WA's information exchange experience as ATT States Parties develop their own related mechanisms.

Opportunities may also arise with respect to post-shipment verification, which has become more frequently used by a number of WA Participating States, including with regard to small arms and light weapons. Experiences shared during regular meetings of WA Licensing and Enforcement Officers, for example, have identified a number of valuable lessons learned.

The WA's outreach programme continues to promote effective export control systems around the world. The WA remains open to exchanges with other international and regional bodies working in similar areas and seeks two-way engagement with industry and the research sector. The needs and interests of WA's outreach partners, including many represented at this Conference, are also taken into account through bilateral dialogues and visits, as well as broader events with a regional or thematic focus.

While not all WA Participating States are part of the ATT, the goals of both organisations are aligned in promoting the regulation of international transfers of conventional arms and the prevention of their diversion to illicit purposes, without impeding legitimate trade.

The WA Secretariat stands ready to facilitate any requests for information or assistance that States Parties may wish to refer to us through the ATT Secretariat. Thank you.