

TENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

(Geneva/online, 19-23 August 2024)

General Statement

Ambassador Dr. György Molnár Head of Secretariat Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies

Mr. President,

I am honoured to be here today, the first time in my capacity as Head of Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA). I wish the Conference every success under your able leadership. My congratulations to States Parties and the Secretariat for the 10-year anniversary of the ATT's entry into force.

The ATT and the WA share the common purpose of promoting transparency and greater responsibility in conventional arms transfers, as WA Participating States emphasised in their statement welcoming the ATT's adoption by the UN General Assembly in 2013. These shared objectives contribute to international peace and security by setting the highest possible standards for such transfers without hindering legitimate trade. Strong multilateral cooperation and confidence building is more important than ever, and continuing engagement based on common goals and synergies reinforces our respective efforts.

After nearly three decades of operation, the WA continues to be a ready source of relevant experience and practical lessons learned as States Parties continue to enhance the effectiveness of the ATT and its implementation. In this regard, I note the draft Political Declaration's recognition of ATT complementarity to other, relevant instruments with a shared ambition. The WA has welcomed opportunities to share its expertise with States Parties. 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.

Mr. President, your cross-cutting priority theme of inter-agency cooperation is topical and similarly relevant in the WA context. Our 42 Participating States spanning six

continents frequently share national experiences in inter-agency coordination at the policy and technical levels, for example through an annual meeting of licensing and enforcement officers.

The WA continuously reviews and updates both its *Munitions List* and its *List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies* to ensure their ongoing relevance. Last year, Participating States adopted, *inter alia*, new controls with respect to equipment used in the production of high-end electronic components particularly suitable for advanced military applications.

The WA regularly publishes and updates its library of 25 documents of best practices, which are based on Participating States' respective national policy and practice. The guidelines serve as useful references covering the spectrum of export control-related practices – from the assessment of proposed exports to the disposal of surplus military equipment – and are available for use by any state or exporter. A recently updated best practice document, the *List of Advisory Questions for Industry*, is relevant to the priority theme of the President of the Ninth Conference regarding the role of industry in responsible international transfers of conventional arms.

The latest versions of the WA Control Lists and the *Compendium of Best Practice Documents* can be found on our website (www.wassenaar.org).

The WA interacts with other organisations engaged in related activities and maintains informal technical contacts with other multilateral export control regimes, as appropriate. The WA encourages implementation of effective export control systems worldwide.

Mr. President, I look forward to opportunities to build on our alignment of purpose over the next 10 years. The WA Secretariat stands ready to play its role in facilitating exchanges and sharing experiences in pursuit of our common goals.

Thank you.