**Agenda Item 8 (Transparency and Reporting)**

**Partners for Transparency’ Statement**

**Morning Session, August 27th, 2025**

**Mr. President,**

Partners for Transparency believes that the lack of transparency in arms deals is one of the greatest challenges facing the international community in preventing weapons from reaching unauthorized parties, including armed groups, terrorist groups, and governments. The lack of accurate and up-to-date information on arms transfers, and the failure to regularly publish details related to them, creates a vacuum that can be easily exploited to divert weapons from their original users to unauthorized parties, exacerbating conflicts and violating international law.

Continued monitoring of armed conflicts in Sudan has clearly demonstrated how corruption and a lack of transparency are exploited to divert weapons to illicit actors. Partners for Transparency has documented the diversion of a significant number of weapons and military equipment to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which has used them to attack civilians, destroy infrastructure, and commit war crimes and crimes against humanity. Among these weapons, Chinese and Bulgarian, were redirected to Sudan's RSF, including Bulgarian-made mortar bombs. These incidents clearly illustrate how a lack of transparency fuels conflict and exacerbates the humanitarian crisis.

**Mr. President,**

Partners for Transparency believes that corruption is another axis in this dynamic. Monitoring indicates that some officials in exporting countries or in local oversight bodies sell or donate weapons illegally, exploiting weak oversight and a lack of transparency for personal gain. This overlap between corruption and a lack of transparency is not limited to arms transfers; it also extends to influencing official decisions regarding licensing and arms destinations, opening the door to serious human rights violations.

Arms-producing and exporting companies also play a role in this equation, often claiming that state-issued licenses are sufficient to absolve them of legal and moral responsibility, ignoring the impact of their operations on the ground. This lack of accountability for companies increases the likelihood of committing violations against civilians and sometimes leads them to transfer weapons to parties known for their poor track record, simply to achieve economic gain. Examples include the supply of military equipment and ammunition to the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan, as well as the supply of weapons to the Israeli occupation forces, which have resulted in the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Hence, it becomes imperative for States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty to adopt strict procedures to ensure transparency and accountability. Thorough risk assessments should be conducted before approving any deal, taking into account the development of effective post-sale oversight mechanisms to ensure that arms are not re-exported or transferred to unauthorized parties. Companies should also be required to implement human rights due diligence standards and provide full transparency regarding assessments and compliance to ensure that their activities do not contribute to the commission of grave violations. Achieving this requires effective international cooperation and open dialogue between States to strengthen oversight and accountability, thus preventing legal arms deals from becoming a tool for committing violations.

**Mr. President,**

Addressing corruption and the lack of transparency in the arms trade is not merely a technical issue; it is a fundamental issue related to protecting lives, ensuring respect for international law, achieving accountability, and preventing the exploitation of weapons to prolong conflicts and harm innocent civilians.

**Thank you.**