

BARBADOS

Dear ATT Secretariat,

The following is a statement on behalf of the Government of Barbados on the captioned subject.

Transparency and Reporting

First let me thank you for the enormous work that has been done by this working group and for giving me the opportunity to present on behalf of the Government of Barbados.

I am happy that in these preparatory meetings, much emphasis has been placed on Diversion and Transparency & Reporting with transparency being the key word. I firmly believe that if there is no transparency in our reporting there will be an avenue for diversion. This diversion can be as a result of negligence where no proper systems are in place or it can be deliberate. The insistence on having end user certificates is critical in our efforts on ensuring transparency and also in the prevention of diversion.

Barbados is a small Island of 166 square miles and has a population of 280,000 people. We are part of the Caribbean and we are strategically located between firearm manufactures in North America and those in South America.

Barbados is not a producer of Arms or Ammunition and all firearms are restricted in Barbados. We do however, import on a limited basis for domestic use for the Police, Military and for citizens who have been issued permits to carry small arms for personal protection. In addition we do export on a very small scale to neighbouring islands where permits have been issued by their Governments for citizens to possess these firearms.

If in my annual report for a given year I am saying that I imported for example- 100 firearms and exported 20 of those firearms, the report of the country from which I imported, should reflect in their exports the 100 hundred firearms that I received. Similarly, the country to whom I exported those 20 firearms, their report should reflect that they imported 20 firearms from me. Any discrepancies in these figures could be an indication of possible diversion.

The issue of firearms tracing is another critical area that could assist in identifying diversion. States that encourage and mandate that all recovered firearms are traced are in a better position to identify those that have been diverted and who may be responsible for the diversion. I therefore encourage all states to make use of ATF ETrace and the Interpol IArms to facilitate the tracing of firearms and that all parties including the working group on diversion do everything within their power to make the tracing of firearms a priority and have the reporting of firearm traces included in the annual report template.

My question to all of this is- Who verifies these reports and what systems if any, have been put in place to ensure the veracity of these reports?

Finally on the issue of ammunition, I believe that some consideration should be given to reporting on ammunition imports and exports. We all know that firearms are of no use to anyone without the availability of ammunition.

It is our experience in the Caribbean that when there is a scarcity of ammunition, criminals use their weapons sparingly and with the abundance of ammunition they use them indiscriminately. The evidence of which is reflected in the number of cartridge cases recovered at scenes of crime and the frequency at which they use these firearm. This does not only apply to small arms and light weapons but to all forms of artillery.

I therefore urge that consideration be given to reporting on ammunition imports and exports.

With these few words I thank you.

Graham Husbands

National Point of Contact

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