



**Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
(Geneva, 21-25 August 2023)
General statement**

Working group Transparency and Reporting

Madam President,

My delegation aligns itself with the declaration made by my colleague in the name of the European Union. Belgium has always been a staunch supporter of transparency and submitted its annual report to the ATT. This report is publicly available. Considering the security context and the arms deliveries by Belgium to support Ukraine against the war of aggression started by Russia, Belgium has omitted in its report the description of the equipment transferred to Ukraine, keeping only the number of items transferred and the category they belong to. This is a way to find a balance between our commitment to transparency and security imperatives linked to the current war taking place on the European continent. We hope that once the situation will improve, we could then complement our past reports for consistency between reporting exercises.

Belgium continues to call State Parties to fulfill their duties according to art 13 of the Treaty and commends the countries which submitted several annual reports at the same time to clear their backlog. In this regard, we thank the Secretariat for its initiative, on behalf of the Presidency of this conference, of sending reminding letters to States which did not submit initial or annual reports.

Finally, Belgium supports the recommendations established by the Working Group on transparency and reporting for the CSP9 which includes the mandate proposed in the Annex of the report.

I thank you Madam President.