

Check against delivery

Arms Trade Treaty Second Conference of States Parties (Geneva, 22-26 August 2016)

Reporting. Statement of the Kingdom of Belgium

Mr President,

My delegation would like first of all to commend the work accomplished by the Reporting Working group since the 1st Conference of States Parties in Cancun, in August last year and since the Extraordinary Conference of States Parties in February 2016 under the leadership of his facilitator, Amb. Beijer.

My country attaches a great importance at transparency and reporting. According to the 2016 edition of the Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer, Belgium is in the top ten of the most transparent major small arms exporters.

Mr President,

Belgium has submitted its initial report on measures undertaken to implement the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) based on the provisional initial reporting template submitted by the facilitator on reporting to the 1st Conference of States Parties (CSP1). Its first annual report has also been transmitted based on the provisional annual reporting template presented at CSP1 (ATT/CSP1/2015/WP4, rev.2) . Those reports are posted on the ATT site and made public.

For the sake of transparency, let me inform participants to this CSP2 that Belgium supports the ATT annual reporting template as it currently stands (ATT/CSP2/2016/WP6).

However, for technical reasons, Belgium will not be in a position to report data on small arms and light weapons in two separate categories for the years 2015 and 2016. Our reporting system needs to be amended to do so, and we are currently working on it. Therefore, our report in 2016 (on transfers authorized in 2015) and 2017 (on transfers authorized in 2016) will consider small arms and light weapons as one category, which also includes components. As from 2018 (on transfers authorized in 2017), we will be able to report separately in two categories.

We consider the current initial and annual templates to be the best durable instruments for States Parties and future States Parties to comply with their reporting obligations. We are also of the view that there is no need to reopen the debate on reporting templates.

Concerning the setting up of a Working Group on transparency and reporting, we insist that its mandate and tasks have to be clearly defined and adopted by decision of each Conference of States Parties.

We finally welcome proposals aiming at developing generic advices on measures facilitating compliance to international reporting obligations. This will contribute to rationalization of reporting procedures and therefore to harmonization and universalization.

I thank you.