



## **Statement by the Netherlands**

### **Fourth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty Transparency and Reporting**

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair,

The Netherlands would like to thank both Co-Chairs, Mr. Guillaume Michel of Mexico and Mr. Tom Nijs of Belgium, for their dedication to the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting over the past year and for the excellent results.

The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Co-Chair,

The Netherlands attaches great importance to transparency in arms trade. In our opinion this helps build confidence and thus contributes to international security and stability. Therefore we consider the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting as a very important working group under this Treaty.

As said in our General Statement we are pleased to see that many States Parties have submitted their reports publicly.

However, at the same time we also note that a significant part of the States Parties have not yet fulfilled their obligations or were, as we ourselves, late. We should try to improve this situation and we therefore fully support the suggestions made in the proposed mandate with respect to reporting. With others we would like to think of ways to how we could increase the quality and completeness of the information provided. The amount of transfer discrepancies, as indicated by the ATT Monitor, is huge. More than 98% of the reported transfers were partial or complete transfer discrepancies.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Another important topic is information exchange. Also here, the Netherlands fully supports the tasks defined in the proposed mandate for the WGT&R. We support the idea of further exploring the possibilities for additional on-line tools that could contribute to ATT reporting and information sharing purposes. We have tried to contribute this year in the Working Groups with a questionnaire on Netherland's questionnaire on information gathering. We would like to thank those countries that responded to it and we agree with the final remarks made by the Co-chair.

I thank you.