



Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

ATT TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

23 August 2023

Delivered by: Kelsey Gallagher, on behalf of the ATT Monitor

Thank you co-Chairs,

Transparency in arms transfers is a central component of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and fundamental to achieving its aims and objectives. The object and purpose of the Treaty cannot be fulfilled in the absence of transparency among states trading in arms, and transparency more broadly is central to the effective implementation of its operative articles. Reporting is a critical part to a transparent trade in arms.

Analysis conducted by the ATT Monitor demonstrates that, a decade after the Treaty's adoption, progress towards accurate, comprehensive, and transparent reporting remains disappointingly slow. While there have been some improvements in transparency and some States Parties have resumed reporting after the COVID-19 pandemic, States Parties are still falling short in other aspects of transparency. Specifically, in the recently released ATT Monitor 2023 Report, we highlight a diminishing proportion of annual reports that are meaningfully transparent and note that only a limited number of States Parties provide information on arms transfers that support higher transparency standards.

The ATT Monitor's analysis reveals that the overall compliance rate for 2022 annual reports is the lowest in the eight years of annual reporting. As presented by the ATT Secretariat earlier today, only 58 percent of 2022 annual reports have been submitted thus far, in contrast to 85 percent for 2015. The quantity of annual reports posted on the ATT Secretariat's website by the deadline of June 7th was the lowest of any year since reporting commenced.

Furthermore, the submission of initial reports has slowed down, with a noticeable lack of compliance, particularly among newer States Parties. No new updates to initial reports were made this year, despite the fact that several States Parties have otherwise recently indicated changes to their national control systems. These declining trends in reporting raise concerns as they undermine the very transparency objectives set forth by the Treaty.

However, it is essential to acknowledge some positive trends. We welcome the submission of initial reports from Lesotho and Brazil that were originally due in 2017 and 2019, respectively. The submission of overdue initial reports serves as a model that should be followed by other States Parties that are yet to fulfill their initial reporting obligations. We are also pleased to note that the Philippines has submitted its initial report, and that the report has been made public.

It is encouraging that several States Parties submitted overdue annual reports this year, which means that the number of those yet to submit any of their reports has decreased. Over the past year, twenty-eight States Parties collectively submitted 42 overdue annual reports, encompassing 26 for 2021 and 16 for preceding years. Another encouraging development over the past year was the decision by two States Parties to change their 2021 annual reports from



confidential to public. They should be commended for taking this step to promote arms trade transparency.

In support of transparent reporting, the ATT Monitor reaffirms its support for the regional champions on reporting initiative. Furthermore, we encourage the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting to collaborate with civil society counterparts on this endeavor. We remain prepared to engage bilaterally with States Parties and offer our assistance in strengthening their reporting practices.

I thank you.