

Arms Trade Treaty Third Conference of the States Parties

Statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Agenda item 7 – Transparency and Reporting

Mr. President,

The ICRC echoes those who have taken the floor before us in thanking Sweden and Mexico for their significant efforts as Co-chairs of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting.

Like others, we view the disclosure of information on the ATT's implementation through both initial and annual reports as critical to ensuring transparency, which is a key purpose of the Treaty, and also in building confidence in the regime established by the Treaty.

The sharing of information on implementation also facilitates cooperation and assistance among States Parties, allowing them to efficiently identify needs and good practices.

The ICRC notes with appreciation that the vast majority of States Parties have made their initial and annual reports available publicly. We trust that this trend of openness will continue.

Public reporting promotes greater awareness of States' national systems for controlling the transfer of conventional arms. Comprehensive public reporting can enable a greater understanding of the process by which States undertake assessments and take decisions on potential arms transfers in accordance with the Treaty.

In this sense, the initial and annual reports are an important input into the work being done at various levels to support effective implementation of the Treaty in accordance with its spirit and purpose.

Thank you, Mr. President.