

IE Draft Statements
Transparency & Reporting
Geneva

Thank you madame president.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to offer the following remarks in a national capacity.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Tom Nijs of the ATT Secretariat for his tireless efforts in taking forward the important work of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting during this CSP cycle.

Ireland remains concerned at the state of ATT reporting, including a record low submission rate for annual reports in 2022, as noted by the ATT Monitor. Timely, accurate, and comprehensive reporting is at the core of achieving the object and purpose of this Treaty, and is a fundamental legal obligation. At the same time, we would like to highlight some positive trends, including the submission of initial reports by Brazil and Lesotho, and a growing percentage of States Parties electing to make reports publically available. These trends are encouraging and we hope they can continue and expand towards fulfilling a key treaty obligation. We would like to reiterate the significance of non-confidential reporting, as it increases the relevance of reports and facilitates accountability for export decisions.

We recognise that many States Parties continue to experience difficulties meeting their ATT reporting requirements, including due to a lack of capacity and resources, internal coordination challenges and difficulties in conducting technical assessments. In light of these various challenges, it is important that we continue to work collectively to find ways to overcome these obstacles, to increase the rate and quality of reporting and ultimately contribute to accountability and transparency in the international arms trade.

Over the years, the ATT community has developed a myriad of guides, templates, reports, and working papers, including from a range of NGOs and think tanks, who make a critical and much appreciated contribution to this work through clearly identifying the difficulties and obstacles in reporting, and offering concrete recommendations. At this stage, the reasons for reporting challenges are clear, as are their potential solutions. We encourage States Parties to

make use of available tools and assistance mechanisms to fulfil reporting obligations, including the online reporting functionality and the Voluntary Trust Fund.

Ireland welcomes the draft report of the WGTR as well as the recommendations contained therein and the proposed mandate for next year. Implementation of the Outreach Strategy on Reporting as well as voluntary bilateral and regional peer-to-peer assistance with reporting are key to improving the Treaty's reporting rates. However, we regret that references to gender considerations as well as to the prospect of exploring a potential online searchable database, have been dropped and we hope States Parties reconsider.

Nevertheless, Ireland looks forward to engaging with States Parties, civil society and international organisations to proactively contend with worrying reporting trends, through exchange of best practices and through coordinated outreach under the remit of the WGTR.

Thank you, madame president.