



**Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Transparency and Reporting**

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Thank you, Chairs.

Public, comprehensive, comparable and timely reporting is an essential tool for transparency and a vital component in fulfilling the purpose of the ATT. Transparency with regard to exports and imports can help shed light on global arms transfers, mitigate the risks associated with an arms trade conducted in secret, and serve as a confidence-building measure that can lead to international cooperation and assistance.

As noted by this Working Group, a worrying number of States Parties have not complied with their reporting obligations. Of the 92 States Parties obliged to produce Annual Reports on imports and exports for 2018, just 45 submitted by the legal deadline. While this is an improvement on the previous year, this number reflects less than half of all reports due to be submitted. Control Arms calls on all States Parties who have yet to fulfil their annual reporting obligations to do so.

States Parties who have not yet done so must also submit Initial Reports. To date, 22 States Parties of the 94 required to, have not submitted their Initial Reports. Article 13 also requires States Parties to report on any new measures taken to implement the Treaty. So far only two states, Japan and Sweden, have updated their reports. However, Control Arms knows of numerous other States Parties that have made significant improvements to their national systems since submitting their Initial Reports and encourages all Treaty members to submit updates when they change their national control system to implement the ATT. Updates are an important means of informing on efforts to implement the Treaty and identifying ways in which States have changed their national control systems. They, therefore, demonstrate the way in which the ATT is having an impact at the national level. The Initial Reports and updates can also be used to identify assistance needs.

In both Annual and Initial Reports, we see a worrying trend towards submission of confidential reports. In the context of Annual Reports, this year seven reports, or 13 percent of those submitted, have been kept confidential. Of the 72 Initial Reports that have been submitted, 12 have been kept confidential. Control Arms suggests that the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting include a discussion about the reasons behind this worrying trend towards secrecy in its intersessional work.



States Parties must also take measures to ensure Annual Reports are comprehensive, covering all imports and exports as legally required by the Treaty, and providing data to a level of disaggregation and accuracy that allows for meaningful transparency and analysis.

We welcome the efforts of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting to improve reporting templates so as to help increase the quantity and quality of reporting. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of those discussions in 2020. Control Arms also welcomes the new online reporting template and encourages states to use it.

Control Arms welcomes the Working Group's recommendation that CSP5 supports the development of a practical bilateral assistance program for reporting. We also support the Working Group's efforts to provide support to States Parties who are experiencing challenges with reporting, and encourages ongoing work with the ATT Secretariat and WGTR Co-Chairs to support States Parties in this regard.

Thank you.