

**Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade
Statement on Transparency and Reporting
Latvia
Delivered by Ms Sarma Gintere**

Mr Chair,

Latvia thanks the Chair and facilitators of the WGTR for their substantive work this year.

Latvia notes that reporting under the ATT is an obligation, not a voluntary option. To this end, we encourage all States parties to submit timely and accurate annual reports. We note also the continuance of high rates of discrepancy between import and exports. Much of this is due to the different ways in which States are completing reports, differing definitions, time periods and other aspects, which are leading to a mismatch of declared exports and important. The harmonization of custom codes could be one area that could significantly help, in addition to accurate reporting.

Regular accurate reporting that is public can also aid in another very important aim of the ATT – to increase transparency, and therefore reduce corruption in the arms trade. Latvia has made its initial and all annual reports public, and encourages all States parties to do the same. A transparent reporting mechanism is to all our benefit in contributing to effective treaty implementation and aiding overall transparency.

We agree with many of the comments and suggestions on the reporting templates, in particular that the voluntary nature of the templates is problematic, and that there needs to be greater clarity to ensure comparability of information. We also agree that the voluntary obligations and questions has the wrong premise, and that States parties must report on all measures they have taken, whether or not these are Treaty obligations.

Latvia welcomes the updated comprehensive Question and Answer document provided in Annex B of the WG report. Latvia also supports the Working Group proposed mandate for the period 2019-2020 and in particular the necessity of compliance with reporting obligations.

Thank you.