



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Statement of the Netherlands**

delivered by

**Sachi Claringbould,**

**Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on  
Disarmament**

at

**Fifth Conference of States Parties to  
the Arms Trade Treaty**

**Transparency and Reporting**

**Geneva, 28 August 2019**

Thank you Ms/Mr. Co-Chair,

The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

The Netherlands would like to thank both Co-Chairs, Ms Martinez of Mexico and Mr. Nijs of Belgium, for their dedicated and diligent efforts leading the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting over the past year.

Ms/Mr. Co-Chair,

The Netherlands attaches great importance to transparency in arms trade. It is a condition sine qua non to establish the necessary confidence to have a meaningful exchange on arms export control and tracking progress towards full treaty implementation. As thus, it is vital to international security and stability. We consider the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting as a key working group under this Treaty.

We are pleased to see that many States Parties have submitted their reports publicly. However, we also see a rise of States Parties submitting their reports confidentially. We understand some of the sensitivities attached to arms trade, but we encourage states to submit as much information publicly as

possible. Transparency is of key importance as a confidence-building measure. By submitting your report publicly, states can contribute to this.

Ms/Mr. Co-Chair,

One way of addressing the downward trend in reporting, might be to ease the administrative burden of existing reporting requirements as much as we can. For example by exploring further synergies in the reporting exercises to the ATT and to the UN Register for Conventional Arms (UNRoCA). This can be achieved by allowing the ATT report to be easily submitted to UNRoCA as well via its online reporting form. Such synergies might reduce the administrative burden of reporting on parties and increase the reporting rate.

Reaping such low-hanging fruit will however only carry us a short way. We will never complete the journey towards full ATT-implementation without all states parties taking full and total responsibility as ATT-partners by full and timely completion of their reporting responsibilities.

I thank you.