



Statement by

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

**Transparency and Reporting
28 August 2019**

Thank you, Mr President.

Transparency remains a fundamental requirement for the success of our Treaty and we agree that a decreasing rate of reporting must be of serious concern to all the Treaty's membership.

Accordingly, we hope that more can be done to explore what lies at the core of this issue: why are States Parties not reporting? We assume that for many smaller states, with micro-bureaucracies, simple practical issues may be getting in the way. In this regard, of particular note for some of our Pacific Island neighbours is the requirement under their domestic process to secure Cabinet approval for any such report – this can be a real constraint.

We need to do more to identify synergies across different regimes, as well as identifying opportunities for further support that can be offered to those states with an intention to fulfil their treaty obligations but which have more pressing domestic priorities – both at the officials level and for their Cabinet. In this regard, New Zealand would like again to draw the attention of its Pacific Island neighbours to its standing offer to provide any assistance that would be useful to them on reporting.

More generally, Mr President, we need to ensure that the filing of a nil-report for annual transfers – something applicable to the domestic circumstances of many of our Island neighbours – is made very accessible and straightforward.

With regard to the more burdensome production of Initial Reports, we would welcome an increased focus in the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting on possible avenues for practical support which could be offered to new States Parties, particularly small States, on this.

New Zealand looks forward to taking part in this discussion.