

Working group on Transparency and reporting

At the outset, the State of Palestine commends the Working Group co-chairs and the ATT Secretariat on all of their comprehensive efforts to support States Parties in fully implementing reporting obligations.

We thank you for the draft on reporting authorized or actual exports and imports of conventional arms under the ATT, and would like to make following comments on the Q&A template :

First, in the Table of Contents on page 5, we recommend inserting right after Roman Numeral I the theme “The benefits of Comprehensive and consistent annual reporting on arms transfers under the ATT”. As elaborated by the Stimson Center, these benefits include:

- Enhancing awareness of regional and global arms flows;
- Supporting efforts to monitor whether weapons use complies with international human rights and humanitarian law;
- Providing a baseline of legally transferred arms that can be used to identify illicit arms and their potential sources;
- Contributing towards the detection of early warning signs of potential conflict, such as potentially destabilizing weapons accumulations;
- Facilitating assessments of treaty compliance, particularly related to export and import decisions;
- Providing a basis for bilateral or multilateral consultations on transfers that may not align with ATT obligations; and
- Promoting transparency and building confidence among States involved in the global arms trade.

Second, in the title on page 7, we recommend adding the word “reporting” such that the title would read “treaty reporting obligation and other relevant ATT provisions”.

Third, on the same page, we recommend adding a reference to Article 13.1, in order to ensure a differentiation is made between annual and initial reporting.

Fourth, on page 28, question 46, we recommend to more comprehensively answer the question as to the consequences of submitting incorrect information, by reflecting the following elements:

Incorrect information undermines the promotion of arms trade transparency and the ATT’s object and purpose and limits understanding of global weapons flows. This, in turn, prevents accurate assessments of whether States Parties are complying with the ATT’s provisions and makes it difficult to evaluate whether the treaty is contributing towards a reduction in human suffering; strengthening international and regional peace, security, and promoting transparency, thereby building confidence among States Parties.

In view of the time constraints, we will limit our oral comments to this statement but reserve the right to submit additional comments in writing.

I thank you.