



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade
Treaty, Geneva, 21- 25 August 2023**

**Statement by Sweden in the
Thematic Discussion on the Role of Industry**

Madam President,

Let me start by thanking the Republic of Korea for making the Role of Industry a thematic priority for this CSP, Sweden welcomes the President's working paper on the Role of Industry in Responsible International Transfers of Conventional Arms.

We also welcome the joint working paper by Austria, Ireland and Mexico on Responsible Business Conduct and the Arms Trade Treaty and we look forward to coming discussions on both papers. I would also like to thank the panellists for interesting presentations and remarks.

Sweden believes that the role of industry is crucial when it comes to export controls and especially concerning the issue of a responsible and transparent international arms trade in the defence industry.

Our national export control authority, the Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP), maintains regular contact with the companies whose exports are subject to control. The Military Equipment Regulations (national laws/guidelines, the EU Common Position and ATT) set

forth most of the obligations for companies to present notifications and data to the ISP. For example, companies have to report regularly to the ISP on their marketing activities abroad. These reports form the basis for the ISP's periodic briefings with the companies regarding their export plans. The ISP may issue positive or negative preliminary decisions to the companies on destinations that are sensitive or have not yet been assessed.

In addition to processing export licence applications, the ISP reviews the notifications that companies and authorities are obliged to submit at least four weeks prior to submitting tenders or signing contracts concerning exports of military equipment or other cooperation with foreign partners in this field. At this stage, the ISP has the opportunity to notify prohibitions on submitting tenders or entering into contracts. Exporters of military equipment must also report the deliveries of military equipment that are made under the export licences issued to them.

In its supervisory role, the ISP carries out compliance visits to companies and authorities to monitor their internal export control organisations. These include educational institutions and companies working in the fields of both dual-use items and military equipment.

Such visits have the potential of preventing non-compliance of the export control regulatory framework while also building mutual trust between the national central administrative export control authority and the industry.

Finally, and in line with the President's recommendations, Sweden welcomes and takes note of the possibility to invite representatives of industry and private sector entities engaged in the international arms trade to share information that may support effective treaty implementation during coming ATT-related meetings and side-events.

Sweden has a long and good experience of contacts with companies and we are willing to share information on the issue.

Thank you.