**NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
ARMS TRADE TREATY**
(Geneva/Online, 21-25 August 2023)

General Statement

Ambassador Dr. György Molnár
Head of Secretariat
Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for
Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods & Technologies

Madam President,

Thank you for the opportunity to share this statement on behalf of the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies. I wish you and the States Parties a successful Conference.

Since the WA's establishment 27 years ago as the first global multilateral body on export controls in this area, its membership has grown to 42 countries spanning six continents. WA Participating States strive to address the challenges posed by international security developments and rapid technological change in the field of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, and conventional weapons including SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons).

Both the WA and ATT share a common purpose: promoting greater transparency and responsibility in transfers of conventional arms, thus contributing to international security and stability by preventing destabilising accumulations. Our efforts safeguard peace, reduce human suffering, prevent diversions and combat terrorism, without impeding legitimate trade or hindering the right of states to defend themselves. Never has this work been more crucial or faced more serious challenges. Continuing engagement based on common goals and synergies reinforces our respective efforts.

The WA has welcomed opportunities to share its experience with ATT States Parties. We take note of the proposal of the ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization to intensify outreach and cooperation with other entities to capitalize on their experiences in support of the Treaty's further implementation.

The WA also interacts regularly with other organisations engaged in related activities and maintains informal technical contacts with other multilateral export control regimes

as appropriate. WA outreach encourages implementation of effective export control systems worldwide, including through the application of its *Munitions List* and *List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies*.

The *Munitions List* covers 22 categories of equipment specially designed for military use and related software and technology. It is updated annually to clarify the scope of controls and to enhance its enforceability. Since it is based on the principle of specially-designed or modified for military use, the List is exhaustive in scope and additions are infrequent. However, in 2019, a new control on cyber warfare software was introduced. The WA continues its review of both the *Munitions List* and *List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies* to ensure their ongoing relevance.

As laid out in its *Initial Elements*, the WA's founding document, the Arrangement is open, on a global and non-discriminatory basis and is not directed against any state or group of states. Nor does it impede bona fide civil transactions. In June, the WA hosted an Enhanced Technical Briefing for representatives of nearly 20 outreach partner countries, including significant exporters and importers.

Madam President, your priority theme on the role of industry is topical and frequently discussed in the WA. The importance of engagement with industry is reflected in a number of WA best practice documents, for example the *List of Advisory Questions for Industry*, which is envisaged as an export guide for industry.

The WA regularly publishes and updates this and 24 other best practice guidelines which may serve as useful references covering the spectrum of export control-related practices. The latest version of the WA *Munitions List* and the *Compendium of Best Practice Documents* can be found on our website (www.wassenaar.org).

With our common purpose and shared objectives, the WA Secretariat stands ready to facilitate requests for information or assistance that States Parties may wish to refer to us through the ATT Secretariat.

Thank you.