

SECOND CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

(GENEVA, 22-26 AUGUST 2016)

REMARKS BY THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT HEAD OF SECRETARIAT

Thank you Mr. President. Let me congratulate you and all those involved on the occasion of this Second Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

On behalf of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) Secretariat, I am grateful for the opportunity to join you again as an observer. I wish the Conference well in its important deliberations.

The Participating States of the WA have welcomed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), noted that the goals of the ATT align with those of the WA and re-affirmed their readiness to share their experience and expertise with other states, as suggested in the ATT. Likewise, the small WA Secretariat is a potential source of information and advice based on twenty years of practical operation.

As ATT States Parties focus on national implementation of the Treaty, they may find useful the collective work and experience of the WA in promoting effective export controls on conventional arms and related goods and technologies, while not impeding legitimate trade. This existing guidance may help to fill gaps and save time and effort as States Parties give effect to their ATT obligations.

Of particular assistance may be the WA Munitions List, which is updated and re-published annually (together with the WA List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies). A number of countries outside the WA already take the WA Control Lists as a reference in their national export controls.

The WA Munitions List has recently been issued separately as a stand-alone document for the specific purpose of assisting countries that do not have defence-related industries and thus do not need the more extensive and complex Dual-Use Control List.

Also of interest may be the comprehensive library of consensus-based WA guidelines to assist export risk assessment and export control implementation. A WA Compendium of Best Practices has recently been issued which groups these documents thematically for ease of reference.

Both the separate WA Munitions List and Best Practices Compilation are available in hard copy at this Conference, as well as on the updated WA website.

In addition, the US State Department is currently preparing a WA Munitions Manual which will be a valuable resource for export control policy-makers as well as practitioners.

Since the First ATT Conference of States Parties last year, the WA has issued Best Practice Guidelines for Transit or Trans-shipment, as well as Elements for the Effective Fulfilment of

National Reporting Requirements, both of which may be of general assistance. Work continues this year on updating other existing WA Best Practices.

At the end of June 2016, as part of its twentieth Anniversary programme, the WA held a two-day Practical Workshop in Vienna, to which an increased number of non-WA countries, including more than 10 ATT States Parties or signatories, sent participants, among them experts from capitals. This was an opportunity to share information and experiences on all aspects of export controls on conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, including the legal and regulatory bases, the control lists and national licensing and enforcement matters. The same expanded group of countries will be invited to the annual collective Briefing following this December's WA Plenary meeting.

As the ATT approaches the second anniversary of its entry into force, and the WA completes a further regular Assessment of its overall functioning and marks its twentieth anniversary in December 2016, I hope that new opportunities will emerge to build on the complementary and mutually reinforcing nature of the two organisations.

I and the WA Secretariat stand ready to play our part in facilitating contacts and relationships that will support our respective endeavours to promote transparency and responsibility in international transfers of conventional arms as a contribution to global peace, security and stability.

Thank you.