

**ATT Working Group on Transparency and Reporting
The need for an outreach strategy on reporting**

As of March 2018, only 67% of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) had submitted Initial Reports as mandated by article (13.1) and 65% of States Parties under an obligation to do so, had submitted their annual report for the year 2016 (obligation contained in article 13.3).

This demonstrates that the level of compliance with the mandatory reporting remains too low, particularly if we consider that this is amongst the primary obligations contained in the Treaty with regard transparency, as well as the fact that promoting transparency in the international trade in conventional arms is one of the main purposes of the Treaty.

The relevance of reporting and transparency for an adequate functioning of the arms transfer regime put in place by the ATT has led the Conference of States Parties to establish the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting, with the purpose of exploring means of improving compliance with the mandatory reporting obligations, as well as developing broader proposals to enhance transparency and strengthen reporting capabilities at national level.

Among the first concrete efforts undertaken by the WGTR during the preparatory process of CSP3 were the adoption of a FAQ-type document aimed at providing guidance to States Parties in the preparation of the mandatory annual report on authorized or actual exports and imports and a document with measures to strengthen reporting capabilities at national level. Current efforts to support States Parties include the opportunity for States Parties to exchange best practices and challenges with a view to addressing those and the development of a reporting functionality in the ATT IT Platform with the purpose of facilitate reporting. Other initiatives could be to consider reviewing the current reporting templates.

However, it has become evident that the efforts carried out within the WGTR need to be accompanied by outreach with a clear focus on reporting. While recognizing the role of civil society in building national capacity in the area of reporting through different projects, it would therefore be relevant for the WGTR and possibly the CSP, to adopt a formal outreach strategy, with actions for those involved in the ATT framework, to highlight to States Parties the importance of reporting, explain the reporting obligations and recommend the aforementioned documents, as well as to gather first-hand information on challenges or best practices and to respond to specific questions national authorities involved in reporting may have.

As elements of this outreach strategy, the WGTR could propose to:

- Encourage the participation of the President, members of the Bureau, Co-chairs and Members of the Secretariat in ATT-related events, and to reserve specific time to provide information on reporting.

- Consider the possibility of organizing, together with civil society and/or regional organizations, informative sessions at regional level, addressed to national authorities responsible for reporting.
- Invite States Parties to promote the ATT, through bilateral dialogue, with particular references to the importance of timely reporting. Eventually, this could lead to the identification of challenges and technical assistance opportunities.
- Invite the President and/or ATT Secretariat to proactively reach out to States Parties that have not fulfilled their reporting obligations and identify, where possible, the reasons or difficulties to elaborate and submit the reports.
