



**FOURTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY
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TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

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As stated in Article 1, promoting transparency is a key purpose of the Treaty. Reporting is not a luxury, it is an essential means by which States Parties build confidence that they have fulfilled their Treaty obligations. Reporting is also obligatory for all States Parties to the ATT.

Progress has been made, and we welcome all the reports that have been placed on the Secretariat's website, especially from those States which have not regularly reported using other transparency instruments.

However, many States Parties have not even met their basic Treaty reporting obligations.

Article 13 includes clear obligations for States Parties to submit initial reports on their control systems and annual reports on their exports and imports. Analysis of the ATT Secretariat website shows that as of yesterday, 27% of States Parties had not submitted their initial report. Three months after the deadline set out in the Treaty, 46% of States Parties had not submitted their 2018 annual report, which, as the Head of the Secretariat noted this morning, represents a decline over time.

As is highlighted in the latest ATT Monitor report, some States Parties are using reporting practices which hide useful information. For example, in annual reports, by merely reporting the total quantity of arms exported, without detailing how many were sent to which recipient. States Parties need to provide data to a level of disaggregation and accuracy that provides for *meaningful* transparency.

Care must also be taken to ensure annual reports are fully comprehensive, covering all imports and exports by all branches of government and by others, where relevant, which can therefore be expected to include meaningful inter-agency cooperation.

We have heard from very many states over the past three days that their transfer control systems are fully in compliance with the ATT. However, it appears that concerning reporting, a large proportion are unable or unwilling to meet their Treaty commitments.

For those states that lack the capacity to report, civil society has a long record of providing assistance. Control Arms also supports the Working Group's efforts to provide support to States Parties who are experiencing challenges with reporting.

Article 13 requires States Parties to report to the Secretariat on any new measures taken to implement the Treaty. We note that no State has done so, even though such updates are an important means of informing on their practical efforts to implement the Treaty and in identifying assistance needs and gaps, and even though we know of cases where States have indeed improved their national systems since sharing their initial reports. We would encourage all states to update their reports to reflect any recent changes to national systems as a simple step that



would help demonstrate the ATT is meeting one of its core objectives to develop highest standards.

Article 13 also encourages States Parties to report on diversion, and Control Arms supports the Co-Chairs' multi-tiered approach to sharing information on diversion.

To conclude, we would like to stress again that reporting is mandatory, and fundamental to the operation of the Treaty. In this context, this morning's report by the Head of the Secretariat was extremely concerning.

Thank you.