**First intervention: Partners Foundation to the working group on the effective implementation of the ATT**

**On the lack of transparency in assessing the risks of arms exports to conflict zones**

Transparency is essential to ensuring effective compliance with the Arms Trade Treaty, particularly with regard to Articles 6 and 7 on prohibiting arms exports to areas where they are likely to be used to commit serious violations, as well as Article 11 on prohibiting the diversion of arms to unauthorized parties.

Accurate information on arms deals helps states and the international community assess the risks associated with such deals, such as the importing state's human rights record, involvement in conflicts, violations of UN embargoes, or the diversion of weapons to armed groups.

Despite the importance of this process, published information on risk assessments associated with arms export licenses remains scarce. Only a handful of countries publicly share the criteria they use to assess their arms exports, while others hide behind national security or economic interests to justify the lack of transparency.

Partners Foundation believes this lack of information opens the door to arms deals for parties engaged in armed conflicts or implicated in serious violations. For example, weapons have reached the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan despite their record of committing horrific crimes, and some countries continue to export weapons to Israel despite their clear use against civilians in the Gaza Strip.

The situation is further complicated by the use of open export licenses by some countries, which allow the transfer of large quantities of weapons without adequate oversight, weakening control mechanisms and increasing the potential for misuse.