



UK Mission  
Geneva

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTIVE TREATY IMPLEMENTATION (WGETI)**

**STATEMENT ON INTERAGENCY COOPERATION**

20 February 2024

The UK would like to thank the Romanian President for raising this issue as the theme for their Presidency. We are conscious of this year marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ATT's entry into force and are clear that the Treaty should now be focused on enabling and supporting all States to fully implement the Treaty.

Ensuring effective interagency cooperation is vital for all States. Whilst there will be no one size fits all solution for the challenges on this issue, we can all learn from one another and hope that during the course of our discussions we can all improve our ability to cooperate between agencies.

We would like to share a brief example of UK practice. To support interagency cooperation, and as a result of the National Security Strategy Defence and Security Review in 2015, the UK set up the Export Control Joint Unit and the Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Centre. The Export Control Joint Unit brought together the Department for Business and Trade (as the licensing authority) with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; and the Ministry of Defence to provide a coordinated cross-government operation of export controls. The Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Centre brought together the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ministry of Defence alongside the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to consolidate in a single location expertise and policy making on issues of arms control and disarmament. Whilst the arrangement isn't without its practical challenges related to IT, platform and costs; these joint operations have led to increased coordination between government departments. It promotes robust and effective decision making on, for example, export licences or policy positions, through fostering environments that prioritise information sharing and pooling expertise. It has improved access to technical experts as well as allowing a more cohesive and consistent parliamentary and communications approach, and coordinated governance and leadership.

We recognise that there is potentially a practical role that the ATT can play to support States in developing a system for interagency cooperation that works for their context. We believe that the VTF could be a valuable tool for States wishing to

*Please, check against delivery*

[strengthen](#) interagency cooperation for the effective implementation of the Treaty, play an important role alongside further discussions and sharing of national practices on this topic.