



UK Mission
Geneva

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ARMS TRADE TREATY
WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTIVE TREATY IMPLEMENTATION (WGETI)

STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF INDUSTRY

21 February 2024

Between 31 January and 2 February, the UK, alongside partners Republic of Korea and Mexico, hosted a conference at Wilton Park to discuss the Role of Industry in the ATT with the aim of furthering discussions on the Presidency's theme from CSP9. The event brought together States, Civil Society, industry representatives and the Secretariat. We are grateful to our partners and all the participants for their enthusiastic and positive involvement and contributions that helped make the event useful and informative. Participants explored ways that industry can continue to engage in ATT discussions, looked to identify ways industry can support more effective ATT implementation and how the ATT could leverage experiences from other fields (such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights).

It remains clear that industry is an integral element of the success of the ATT but industry actors remain unclear of how they can play a role in discussions. Awareness and knowledge of the ATT within industry remains an issue—including with respect to the ATT's potential benefits at both a national and multilateral level. More education and outreach is needed to support in both directions. There was a view that the ATT has yet to fulfill its promise of establishing a level playing field and increasing transparency and predictability around arms transfer processes and eliminating inconsistent application of rules and regulations. In addition, the conference discussed how the current ATT process does not provide a conducive environment for industry to engage with and contribute to discussions. It was evident that there are significant opportunities to consider the role of industry in our discussions on interagency coordination as, in order to fully implement the Treaty, both elements are vital.

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Whilst there is still much work to be done to improve our engagement with industry actors on both a national and multilateral level, and there is scope to improve coordination between the ATT Secretariat and relevant industry stakeholders, the Wilton Park conference provided us with better sense of how we may look to progress our engagement with industry. The UK hopes to, with the support of the Secretariat, host an informal virtual meeting session in the intersessional period, after the formal conference documents have been produced. We are keen to share details of our discussions and hear a wider views to continue to build on the momentum and further discuss in CSP10.