

THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

(Geneva, Switzerland, 11-15 September 2017)

WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT Head of Secretariat, Ambassador Philip Griffiths

Thank you, Mr. President. Let me congratulate you and all those involved on the occasion of this Third Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual Use Goods and Technologies, I welcome this opportunity to join you again and wish the Conference every success in its important deliberations.

Mr. President, I had the honour to participate with you personally in a panel discussion at the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in June this year on contributions to controlling transfers of conventional arms. I would like to thank you for that opportunity to explore complementarities among the various multilateral instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty and the Wassenaar Arrangement, seeking to strengthen regulation of international transfers of these items, while not impeding legitimate trade.

Last year, the Wassenaar Arrangement marked twenty years since its foundation as an intergovernmental information-sharing and standard-setting forum in this field.

Some Wassenaar Arrangement outputs that ATT States Parties might find of practical interest include the collectively agreed WA Munitions List (ML), which is updated annually by Participating State technical experts and is republished each December on the WA website. The ML may help other countries, including those that do not have large defence industries, to develop and maintain a national control list, as required by the ATT, thereby saving a lot of time and effort.

Also of interest may be the non-binding WA guidelines developed and updated by consensus over the years covering various aspects of export risk assessment and export control implementation, including in the regulation of transit and transshipment and brokering activities, measures to prevent diversion and measures for effective enforcement, as well as elements for the effective fulfilment of national reporting obligations. A WA Compendium of Best Practices arranged thematically for ease of reference is also available on the WA website and in hard copy.

Indeed, Mr. President, a number of countries outside the Wassenaar Arrangement are already taking its Control Lists and best practices guidance as a reference in their national systems, either directly, or by, for example, applying the consolidated European Union (EU) Control Lists which draw, inter alia, on the work of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Mr. President, the Wassenaar Arrangement pursues an active outreach programme aimed at disseminating the results of its work and promoting the wider establishment and maintenance of effective export controls. It also seeks to foster synergies with other international bodies working in similar areas.

WA outreach includes collective policy and technical briefings, which many countries participating in this Conference are already familiar with. The Arrangement recognises the need to tailor outreach to the different needs and interests of partners, and is open to considering bilateral dialogue and visits based on invitation, as well as events with a regional or thematic focus. Collective WA activities supplement outreach undertaken by its Participating States in their national or regional capacities.

Mr. President, I hope that new opportunities will emerge to build on the complementary and mutually reinforcing nature of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Wassenaar Arrangement. The endeavours of both organisations help to promote transparency and responsibility in international transfers of conventional arms, thereby contributing to world peace and security.

I and my colleagues stand ready to facilitate, in line with the WA's objectives, any requests to WA Participating States for information or assistance that are referred to us through the ATT Secretariat.

Thank you, Mr. President.