



Arms Trade Treaty
5th Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 26-30 August 2019
Agenda Point 7: Transparency and Reporting

**General Remarks concerning
Transparency and Reporting**

Co-Chairs,

Switzerland considers the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty's reporting obligation an important step towards transparency in the global arms trade. For us, it is of utmost importance that all States Parties fulfil their related obligations and we are concerned by the current downward trend. Reporting is essential to strengthen transparency and build mutual trust about adherence to the Treaty.

In that regard, Switzerland would like to highlight five points:

1. Firstly, we are fully aware that accurate reporting can be a challenging task. We therefore urge all States Parties to experiencing challenges to present them within the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting so that we can work together on measures to facilitate the reporting process. We further encourage all States Parties to use the means that are already available to them to improve their national reporting capacity – for example the documents that were prepared by this working group or through national projects that can receive funding by the Voluntary Trust Fund.
2. Secondly, Switzerland is very pleased with the “going live” of the online-reporting tool. It is important to have the data on arms transfers digitally available in order to enable statistical analyses. In our view, the next step would be to focus on its user friendliness. The easier the online-reporting tool can be used, the higher the chances that more states will be using it on a regular basis.
3. The third point we wish to highlight concerns the Harmonised System of the World Customs Organisation: Switzerland welcomes the Co-chairs initiative to reflect the ATT's categories of conventional arms within the Harmonised System and is looking forward to a continued discussion on the feasibility of this idea.
4. Additionally, Switzerland is appreciating the fact, that the first informal meeting to discuss concrete cases of diversion is taking place during the CSP5.
5. Lastly, Co-Chairs, we welcome the recommendations that you put forward to the Conference of States Parties, in particular:
 - Recommendation a., b. and c. as Switzerland is being concerned about the continuing downward trend on the legal obligation of submitting initial and annual reports to the Secretariat for all States Parties.



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- Recommendation f. on the introduction of the online reporting tool, as we believe that it is a necessary tool to facilitate access to the collected arms transfer data and that its continued development will make the reporting process easier for everyone.
- Recommendation h. as we hope that instruction on the use of the information exchange platform will enhance its use.
- We also welcome recommendation j. on the first informal meeting and are looking forward to continue with this hopefully soon institutionalised information exchange.
- Finally, we believe that it is vital to continue the important work of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting and therefore support its proposed mandate for the period up to CSP6.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.