



24 July 2026

Issued by the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting

Original: English

Arms Trade Treaty

Twelfth Conference of States Parties

Geneva, 24 – 28 August 2026

WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING CHAIR'S REPORT TO CSP12

INTRODUCTION

1. This report to the Twelfth Conference of States Parties (CSP12) is presented by the Chair of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR) to reflect the work conducted by the WGTR since CSP11 and to put forward recommendations for consideration by CSP12.
2. The report includes the following annexes:
 - [Annex 1](#): *Draft modalities for an Informal Sounding Board Group of Interested WGTR Stakeholders (3 pages)*
 - [Annex 2](#): *Proposed mandate for the WGTR for the period September 2026 - August 2027 (1 page)*

BACKGROUND

3. The WGTR was established by the CSP3 to undertake tasks defined by the CSP in the general area indicated by its title. The work of the WGTR is guided by its Terms of Reference ([ATT/CSP3.WGTR/2017/CHAIR/159/Conf.Rep](#); Annex A) as well as an annual mandate that is endorsed by the CSP ([ATT/CSP11.WGTR/2025/CHAIR/827/Conf.Rep](#); Annex). Following a review of the ATT programme of work and a shift in focus of the Working Groups from theoretical discussions to practical Treaty implementation issues, the CSP10 also welcomed a multi-year work plan for the WGTR exchange of national implementation practices regarding transparency, including topics to be discussed, as well as general guidance and lists of specific questions to be addressed during the discussions ([ATT/CSP10.WGTR/2024/CHAIR/800/Conf.Rep](#); Attachment A).
4. On 29 January 2026, the CSP12 President appointed Ms. Milagros WINKELRIED SALAZAR of Peru as Chair of the WGTR for the period between CSP11 and CSP12.

19 MARCH 2026 WGTR MEETING

5. The WGTR held its only meeting of the CSP12 preparatory process on 19 March 2026. A letter of the WGTR Chair and a draft annotated agenda for the meeting were circulated on 17 February 2026 ([ATT/CSP12.WGTR/2026/CHAIR/836/AnnAgenda](#)). To facilitate preparation for the meeting, the letter of the Chair provided several concrete questions for delegations to consider and the draft annotated agenda contained an annex with the relevant list of guiding questions for the structured

discussions on national implementation practices regarding transparency.

Agenda item 1: State of play of compliance with ATT reporting obligations

Status of reporting

6. Under this item, the ATT Secretariat delivered its presentation on the [status of reporting](#). It indicated that the annual reporting rate for the 2024 reporting cycle was at 68% at the time of the WGTR meeting, compared to 63% for the 2022 cycle at the same stage last year. The Secretariat noted the difficulty of assessing trends, as the 2024 figures reflect a snapshot taken ten months after the deadline, whereas reporting rates for previous years have increased over time. For example, the 2021 reporting rate now stands at 72%, up from 62% as reported at the first CSP9 WGTR meeting. More generally, the Secretariat reiterated that the growing number of States Parties, including many without established national control systems, continues to affect overall reporting rates. By way of illustration, if only the 61 States Parties already due to submit a 2015 report were considered, the 2024 reporting rate would have reached 83% at the time of the meeting. Other notable developments included the slight rise in full compliance (63% of States Parties having submitted all due reports), a renewed rise in the number of reports restricted to States Parties (31% of submitted reports), a further decline in the use of the online reporting tool (8% of submissions) and the continued practice whereby about half of reporting States Parties authorize the ATT Secretariat to transmit their reports to UNODA for use as their UNROCA submissions. The initial reporting rate increased to 85%, while still only seven States Parties have so far submitted updates to their initial reports.

7. Following the presentation, delegations expressed concern about the low annual reporting rate and urged all States Parties to submit reports on time, emphasizing that transparency is a core pillar of the Treaty, essential for building trust, ensuring accountability, and supporting effective implementation. Some delegations called for improvements in the quality and public availability of reports. Others underscored the importance of strong inter-agency coordination at the national level to ensure comprehensive and coherent reporting, while acknowledging persistent challenges such as limited human and institutional capacity. In this context, delegations called for enhanced capacity-building and technical assistance, increased exchanges of best practices and better use of existing guidance tools. They also emphasized the value of ongoing assistance initiatives and the role of regional cooperation in strengthening reporting capabilities.

Agenda item 2: Supporting compliance with ATT reporting obligations

“Outreach strategy on reporting”¹

8. Under this element, the Chair invited delegations to brief the WGTR about their initiatives to promote reporting and support States Parties in addressing their reporting challenges and to propose new initiatives in that regard. No specific initiatives were reported or proposed beyond expressions of support for ongoing initiatives.

¹ The “Outreach strategy on reporting” is included in the WGTR co-chairs’ report to CSP4, and available on <https://old.thearmstradetreaty.org/tools-and-guidelines.html>.

Initiatives of the ATT Secretariat

9. Under this element, the Chair invited the ATT Secretariat to provide an update on its ongoing initiatives to support reporting compliance, including its project of voluntary practical bilateral and regional assistance with reporting (peer-to-peer), the optimization of reporting guidance tools and reporting-related activities under its Implementation Support Project.

10. The Secretariat focused on the activities under the Implementation Support Project, conducted with financial support of the European Union, indicating that the activities in this third phase are largely aligned with discussions in the Working Group.² These include: i) supporting capacity-building through refining existing training materials, including via an e-learning module and user-friendly and interactive resources; ii) enhancing the format of the ATT Annual and Initial Reporting Templates to improve clarity, usability, and accessibility; and iii) enhancing the ATT IT infrastructure to support meaningful exchange of information on matters of mutual interest and discussions within ATT Working Groups. The Secretariat will also provide tailored support in response to five requests entered into the ATT Needs and Resources Matching Database, including on reporting. Finally, the Secretariat will reflect on how its regional champions initiative can further support reporting outreach and responses to assistance needs identified through the Matching Database.

11. Following the briefing, the Chair invited delegations to share views on the proposal to create an informal sounding board group of interested stakeholders to support the Secretariat's efforts in facilitating reporting compliance. Such group could provide feedback on tools being developed or updated at the request of the Conference and in the context of the Implementation Support Project.

12. In response, intervening delegations were general receptive to exploring the proposal as a means to enhance coordination among existing initiatives and support the Secretariat. Several delegations, however, requested further details before taking a position, calling for clarification on the group's mandate, working methods, meeting frequency, resource implications, and its relationship to existing bodies, in particular the Working Group. Some delegations emphasized that such new mechanism should be efficient, inclusive, and avoid creating additional reporting burdens.

Practical instruments to support reporting compliance

13. Under this element, the Working Group focused on the assessment of the online reporting tool, one of the options for submitting initial and annual reports, hosted in the Restricted Area of the ATT website. CSP11 requested this assessment due to its limited use and mandated the Working Group to prepare recommendations on its continuation and possible alternatives.³ This was considered jointly with the assessment of the Information Exchange Platform, also hosted in the Restricted Area of the ATT website, which was intended to facilitated exchanges among States Parties, signatory States and ATT office holders, on matters of mutual interest, but has never been

² See [Council decision \(CFSP\) 2025/2367 of 20 November 2025 on Union support for activities of the ATT Secretariat in support of the implementation of the ATT](#). For the previous phases see EU Council decisions [\(CFSP\) 2021/649 of 16 April 2021](#) and [\(CFSP\) 2023/2296 of 23 October 2023](#).

³ See paragraph 26 (i)-(j) of the CSP11 Final Report ([ATT/CSP11/2025/SEC/834/Conf.FinRep/Rev.](#)).

used for this purpose. To support the assessment, CSP11 requested the ATT Secretariat to conduct a survey among States Parties concerning the use of both functionalities and provide a report to the Working Group on the outcomes of this survey, on the operation and maintenance costs of these functionalities and on possible options concerning the continuation of these functionalities, including possible alternative tools to facilitate the exchange of information.

14. The Secretariat delivered a [presentation](#) on the preliminary findings of the survey and their link to ongoing initiatives on reporting. To date, 20 States Parties responded to the survey, with broad geographic representation.

15. Regarding the information exchange platform, respondents mostly attributed its non-use to a lack of awareness and knowledge about its purpose. At least half of respondents checked that purposes or features likely to increase usage included: “sharing national implementation practices and information on matters of mutual interest”, “Exchanging information in the context of the Diversion information Exchange forum (DIEF)”, followed by “Discussion threads/forums by Working Group (agenda item/ topic)”, “Searchable document repository with key words and metadata” and Notification / Subscription to features or topics. Most respondents supported transforming the platform into a comprehensive Information Portal integrating all these purposes and features, while some favoured keeping the platform as-is and increase outreach/training to boost use. If developed, most preferred the portal to remain in the restricted area of the website.

16. Regarding the online reporting tool, respondents attributed the limited use primarily to a lack of awareness or training and a preference for a Word/PDF document that can be edited offline. At least half of respondents checked that features likely to increase usage are: “pre-filled fields from previous reports”, “clear validation checks and descriptive errors messages”, “built-in guidance and help texts” and “machine readable export/import “template” (e.g. Excel, CSV, XML, JSON) for file-based submission (upload)”. Most respondents supported updating the tool to integrate these features, while some favoured keeping it as-is with enhanced usability and outreach (through training and guidance).

17. In light of the encouragement to optimize the format and provision of the ATT reporting guidance tools, the Secretariat also sought input from States Parties on this aspect. Nearly all respondents indicated that providing templates in Excel would facilitate use. Concerning features likely to facilitate use of the Annual Reporting Template further, almost all respondents checked “including the Explanatory Notes and relevant Q&A from the ‘FAQ’-document on annual reporting within the reporting tables as pop-up notes”, while a few checked “Providing nil reporting forms (Annexes 3A and 3B) as stand-alone templates”. On the same question about the Initial Reporting Template, almost all respondents checked “Enhancing the visibility of updates made to the report”, an approach the Secretariat intends to apply to both templates. Some respondents also supported operationalizing the international assistance section.

18. In closing, the Secretariat clarified that some enhancements will be implemented as part of its ongoing IT modernization and the EU-supported Implementation Support Project, using allocated resources. It further noted that the proposed informal sounding board group of interested stakeholders should be understood in the context of the Secretariat’s work on the Information

Exchange Platform, the online reporting tool and the reporting guidance tools. Targeted technical input and feedback from State Party and other stakeholder delegates with expertise on these topics could support development and testing.

19. A number of delegations expressed support for improving the effectiveness and uptake of the IT functionalities and regretted the limited response to the survey, suggesting an extension of the deadline. Delegations called for improved usability, accessibility, and awareness of the tools through a user-centered approach, highlighting that capacity constraints, technical challenges, and inter-agency coordination gaps are key obstacles. Some advocated for greater coherence and interoperability between ATT reporting formats and other mechanisms. Others underscored the potential of the Information Exchange Platform as a secure channel for peer-to-peer exchanges, including on risk assessment and diversion, calling for user-oriented improvements and more outreach to build trust and increase usage.

Substantive ATT reporting issues⁴

20. Under this element, the Working Group conducted an in-depth discussion on sources and means States Parties (could) use to collect data for reporting as well as decision-making on substantive reporting issues. This followed discussions the previous year on national practices, which highlighted challenges, including reliance on multiple stakeholders for data provision and the balance between transparency and mutual trust in determining reportable information.

21. To initiate the discussion, the ATT Secretariat presented the relevant section of its Voluntary Guidance on the Practice of Annual Reporting. Representatives of Paraguay and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) then shared experiences and recommendations, Paraguay as a State Party addressing related challenges and good practices and SIPRI as an assistance provider, including recent supported to Cameroon. [Paraguay](#) outlined its institutional framework and data collection processes, highlighting how the use of integrated digital systems enables full traceability of arms transfers from import to end user. Among the identified challenges, Paraguay highlighted difficulties in consolidating information from different institutions, ensuring consistency between administrative and customs data, and improving the interoperability of its systems. It also shared plans for further system modernization, development of security forces' inventory tools and continued international cooperation. Drawing on research conducted under a Voluntary Trust Fund project led by Cameroon, [SIPRI](#) outlined key challenges and good practices. Overall, SIPRI emphasized the importance of early planning, noting in this context the usefulness of the guiding questions in the Secretariat's Voluntary Guidance for establishing national reporting processes. For data collection, beyond identifying possible sources, it highlighted practices such as looking at the available data sources to structure the reporting process, taking into account national specificities, developing inter-agency processes to inform and involve necessary actors and developing a national procedures document. In the case of Cameroon a manual was developed, publicly available in English and French. For decision-making, it stressed the importance of raising

⁴ Note that since no proposals for alterations and additional questions and answers to the voluntary 'FAQ'-document on annual reporting were submitted, this topic was not considered during the meeting. The same applies to any other substantive issues which delegations were invited to raise.

key questions early, then establishing the reporting process, revisiting decisions as circumstances evolve and raising awareness among *all* entities involved. More generally, SIPRI also encouraged engagement with other States, particularly at the regional level to exchange good practices.

22. Following the presentations, delegations did not add further input to their previous interventions.

Agenda item 3: Supporting information exchange between States Parties

23. Under this agenda item, no delegation had shared practices or proposals regarding Treaty-mandated or encouraged information exchanges⁵ ahead of the meeting. During the meeting, France recalled the [joint Brazil and France working paper on regional and sub-regional meetings on diversion information exchange](#), proposing that CSP12 encourages the convening of such meetings to share lessons learned and operationally relevant information from concrete diversion cases.

Agenda item 4: National implementation practices regarding transparency

24. Under this agenda item, the WGTR conducted its structured discussion on national practices regarding “Reports to Cabinet and/or Parliament”, in accordance with its multi-year workplan that was welcomed by CSP10.

25. The discussion was initiated with a [presentation](#) by Dr. Francesca GRANDI, Director of Transparency International Defence and Security (TI D&S), who discussed the relevance of reporting to Cabinet and/or Parliament, including good practices and challenges. TI D&S emphasized that such reporting is essential for accountability, transparency, and effective oversight of arms transfers, which rely on public resources and authority. Given the sector’s high corruption risk due to its opacity and political sensitivity, TI D&S highlighted transparent and detailed reporting as a key safeguard against misuse and diversion. Challenges identified include excessive secrecy, limited parliamentary access, poor data quality, and insufficient detail on actual transfers. TI D&S stressed that effective reporting should include disaggregated and comprehensive data on authorizations, deliveries, recipients, and denials, with narrowly defined security exceptions. It concluded by calling for stronger domestic reporting systems, clearer minimum standards, and closer alignment with international obligations.

26. Following this, representatives of Nigeria, Norway and France outlined their national practices based on the guiding questions in the multi-year workplan. The presentations of [Norway](#) and France described how reporting to parliament takes place through an annual white paper and an annual report, respectively, to strengthen domestic accountability and awareness and to inform parliamentary activity on arms transfers. In this context, parliamentary hearings and dedicated parliamentary oversight bodies were also mentioned. These documents cover transfers in the preceding year, including denied transfers and broader categories of goods, as well as transfer policies and practices and the legal industrial, and strategic context of arms transfers. France highlighted the role of a parliamentary body dedicated to arms export policy. Norway explained that its annual white paper undergoes structured review, including public hearings with civil society,

⁵ See particularly Articles 11 (5), 13 (2) and 15 (2-4) and 15 (7) of the Treaty.

industry and other stakeholders, followed by committee recommendations and plenary debate with significant media attention. Nigeria's presentation showed that parliament in scrutiny of arms transfers is not uniform among States Parties, indicating that engagement remains limited, even though discussions on arms proliferation do take place. Reporting to Cabinet is important for translating international commitments into national action. All three States also addressed their data-gathering process, noting challenges such as the volume of data, alignment of national and international categories, staff turnover, and balancing transparency with national security and commercial confidentiality requirements.

27. In the subsequent discussion, several States Parties shared practices on reporting to parliament, emphasizing the importance of parliamentary scrutiny for democratic accountability and public trust. Examples included provision of disaggregated data, information on denials and revocations, policy context, and real-time or ad hoc disclosures for significant transactions. Significant variation in practices and oversight mechanisms was also noted, including differences in judicial oversight. Several delegations also referred to annual reporting under Article 13 (3) of the Treaty in their remarks, emphasizing its central role in enabling assessment of compliance with Treaty obligations, and encouraging exploration of voluntary reporting of additional elements such as denials, revocations and gender considerations, as well as convergence towards common reporting standards to improve comparability and data quality.

Agenda item 5: WGTR mandate in the period between CSP12 and CSP13

28. Under this agenda item, the Chair invited delegations to share suggestions for topics or issues to be included in the WGTR mandate for the period between CSP12 and CSP13. No draft mandate was provided to give delegations greater flexibility to share suggestions. Nevertheless, no delegations intervened under this item.

CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD AFTER 19 MARCH 2026 WGTR MEETING

29. With regard to the ***implementation of the outreach strategy on reporting***, the Chair notes the consistently low number of interventions under this item and suggests that the ongoing development of a five-year strategy for the ATT might be a good opportunity to explore a new framework to promote and support reporting in a collaborative manner. In that respect, the Chair welcomes delegations' suggestions for the Working Group to have meaningful and goal-oriented exchanges on ongoing and anticipated activities to promote or support reporting.

30. With regard to ***initiatives of the ATT Secretariat to support reporting compliance***, the Chair considers it important for the Working Group to underscore the importance of these initiatives and to ensure that these initiatives remain aligned with the objectives of this Working Group and the CSP. In that regard, the Chair believes that the suggested sounding board group could be an important instrument. While several delegations spoke in favour of this initiative, the Chair nevertheless recognizes that many delegations also still had questions about its set-up and mandate. For this reason, the Chair worked with the ATT Secretariat to provide the additional information and possible modalities contained in [Annex 1 of this draft report](#). These elements build on the clarifications provided by the Secretariat during the meeting, and refer to the similar "informal consultative group

of WGTR participants”, created during the CSP4 cycle.

31. With regard to the **assessment of the online reporting tool and the Information Exchange Platform**, the Chair takes note of delegations’ reactions to the initial findings of the Secretariat’s survey and the suggestions made, emphasizing the importance of States Parties’ input. As the intended users, the assessment of these functionalities is their prerogative. While the Secretariat and the Chair can identify issues and outline possible options through the survey and Working Group discussions, the decision rests with States Parties. Should States Parties agree to the creation of the sounding board group, participating delegates would be involved in implementation and follow-up; however direction from the Conference will be required in particular on the key purposes and features of the two functionalities.⁶

32. Going forward, while recalling that that CSP11 requested recommendations for a decision at CSP12, the Chair concurs with delegations that the survey and discussions have not yet generated sufficient input for the Secretariat to provide a conclusive report on concrete options concerning the continuation of these functionalities, and for a definitive recommendation to be included in the Working Group’s report. In this context, as a first step, the Chair and the Secretariat have decided to renew the call for inputs on the assessment alongside the circulation of the draft report, and to conduct further consultations with respondents, where relevant. The Working Group will receive a brief update on these efforts and next steps during the Informal Preparatory Meeting in May. The Chair further notes that the anticipated recommendations and subsequent CSP decision need not to be the end point of this process. If no final determination can be made by CSP12, the Conference could instead take note of progress made and the need for further consultations on the continuation of these functionalities, and request an update at the Working Group’s next meeting.

33. With regard to **supporting information exchange between States Parties**, the Chair recognizes the proposal of France for CSP12 to encourage regional, sub-regional and bilateral meetings on diversion information-exchange. A draft recommendation has been included below to that end. The Chair also notes in this context that as part of its Implementation Support Project (see paragraph 10), the ATT Secretariat will effectively organize five regional/sub-regional workshops on diversion prevention, serving as confidential platforms for structured dialogue between States.

34. With regard to **national practices regarding “Reports to Cabinet and/or Parliament”**, the Chair recognizes the relevance of such reports as a tool for democratic oversight. In this context, the Chair suggests that consideration could be given to providing a dedicated space on the ATT website, whether within or outside the Restricted Area, where States Parties that publish such reports and are willing to share them may make them available to other States Parties and/or ATT stakeholders, as an example of information exchange on matters of mutual interest.

35. The Chair also acknowledges the call by some delegations under this item for States Parties to include certain aspects of ATT implementation in annual reports. In this regard, the Chair recalls

⁶ Note that on other aspects of ongoing reporting and information-exchange related work (e.g. optimizing the format and provision of the reporting guidance tools and enhancing the visualization of the Reporting pages on the ATT website), the mandate lies with the Secretariat, while States Parties have a supportive role, if created, in first instance through the sounding board group.

that the annual report, as established in the Treaty, focuses on transfers in the preceding year, and that new implementation measures should be reported through updates to the Initial Report, for which the Initial Reporting Template provides the appropriate space and guidance. The Chair underscores the importance of maintaining such information within the Initial Report, as it serves as a centralized overview of a State's implementation status, whereas reporting updates through annual reports may risk fragmentation of information. At the same time, this does not preclude States Parties from using the annual report to provide additional information related to their transfers that is not captured in the Annual Reporting Template, including on denied transfer authorizations. All States Parties, including those using the template, remain at liberty to append such information to their annual reports as appropriate. Recalling that the Secretariat has been mandated to optimize the *format* (not the content) of the reporting templates, the Chair invites delegations to continue sharing suggestions on how the format might further facilitate updates to the Initial Report or the provision of additional information on transfers in the annual report.

36. With regard to the ***mandate of the Working Group between CSP12 and SP13***, the Chair takes note that no suggestions were made. A draft mandate has now been included as [Annex 2](#) for delegation's consideration. The streamlined and clarified draft builds on this year's mandate and takes into account the issues and challenges raised in the meeting of 19 March 2026.

WGTR BRIEFING DURING 27-28 MAY 2026 CSP12 INFORMAL PREPARATORY MEETING

37. During the CSP12 Informal Preparatory meeting on 27 May 2026, the Chair presented the draft report and its recommendations. In response, while recognizing gradual improvements, delegations noted persistent challenges related to reporting compliance and emphasized the need to improve both the quantity and quality of reports. Some delegations also raised concerns over the increasing number of reports submitted on a restricted basis. Delegations expressed support for the Secretariat's work in this area and referred to existing and potential initiatives to enhance reporting compliance. These included (sub-)regional technical cooperation and experience-sharing, as well as further exploration of synergies between similar reporting instruments. A few delegations also re-emphasized the importance of updating initial reports to reflect legislative and policy developments, as a tool to strengthen broader Treaty implementation.

38. Delegations generally expressed support for the recommendations in the draft report. Those generating discussion concerned the proposed creation of an informal sounding board group to advance the ATT Secretariat's work on its reporting and information exchange support initiatives and tools, as well as the possibility of creating a dedicated space on the ATT website for States Parties to make relevant national reports available.

39. With regard to the proposed informal sounding board group, delegations recognized its potential value for discussing challenges and solutions in an informal setting. A number of delegations nevertheless called for greater clarity regarding its mandate, composition, and practical functioning. More broadly, they cautioned against duplication of structures, increased workload and the resulting demands on limited human and financial resources, and called for a strategically coherent institutional framework.

40. In response to general comments regarding creating informal groups, the Chair reminds delegations that informal intersessional meetings, including smaller group meetings, were already envisaged in the context of the review of the ATT programme of work, as part of the reduction of working group meetings to a single session. It was in reference to that context that the Management Committee noted during the Informal Preparatory Meeting that the informal groups proposed in the WGTR and the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI) fall within the possible purposes, formats and working methods contemplated in prior documents concerning the review of the programme of work and configuration and substance of the Working Groups. Delegations are also reminded that the rationale behind such smaller group meetings was precisely to facilitate and alleviate the workload of the Working Groups, by entrusting certain preliminary or technical work to interested delegates on an intersessional basis.

41. Regarding the mandate of the sounding board group, the Chair emphasizes its limited purpose, recalling the precedent of a similar “informal consultative group of WGTR participants”, created during the CSP4 cycle, as outlined in the background section of the proposed modalities. As noted in paragraph 18 above, this should be understood in the context of the Secretariat’s ongoing work on the Information Exchange Platform, the online reporting tool and the reporting guidance tools, where targeted technical input and feedback from State Parties and other stakeholder delegates with relevant expertise could support development and testing.

42. In relation to participation in the Group, paragraphs 3 and 6 of the proposed modalities are complementary. The Chair firstly considers it appropriate that all States Parties with an interest in the work should be able to participate and that this opportunity should also be extended to signatory State delegates.⁷ Furthermore, the Chair notes that “*international and regional organisations administering reporting and/or information exchange instruments similar to those under the ATT*” may have a particular interest in the Group’s work and could provide valuable input, including in light of calls to further explore synergies with similar instruments. At the same time, the Chair recognizes the relevant expertise of several civil society organisations and other stakeholders on these topics, as well as their experience as technical assistance partners in reporting-related capacity-building efforts. For that reason, the proposed modalities provide the opportunity to the WGTR Chair and the Secretariat to invite appropriate delegates to participate. Entrusting the WGTR Chair and the Secretariat with inviting certain such delegates strikes a balance, as an overly large group could make its efficient and effective operation more challenging. To allow follow-up by all delegations, the proposed modalities provide for reporting on the Group’s work to the WGTR. Furthermore, it should be noted that the WGTR itself retains full authority over any recommendations that may be submitted to the Conference.

43. Regarding workload, as noted above, any intersessional meetings would concern activities in support of the Working Group’s work, to expedite its discussions and /or provide more in-depth input into those discussions. Such activities would involve only *interested* delegates, who would not necessarily be the same delegates attending ATT meetings in Geneva, but rather capital-based experts, whose participation in the Group is facilitated under the proposed modalities through the

⁷ In this regard, the Chair notes that the ATT Rules of Procedure accord both States Parties and signatory States a largely equivalent status as “participants” in the Conference, with the exception of decision-making.

emphasis on virtual consultations and written submissions. Finally, the proposed modalities are also particularly mindful of workload issues by limiting the requested activities to the minimum necessary.

44. In conclusion, noting that several delegations taking the floor expressed their support for this particular group, the Chair trusts that the additional explanations provided and the limited clarifications introduced in the proposed modalities provide sufficient reassurance to enable consensus on the proposal.

45. With regard to the possibility of creating a dedicated space on the ATT website for national reports, delegations acknowledged the potential transparency benefits of improving accessibility to national implementation practices and enhancing the use of the ATT website as an information-sharing tool. Some nevertheless queried the practical value of the proposal in light of language barriers and resource implications. One delegation also indicated that it systematically provides a link to its national reports in the reports it submits under Article 13 of the Treaty.

46. In considering these observations, and while recognizing the language imitations involved, the Chair notes that making such reports available would remain entirely at the discretion of each State Party, and would merely give practical effect to the existing encouragement contained in Article 15 (2) of the Treaty to “*exchange information on matters of mutual interest regarding the implementation and application of the Treaty*”. Following consultations with the ATT Secretariat, the Chair also wishes to allay concerns regarding potential budgetary implications. In this regard, it is pointed out that the Information Exchange Platform already allows delegations to upload documents and that the existing IT infrastructure could support a page dedicated to national reports. Nevertheless, the Chair has included additional language in the related recommendation to address these concerns explicitly.

47. With regard to other recommendations in the draft report, few comments were made on the interim conclusions concerning the assessment of the online reporting tool and the Information Exchange Platform. In light of this, the Chair has now included the proposed recommendation noting the need for further consultations, which could potentially involve the informal sounding board group, should it be created. Finally, the Chair recognizes the broad support expressed for (sub-)regional meetings on diversion as a tool for peer-to-peer engagement, confidence-building, and the identification of region-specific challenges and solutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CSP12

48. Based on the above and considering the work undertaken by the WGTR to fulfil its mandate for the period between CSP11 and CSP12, the Working Group recommends that CSP12:

- a. *Reiterates its expectation that all States Parties promptly fulfill their reporting obligations and submit any outstanding reports without exception to the ATT Secretariat;*
- b. *Underscores that States Parties which have adopted new implementation measures since their Initial Report should promptly update their report;*
- c. *Stresses that States with reporting challenges should make full use of available assistance mechanisms such as the Voluntary Trust Fund and the ATT Needs and Resources Matching*

Database and continues to encourage States Parties in a position to provide assistance on reporting, to submit specific assistance offers in coordination with the Secretariat;

- d. Notes the progress in the Secretariat's work on its reporting and information exchange support initiatives and tools, and supports the creation of an informal sounding board group to advance this work through technical input and feedback, operating in accordance with the modalities contained [in Annex 1 of this report](#);*
- e. Encourages the ATT Secretariat to continue its briefings and Q&A sessions on practical reporting, online and in the margins of ATT meetings, where feasible;*
- f. Recognizing the structured discussion on "Reports to Cabinet and/or Parliament", requests the ATT Secretariat, within the relevant allocated resources, to examine the feasibility of a dedicated space in the Restricted Area on the ATT website, where States Parties willing to do so could make such reports available to other States Parties and signatory States;*
- g. Encourages States Parties to volunteer to give presentations in the CSP13 WGTR meeting on the topic of "Audit enquiries" on the basis of the relevant guiding in the multi-year workplan for the WGTR exchange of national implementation practices regarding transparency, welcomed by the CSP10;*
- h. Notes the progress in the assessment of the Information Exchange Platform and the online reporting tool and the need for further consultations on the continuation of these functionalities, and request an update at the Working Group's next meeting;*
- i. Encourages convening regional, sub-regional and bilateral meetings to facilitate the exchange of information on diversion, with a view to sharing lessons learned and operationally relevant information from concrete cases of diversion of conventional arms, and subsequently presenting these elements, on a voluntary basis, at meetings of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum; and welcomes in this context the anticipated regional/sub-regional workshops on diversion prevention, organized by the ATT Secretariat under its EU-supported Implementation Support Project;*
- j. Endorses the mandate for the WGTR in the period between CSP12 and CSP13, as contained in [Annex 2 of this report](#), and invites all ATT stakeholders to raise issues and topics for discussion within the remit of this mandate, where appropriate.*

ANNEX 1**DRAFT MODALITIES FOR AN INFORMAL SOUNDING BOARD GROUP OF INTERESTED WGTR STAKEHOLDERS****Background and purpose**

The Informal Sounding Board Group of Interested WGTR Stakeholders (“Sounding Board Group”, henceforth: “the Group”) was suggested in the Chair of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR)’s letter and draft annotated agenda for the WGTR’s CSP12 meeting on 19 March 2026 ([ATT/CSP12.WGTR/2026/CHAIR/836/DrAnnAgenda](#)).

The purpose of the Group is to advance the work of the ATT Secretariat on its reporting and information exchange support initiatives and tools through technical input and feedback, recognizing that the design, development, testing and review of such initiatives and tools require multiple intersessional inputs for which general consultations and the single annual WGTR meeting are not appropriate. The suggested group follows the precedent of a similar “informal consultative group of WGTR participants”, created during the CSP4 cycle by the WGTR co-chairs and supported by the Secretariat. Its creation was supported at CSP4 “to consider and propose future changes and improvements to the IT platform, including the web-based reporting functionality and the information exchange portal”, with the request to the ATT Secretariat “to involve the consultative group in the future work on relevant aspects of the IT platform”.⁸ A re-established group continued its work in the CSP5 and CSP6 cycles.⁹

While noting that this previous consultative group was administrated by the Secretariat without further guidance, the modalities set out below respond to requests made during the WGTR’s meeting on 19 March 2026 for more details on the group’s mandate, working methods, meeting frequency, resource implications, and its relationship to existing bodies, in particular the WGTR.

These modalities draw on, as appropriate, the structure of the Terms of Reference of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum, while reflecting this group’s more limited role in supporting the work of the ATT Secretariat. As indicated below, these modalities are designed to ensure that the operation of the Group does not entail any additional resource implications and does not affect the resources allocated for the conduct of meetings in the budget of the CSP.

⁸ See paragraphs 16, 33 and 36 of the WGTR co-chairs’ report to CSP4 ([ATT/CSP4.WGTR/2018/CHAIR/358/Conf.Rep](#)) and paragraph 24 (f) of the CSP4 Final Report ([ATT/CSP4/2018/SEC/369/Conf.FinRep.Rev1](#)).

⁹ See paragraphs 14 and 26 and Annex C of the WGTR co-chairs’ report to CSP5 ([ATT/CSP5.WGTR/2019/CHAIR/533/Conf.Rep.Rev](#)) and paragraphs 60 and 63 of the introductory paper for the 1st CSP6 WGTR meeting ([ATT/CSP6.WGTR/2020/CHAIR/578/M1.IntroPaper](#)).

Set-up

1. The Group is created under the authority of the WGTR to advance the Secretariat's work on its reporting and information exchange support initiatives and tools through technical input and feedback.
2. The Group shall be facilitated by the WGTR Chair and the Secretariat. The Secretariat will administer the list of participants in the Group and coordinate its activities.

Participation

3. Participation in the Group is open to all States Parties and signatory States, as well as international and regional organisations administering reporting and/or information exchange instruments similar to those under the ATT.
4. Participation is voluntary and based on expertise and commitment to undertake the activities and tasks outlined in the mandate of the Group.
5. Interested delegates should communicate their interest to the Secretariat for registration.
6. In addition to the participants referred to in provision 1, the WGTR Chair and the Secretariat may invite delegates from observer States, other international and regional organisations, as well as civil society and industry organisations with specific expertise on the topics within the Group's mandate to participate in the Group's activities.

Mandate and tasks

7. The mandate of the Group extends to the Secretariat-led initiatives and tools to support reporting and information exchange under Articles 11, 13, 15 and 17 of the Treaty in implementation of Conference decisions or projects regularly reported to the WGTR.
8. With regard to those initiatives and tools, the Secretariat may seek the Group's input at the various stages of design, development and review, and request testing and feedback aimed at assessing their utility, functionality, accessibility and ease of use.
9. Where activities involves access to information in the Restricted Area of the ATT website, involvement shall be limited to State Party delegates.

Methods

10. The Group shall conduct its work through informal virtual consultations and written submissions. In-person meetings in the margins of ATT meetings shall be organized only when strictly necessary. The Secretariat may seek written input as required, while aiming to limit consultations to two per cycle, including both virtual and in-person formats.
11. In keeping with the informal and technical character, participants should contribute based on their expertise and their input should not be attributed to their States or organisations.

12. Participants should refrain from commenting publicly on the group's deliberations.

Reporting

13. The Secretariat will report on the Group's work as part of its reporting to the WGTR on relevant initiatives and tools. The report may not contain any information that could allow attribution to participants in the Group.

Languages and documents

14. The working language of the Group is English. No interpretation or translation services are provided to the Group's activities unless a voluntary contribution is made to that end.¹⁰
15. Documentation related to the Group's work shall only be made available to registered participants in the Group, in English.¹¹

Budgetary Implications

16. The modalities set out above are designed to ensure that the operation of the Group does not entail any additional resource implications and does not affect the resources allocated for the conduct of meetings in the budget of the CSP.

¹⁰ This is in line with the practice of intersessional consultations, as described in paragraph 36 of the proposal on the review of the revised ATT programme of work ([ATT/CSP11.MC/2025/MC/824/Conf.Prop.](#)). It also seeks to ensure that the operation of this Group does not entail any additional resource implications.

¹¹ This does not apply to documentation subsequently submitted to the WGTR for consideration by the CSP, which is generally made available in all official languages of the CSP.

ANNEX 2**PROPOSED MANDATE FOR THE WGTR FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2026 - AUGUST 2027**

In accordance with its Terms of Reference and Rule 42(2) of the ATT Rules of Procedure, it is proposed for consideration by CSP12 that the WGTR, as a minimum, undertakes the following tasks in the period between CSP12 and CSP13 concerning the fulfilment of the reporting obligations in Article 13 of the ATT and the broader issue of transparency in the international conventional arms trade:

1. Status of compliance with ATT reporting obligations

The WGTR will review the status of reporting, focusing on progress compared to previous status updates.

2. Challenges and substantive issues relating to ATT reporting

The WGTR will consider challenges and substantive issues raised by delegations.

3. Initiatives and tools to support ATT reporting

The WGTR will consider initiatives undertaken by the ATT Secretariat and stakeholders to raise awareness and build capacity among States Parties, as well as tools to guide or facilitate reporting, including the ongoing optimization of the reporting templates and the assessment of the online reporting tool. The WGTR will also consider proposals for alterations or additional questions and answers for the 'FAQ'-document on annual reporting, adopted at CSP3 and updated at CSP5 and CSP8.

4. Practices and tools relating to information exchange

The WGTR will exchange practices regarding the Treaty's information exchange requirements and encouragements, in particular those in Articles 11 (5), 13 (2) and 15 (2-4) and 15 (7), and consider means to support the work of Working Groups and the Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF), as well as cooperation among States Parties, including the ongoing assessment of the Information Exchange Platform.

5. National implementation practices regarding transparency

The WGTR will hold discussions in accordance with the multi-year workplan welcomed by CSP10 and the working arrangements contained in the proposal on the WGETI configuration and substance adopted at CSP9.

6. WGTR mandate in the period between CSP13 and CSP14

The WGTR will review the relevance of the above agenda items in the of the state of play of ATT transparency and reporting, with a view to preparing a proposal for consideration by CSP13.

Well in advance of the CSP13 WGTR meeting, the ATT Secretariat shall circulate a call for inputs inviting all ATT stakeholders to raise issues and topics for discussion within the remit of this mandate, as appropriate.
