

Agenda Item 6 – Transparency and Reporting

Madam President,

The International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative thanks the Chair of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting for the efforts undertaken to strengthen transparency, reporting and information exchange under the Arms Trade Treaty. Transparency is not simply a reporting requirement; it is a foundation for accountability, trust and effective Treaty implementation.

As highlighted in the Chair's report, challenges remain. At the time of the Working Group's meeting, the reporting rate for the 2024 cycle stood at 68%, while only 63% of States Parties had submitted all reports due.

Therefore, we believe the question should not only be: How many reports have been submitted? But rather: Do these reports provide sufficient information to understand how States are fulfilling their responsibilities to assess the risks of arms transfers, prevent transfers where there is a clear risk that arms could be used to violate international humanitarian law, and protect civilians in armed conflicts?

Transparency is therefore not an end in itself; it is part of accountability. It helps us assess whether legal commitments are being translated into concrete action to protect civilians and prevent arms flows from contributing to the escalation of conflicts.

Madam President,

These issues were also discussed during Youth4ATT 2026, particularly in our session on Transparency, Reporting and Information Exchange under the ATT and UNROCA.

Participants emphasized that reporting should not become merely a procedural exercise, but should provide meaningful information that helps monitor arms transfers, identify trends, build confidence and support effective Treaty implementation.

We also discussed the importance of strengthening coordination between ATT reporting and UNROCA, particularly to reduce duplication and reporting burdens while maintaining and strengthening transparency. These discussions contributed to our Youth4ATT 2026 Working Paper, entitled: "Arms Trade Treaty 12th Conference of States Parties: Youth Recommendations for Strengthening the Arms Trade Treaty," in which we identified the implementation gap as a key challenge and emphasized the importance of reliable and accessible information for monitoring Treaty implementation.

Madam President,

We believe that young people, researchers and civil society organizations have an important role to play in supporting transparency through research, monitoring and analysis.

We therefore look forward to the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting creating space for informal dialogue with young people, allowing it to hear directly their ideas, challenges and recommendations on transparency, reporting and information exchange.

We hope that Youth4ATT can be one of the spaces through which this dialogue can continue, so that youth participation goes beyond simply expressing views and extends to contributing practical ideas and solutions that can strengthen transparency and Treaty implementation.

Madam President,

Ultimately, transparency should not be measured simply by whether a report exists, but by whether the information it provides can strengthen accountability, assess risks, prevent diversion, protect civilians, and help prevent arms from fuelling conflicts and human suffering.

Thank you, Madam President.