

Arms Trade Treaty – CSP10

Statement on Transparency and Reporting

Australia

President,

Cooperation, responsibility and transparency are enshrined in the ATT as the core principles underpinning the effective regulation of the international arms trade. Australia firmly believes that transparency is the necessary starting point - it contributes to increased trust between states and improves accountability for the implementation of treaty obligations.

The reporting obligations placed on States Parties by Article 13 of the ATT are crucial to the successful regulation of international trade in conventional arms, supporting both transparency and accountability. They provide the Secretariat, States Parties and the public with clarity about the military goods traded, as defined under Article 2. They also highlight States' progress in implementing relevant national laws or regulations. Australia has published its ATT Annual Report every year since 2014, and will continue to do so.

Australia thanks the ATT Working Group on Transparency and Reporting for its work on the Chair's Report for CSP10 and welcomes its recommendations.

We note with concern the number of outstanding initial reports that remain, and the declining number of annual reports being submitted by States Parties.

A growing challenge is the practice of submitting 'private reports' that restrict access to only the Secretariat and other States Parties. Restricting public scrutiny erodes the commitment to transparency by all States Parties. Australia encourages States Parties to comply with their reporting obligations under Article 13.

Australia acknowledges the administrative burden reporting can place on States Parties and the challenge of compiling data across different government agencies. We welcome the focus on supporting States Parties to improve interagency cooperation in national systems which will improve capacity to issue accurate, timely and regular reports. We commend States Parties who have engaged in voluntary bilateral and regional assistance initiatives to provide practical advice on reporting processes.

We encourage States Parties to continue to make use of the Voluntary Trust Fund to establish or improve their reporting capabilities.

Thank you.