

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PLENARY CHAIR
ON 2017 OUTCOMES OF
THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT¹ ON EXPORT CONTROLS FOR
CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND DUAL-USE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES²**

In 2017 the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) continued its efforts to contribute to international and regional security and stability by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in the transfer of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilising accumulations. The twenty-third WA Plenary meeting, chaired by Ambassador Jean-Louis Falconi of France, was held in Vienna on 6-7 December 2017.

In 2017 WA Participating States continued to cooperate to ensure the detection and denial of undesirable exports, as well as to further refine the WA Control Lists and to make them more readily understood and user-friendly for licensing authorities and exporters. Significant attention was again given to keeping pace with international and regional security developments, advances in technology and market trends, although it is recognised that further work is needed to address new challenges. Ongoing priority was given to outreach activities to non-member countries and to encouraging voluntary adherence to the WA's standards.

In 2017 WA Participating States:

- reaffirmed their strong support for robust export controls on a global basis as an important tool for ensuring international peace and stability and confirmed the continued relevance of the WA and the importance of adhering to its founding principles in this context;
- continued to exchange information on transfers of arms and dual-use goods and to assess the risks associated with illicit arms flows to specific geographic regions of concern, including areas of conflict;
- further underscored the importance of strengthening export controls and intensifying their cooperation to prevent arms trafficking and the acquisition of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies by terrorists, as an integral part of the global fight against terrorism;
- gave further particular attention to proliferation risks related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW);
- adopted new export controls in a number of areas, including military explosives and specific electronic components. Existing controls were further clarified regarding ground stations for spacecraft, submarine diesel engines, technology related to intrusion software, software for testing gas turbine engines, analogue-to-digital converters, non-volatile memories and information security. Some controls were relaxed, such as for mechanical high-speed cameras and digital computers. For those products, control entries were either deleted, or performance thresholds were updated taking into account the rapidly evolving capabilities of civil market products;

¹ The Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies was established on the basis of the *Initial Elements* adopted in July 1996 (see website:www.wassenaar.org). Meetings are normally held in Vienna, Austria, where the Arrangement is based. The current Participating States of the Wassenaar Arrangement are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

² This statement reflects the Plenary Chair's view of the outcome of the 2017 Plenary. It is not an agreed WA Plenary Public Statement.

- agreed to continue a comprehensive and systematic review of the WA Control Lists to ensure their ongoing relevance;
- considered a number of proposals for new best practices guidelines and identified other existing guidelines for updating as appropriate in 2018 as part of a regular review cycle;
- introduced further enhancements to their electronic information-sharing tools;
- shared experiences in licensing and enforcement practice and discussed how to strengthen national export control implementation in areas such as arms trade risk assessment, effective end-use and end-user assurances, re-export and controls on intangible transfers of technology, as well as catch-all provisions;
- reviewed their principal outreach objectives and activities, including annual collective post-Plenary and technical briefings as well as bilateral dialogue (visits/meetings) with interested non-Participating States;
- continued to exchange information on industry/academia engagement and internal compliance programmes; and
- maintained informal technical contacts with the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on control list issues.

Given the alignment of the goals of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) with those of the Wassenaar Arrangement, in 2018 the WA Secretariat will continue to monitor opportunities for the Arrangement, consistent with its purposes, to contribute to international cooperation.

Confirming that the WA's existing membership criteria continue to apply, WA Participating States reviewed the progress of a number of current membership applications and agreed at the Plenary meeting to admit India which will become the Arrangement's 42nd Participating State as soon as the necessary procedural arrangements for joining the WA are completed.³

Key WA documents, including the Control Lists and Best Practice Guidelines, are available on the WA website (www.wassenaar.org).

The 2017 Plenary thanked the Chairs of all the WA bodies for their contributions to the work of the Arrangement in 2017.

The next regular WA Plenary meeting will take place in Vienna in December 2018. The United Kingdom will assume the Chair of the Plenary from 1 January 2018, and has designated Ambassador Leigh Turner for this role. In addition, from 1 January 2018, Slovakia will assume the Chair of the General Working Group, Luxembourg will continue to provide the Chair of the Experts Group, and the United Kingdom will continue to provide the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Officers Meeting.

Ambassador Jean- Louis Falconi
Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary Chair
Vienna, 7 December 2017

³ The necessary procedural arrangements were completed on 8 December 2017.