

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PLENARY CHAIR
ON 2019 OUTCOMES OF
THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT ON EXPORT CONTROLS FOR
CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND DUAL-USE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES**

In 2019 the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)¹ 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-fifth WA Plenary meeting, chaired by Ambassador Catherine Koika of Greece, was held in Vienna on 4-5 December 2019.

Throughout 2019 WA Participating States cooperated to ensure the effective control of proliferation-sensitive exports, as well as to update and improve the WA Control Lists, in terms of both their structure and their clarity for licensing authorities and exporters. International and regional security developments, technological change and market trends continued to inform the work of the WA, while Participating States recognised that further efforts are needed in order to respond rapidly and coherently to new challenges. The WA continued its active outreach programme to encourage voluntary adherence to its standards by non-member countries.

In 2019 WA Participating States, among other things,

- maintained their shared commitment to robust export controls as an important tool for ensuring international peace and stability and confirmed the continued importance of adhering to the WA's founding principles in this context;
- gave further attention to proliferation risks related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW);
- adopted new export controls in a number of areas, such as cyber-warfare software, communications monitoring, digital investigative tools/forensic systems, sub-orbital aerospace vehicles, technology for the production of substrates for high-end integrated circuits, hybrid machine tools, and lithography equipment and technology; further clarified existing controls regarding ballistic protection, optical sensors, ball bearings, and inorganic fibrous and filamentary materials; and relaxed some controls, including with respect to certain laminates and commercial components with embedded cryptography;
- continued a comprehensive and systematic review of the WA Control Lists to ensure their ongoing relevance;
- reviewed the criteria used to select items for the List of Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the Sensitive List, and the Very Sensitive List, and concluded that they remain relevant and applicable in a rapidly evolving technology and security environment;

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, India, 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.

- shared experiences in licensing and enforcement practice and discussed how to strengthen national export control implementation;
- updated the "Best Practices for Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons" last amended in 2007, updated the "Best Practices for Disposal of Surplus/Demilitarised Military Equipment" originally adopted in 2000, and identified other existing guidelines for possible updating as appropriate in 2020 as part of a regular review cycle;
- continued their principal outreach activities and took note of those of the Secretariat. These activities included:
 - participation in international conferences and events such as the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship programme in New Delhi, the 26th Asian Export Control Seminar in Tokyo, an OSCE-UNODA Scholarship for Peace and Security Training Programme, the 6th International Defense Technology Security Conference in Seoul, a World Trade Organisation (WTO) Capacity Building Workshop, the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and the UN Disarmament Fellows Programme;
 - maintenance of technical contacts with the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) on control list issues; and
 - expansion of the information available on the WA public website (www.wassenaar.org) to include content in French, German, Russian and Spanish.

The Plenary Chair, the Experts Group Chair, and several Participating States conducted a technical outreach mission to Israel.

WA Participating States continued to discuss the issue of membership in line with existing membership criteria.

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

The next regular WA Plenary meeting will take place in Vienna in December 2020. Croatia will assume the Chair of the Plenary from 1 January 2020, Ukraine will assume the Chair of the General Working Group, Latvia will continue to chair the Experts Group, and Italy will assume the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Officers Meeting.

Vienna, 5 December 2019