

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PLENARY CHAIR
ON 2016 OUTCOMES OF
THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT ON EXPORT CONTROLS FOR
CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND DUAL-USE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES

The twenty-second Plenary meeting of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)¹, chaired by Ambassador Hannu Kyröläinen of Finland, was held in Vienna on 6-8 December 2016. This meeting concluded the fifth wide-ranging assessment undertaken by the Arrangement of its overall functioning. It also marked the Twentieth Anniversary of the Arrangement's coming into operation in 1996.

Since the last assessment in 2011, the Arrangement has 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 destabilizing accumulations. Participating States have continued to work to ensure the prevention 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 has been given to keeping pace with international security developments, advances in technology and market trends, although it is recognized that further work is needed to address new challenges. Priority has also been given to outreach activities to non-member countries and to encouraging voluntary adherence to the Arrangement's standards.

A number of special Twentieth Anniversary activities have been undertaken in 2016, including a commemorative event at the Austrian Foreign Ministry on 6 December, a two-day technically focused Practical Workshop for an expanded group of outreach partners in Vienna in June, as well as the issuing of additional outreach materials, such as a stand-alone WA Munitions List and a thematic Compendium of Best Practice Documents, to promote broader use of the WA's work.

In 2016 WA Participating States:

- reaffirmed their strong support for robust export controls around the world as an important tool for ensuring international peace and stability and confirmed the continued relevance of the Arrangement 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;

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.

- 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 a new hydrogen-free high-power explosive, materials used in reactive armour and specific electronic components (non-volatile memories/MRAMs) able to withstand extreme environment conditions. Existing controls were further clarified regarding biological and radioactive agents, information security and the concept and use of "technology". Some controls were relaxed, such as for lasers used in industry, digital computers and voice coding equipment. For those products, performance thresholds were updated taking into account the rapidly evolving performance of civil market products.
- agreed to continue a comprehensive and systematic review of the WA Control Lists to ensure their continued relevance;
- adopted updated *Best Practices for Effective Legislation on Arms Brokering* and updated *Best Practices for Effective Enforcement*, first issued in 2003 and 2000 respectively, and agreed on a regular procedure to review and update existing guidance documents;
- discussed how to strengthen national export control implementation in areas such as arms trade risk assessment, 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 adopted new internal guidelines to steer future outreach activities, including collective post-Plenary and technical briefings and bilateral dialogue (visits/meetings) with interested non-Participating States;
- continued to exchange information on industry/academia engagement and internal compliance programmes;
- confirmed that the Arrangement's existing membership criteria continue to apply, based on a global and non-discriminatory approach; and
- maintained informal 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 2017 the WA Secretariat will continue to monitor opportunities for the Arrangement, consistent with its purposes, to contribute to international cooperation.

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

The Plenary thanked the Chairs of all Wassenaar Arrangement bodies for their contributions to the work of the Arrangement in 2016.

The next regular Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary meeting will take place in Vienna in December 2017. France will assume the Chair of the Plenary from 1 January 2017, and has designated Ambassador Jean-Louis Falconi for this role. In addition, from 1 January 2017 Slovenia will assume the Chair of the General Working Group, Luxembourg will provide the chair of the Experts Group, and the United Kingdom will provide the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Officers Meeting (LEOM).

Ambassador Hannu Kyröläinen (Finland)
2016 Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary Chair

Vienna, 8 December 2016