

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

In 2020 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.

Although due to COVID-19 related disruptions all WA meetings planned for 2020 had to be cancelled, Participating States cooperated intersessionally and adopted a number of decisions required to ensure the continued implementation of the WA's work programme and the functioning of its Secretariat. A framework was agreed for conducting the sixth internal Assessment of the Arrangement in 2021, a wide-ranging exercise to review and evaluate the WA's overall functioning and improve its effectiveness and efficiency.

As there was no opportunity for the usual in-depth technical review, the WA Control Lists adopted by the December 2019 Plenary will remain in force and discussions on possible updates will continue based on proposals submitted in 2020 and 2021.

A programme of activities to commemorate the WA's twenty-fifth anniversary in 2021 was also agreed, including ongoing outreach to non-Participating States.

From 1 January 2021, Hungary will assume the Chair of the Plenary, the United States will assume the Chair of the General Working Group, Malta will assume the Chair of the Experts Group, and Italy will continue to provide the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Officers Meeting.

The next regular WA Plenary meeting is scheduled to take place in Vienna in December 2021.

Vienna, 17 December 2020

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 (available at 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.