



CCM Intersessional Meeting

7-8 April 2025

Australia - Remarks as Transparency Measures Coordinator

President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Australia has the honour to deliver this report on our activities as Coordinator for Transparency Measures during the intersessional period between the 12th MSP and 13th MSP cycle, as well as key developments relating to transparency measures.

At the outset, and on an administrative note, I would like to advise that Australia is currently operating under caretaker conventions pending our national elections on 3 May. While some will be familiar with this protocol, in case not, it simply means we are unable to take action to bind an incoming government.

I would like to start by providing a brief overview on submission rates of initial and annual transparency reports.

The Implementation Support Unit has advised that as of 2 April:

- 60 of 103 States Parties have submitted their 2023 Article 7 annual reports;
 - 3 initial Article 7 reports were received;
 - 6 of 112 States Parties have overdue Article 7 initial reports;
 - 28 States Parties have used the revised Article 7 reporting form;
- and

- 15 States Parties have submitted their 2024 Article 7 reports, of which 11 used the revised reporting forms.

In terms of annual reports, this represents a response rate of 60% as of last week. While this rate is higher than reporting rates under other instruments, which sit at around 50%, we see significant scope for improvement.

As Transparency Measures Coordinator under the CCM, we would like to take this opportunity to remind States Parties of their obligations to provide initial and annual transparency reports within the deadlines set in Article 7 of the Convention.

Article 7 of the CCM requires States Parties to provide an initial transparency report no later than 180 days after entry into force of the Convention. States are also asked to report on an annual basis by 30 April each year thereafter.

We take this opportunity to gently remind States Parties that the Article 7 transparency reports for the 2024 calendar year are due by 30 April 2025 – that is, the end of this month. Australia has been working with the ISU to circulate reminder letters to States Parties to encourage the submission of annual reports without delay.

With respect to States Parties with outstanding initial reports, we encourage you to submit your reports as soon as possible. We recognise there are challenges in completing reports and would be happy to discuss ways to help facilitate the submission process.

Reporting is important under the CCM and the Lausanne Action Plan.

As we know, submission of an initial report and subsequent annual reports is an important transparency and confidence building measure among States Parties. It is also an important tool to monitor progress in implementation of Convention and showcase activities undertaken, such as international cooperation.

States Parties to the CCM committed to several transparency reporting actions under actions 43 to 46 of the Lausanne Action Plan. In accordance

with Action 45, we take this opportunity to remind States Parties that a new reporting form was adopted at the 11th Meeting of States Parties in 2023. We encourage all States Parties to make themselves familiar with this form and use it going forward.

Turning now to Australia's work plan on transparency measures, our objectives have been:

First, to promote increased rates of submission of annual reports.

Second, to engage with States Parties that have overdue initial transparency reports, with the aim of increasing the submission of initial reports ahead of the 13th MSP.

And third, to promote best practice in transparency reporting and build synergies across the CCM and Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We are also aiming to identify synergies across other relevant arms control frameworks.

In implementing our workplan, Australia has been actively encouraging and supporting States Parties meet their reporting obligations under the CCM.

We have focused our efforts on two initiatives. First, encouraging States Parties with overdue initial transparency reports to submit their reports before the next Meeting of States Parties in September.

We have circulated reminder letters to the Permanent Missions of the relevant countries via our post in New York. We have also requested relevant posts in Africa engage bilaterally and through the African Union.

We recognise that resourcing and other constraints can make it difficult to fulfil reporting requirements. The aim of our second initiative is to ease the reporting burden.

As part of our commitment to improve reporting processes, Australia is undertaking a study into enhancing synergies in transparency reporting across conventional arms control instruments.

On 12 March, we hosted a successful roundtable discussion with several States Parties, together with briefings from the ISUs and Secretariats of

the CCM, APMBC, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA), to share challenges and exchange best practice in transparency reporting. It was a fruitful discussion and demonstrated the value in bringing together experts and stakeholders to work together and improve reporting across the system. We will be pulling together the ideas discussed into a stock-take for further consideration ahead of the 13th MSP.

There is much work to do, and we think there would be value in this being a continuing conversation. We will look to continuing these meetings to facilitate the exchange of good practices on transparency reporting. If any States Parties have an interest in or would like to contribute to these conversations, we would be pleased to hear from you, and invite you to contact us.

To assist our efforts as Coordinator on Transparency Measures in the lead up to the 13th MSP, we would also welcome input as to the forms of engagement you consider would be most useful in improving reporting rates.

To conclude, please allow me to express Australia's gratitude to the ISU for the support provided throughout the year, as well as to our implementation partners, including the ISUs and Secretariats of other conventional arms control treaties.

Our goal remains to raise awareness of the tools and support available to States Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, which we will continue to promulgate as part of our work as the CCM Transparency Measures Coordinator.

Thank you.