

**STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PLENARY CHAIR ON 2023 OUTCOMES
OF
THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT¹ ON EXPORT CONTROLS FOR
CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND DUAL-USE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES**

The twenty-seventh Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) Plenary meeting was chaired by Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar (India) and took place in Vienna on 30 November 2023.

In 2023, the WA continued 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 WA Control Lists were updated and improved, taking into account international security developments, technological change and market trends. The WA engaged in targeted outreach activities with non-participating states and relevant international and regional organisations in order to promote effective export controls worldwide.

An Enhanced Technical Briefing was held for the first time since 2018 and it provided an opportunity to brief non-participating states regarding recent changes to the WA Control Lists and implementation of export controls.

During 2023, WA Participating States:

- continued to exchange information on transfers of arms and dual-use goods and technologies, as well as the risks associated with potentially destabilising arms flows to specific geographic regions of concern, including areas of conflict;
- reaffirmed the important role played by strong export controls and close cooperation in preventing arms diversion and the acquisition of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies by terrorists;
- continued a comprehensive and systematic review of the WA Control Lists to ensure their ongoing relevance;
- adopted new controls including with respect to equipment used in the production of certain electronic components; updated existing controls regarding high-performance electronic equipment; and clarified Control List entries including those covering sonar, optical sensors, certain rocket propulsion technologies, encryption/decryption, and technologies enabling the lawful interception of communications;
- shared experiences in national export control implementation, including with respect to licensing and enforcement practices;

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 www.wassenaar.org). Meetings are normally held in Vienna, Austria, where the Arrangement is based. The 42 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, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

- updated several of its public documents regarding implementation of export controls, including the "Elements for Controlling Transportation of Conventional Arms between Third Countries" originally adopted in 2011 and the "List of Advisory Questions for Industry" last amended in 2018;
- maintained informal technical contacts with the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) on Control List issues at the level of experts; and
- reviewed the progress of current membership applications.

From 1 January 2024, Italy will assume the Chair of the Plenary, Austria will assume the Chair of the General Working Group, and Canada will assume the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Officers Meeting. Mexico will continue to serve as Chair of the Experts Group.

The next regular WA Plenary meeting is to take place in Vienna in December 2024.

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

Vienna, 30 November 2023