REPORTING PRACTICE SUMMARY - 2019

Australia’s reporting changed in its 2019 annual report. It submitted its UNROCA report in place of the ATT reporting template that it used in its 2018 report.

Australia continued to report Authorized Numbers of major conventional weapons and small arms exports, though it did not report values of major conventional weapons exports as it did in its 2018 report. It did not report exports of light weapons.

Australia reported Authorized Numbers of major conventional weapons and small arms imports. It did not report actual imports of major conventional weapons or specify whether its small arms imports were actual or authorized as it did in its 2018 report.

Australia continued to provide aggregated numbers of exports and imports of small arms, though its 2019 report aggregated small arms numbers by importing/exporting state, rather than by weapon sub-category as it did in its 2018 report.
GOOD PRACTICES

Australia provided descriptions and comments for all reported imports of major conventional weapons and small arms.

Australia provided the number of authorizations (permits granted) along with the number of items in its exports of small arms.

Australia provided notes on overall volumes of reported sub-categories of small arms exports and imports, as well as comments that describe the types of firearms included in its report (for example, blank-firing firearms).

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Australia continued to provide aggregated numbers of exports and imports of small arms, making it impossible to determine either importing/exporting states or weapons sub-categories.

Australia did not specify whether reported imports of combat aircraft were manned or unmanned, per UN Register definitions of weapons categories as outlined in Article 2 of the ATT.1

Australia could provide descriptions and comments describing the nature of more of its reported exports.

TRANSFER SUMMARY - 2019: EXPORT DATA

- Australia reported exports to 28 countries in 2019. Of these, 16 were ATT States Parties, four were Signatories and eight were non-members (Belarus, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands).

- Australia reported the export of 29 major conventional weapons items, covering four categories. These were combat aircraft (86 per cent), warships (7 per cent), armoured combat vehicles (3 per cent) and battle tanks (3 per cent).

- The main importer of major conventional weapons from Australia was Canada (79 per cent).

- Australia reported the export of 7,486 items of small arms,2 worth AU$3.4m (US$2.4m),3 from 162 export permits granted.4 Australia did not disaggregate data by weapons sub-category.

- In terms of numbers of items, the main importers of small arms from Australia were New Zealand (83 per cent), China (4 per cent) and the United States (4 per cent).

TRANSFER SUMMARY - 2019: IMPORT DATA

- Australia reported imports from three countries in 2019. Of these, two were ATT States Parties and one was a Signatory. It only provided information on exporting countries for transfers of major conventional weapons.

- Australia reported the import of 142 major conventional weapons items, covering four categories. Of these, the majority were large-calibre artillery systems (89 per cent) and combat aircraft (11 per cent).

- The main importer of major conventional weapons from Australia was the United States (97 per cent).

- Australia reported the import of 96,964 small arms items, all of which were aggregated according to firearm type.

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1 For example, the UN Register definitions of weapons categories include combat aircraft that are: (a) manned fixed-wing or variable-geometry wing aircraft, designed, equipped or modified to engage targets by employing guided missiles, unguided rockets, bombs, guns, cannons or other weapons of destruction, including versions of these aircraft which perform specialized electronic warfare, suppression of air defense or reconnaissance missions; or (b) unmanned fixed-wing or variable-geometry wing aircraft, designed, equipped or modified to engage targets by employing guided missiles, unguided rockets, bombs, guns, cannons or other weapons of destruction. For more information, see ATT Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (2019). ‘Reporting Authorized or Actual Exports and Imports of Conventional Arms under the ATT’. ATT/CSP5.WGTR/2019/CHAIR/533/Conf. Rep.Rev1. https://bit.ly/3rHiE2k. p. 25.

2 There is a slight discrepancy between the number for exports of small arms items by Australia totaled from its reported exports (7,486 items) and the total it provides at the end of the report (7,496). The reason for this discrepancy is unknown.


4 There is a discrepancy between the number provided by Australia for permits issued (164) and for the number of permits granted provided with its detailed reporting of small arms exports (162). The reason for the discrepancy is unknown.