South Africa’s reporting practice changed slightly in its 2021 annual report.

South Africa reported mainly Authorized Numbers of major conventional weapons and SALW exports, as opposed to 2020, when it reported a mix of Actual and Authorized Numbers of major conventional weapons and SALW exports.

South Africa continued to report Authorized Numbers of small arms weapons imports. It continued not to report any major conventional weapons and light weapons imports.
South Africa reported imports from 13 countries. Of these, ten were ATT States Parties, two were Signatories and one was a non-member (Russian Federation).

South Africa did not report imports of major conventional weapons.

South Africa reported the import of 7,961 small arms, covering three sub-categories. These were revolvers and self-loading pistols (65.8 per cent), rifles and carbines (22.5 per cent) and ‘others’ (small arms) (11.7 per cent).

The main exporters of small arms to South Africa were Türkiye (34.4 per cent), Brazil (18.8 per cent) and Slovakia (18.5 per cent).

South Africa reported exports to 25 countries. Of these, 16 were ATT States Parties, eight were Signatories and one was a non-member (Indonesia).

South Africa reported the export of 71 major conventional weapons, covering two categories. In terms of numbers, these were armoured combat vehicles (97.2 per cent) and warships (2.8 per cent).

The main importers of major conventional weapons from South Africa were Mali (28.2 per cent), Cote d’Ivoire (26.8 per cent) and Senegal (22.5 per cent).

In terms of numbers, South Africa reported the export of 2,268 SALW items, covering four sub-categories. Of these, the majority were revolvers and self-loading pistols (47.8 per cent), ‘others’ (small arms) (32.1 per cent) and rifles and carbines (19.4 per cent).

The main importers of SALW from South Africa were Zimbabwe (34.8 per cent), the United Kingdom (14 per cent) and Lesotho (11 per cent).

South Africa could provide more comments describing the nature of its reported imports and exports.

South Africa excluded some data for ‘commercial sensitivity/national security-related’ reasons, but did not specify where or how much information was withheld.

South Africa could have indicated clearly that there were no reported exports in some of SALW imports and exports sub-categories instead of leaving the reported template blank.