

# Private ATT Reporting

Arms  
Trade  
Treaty

Baseline Assessment Project

AUGUST 2021

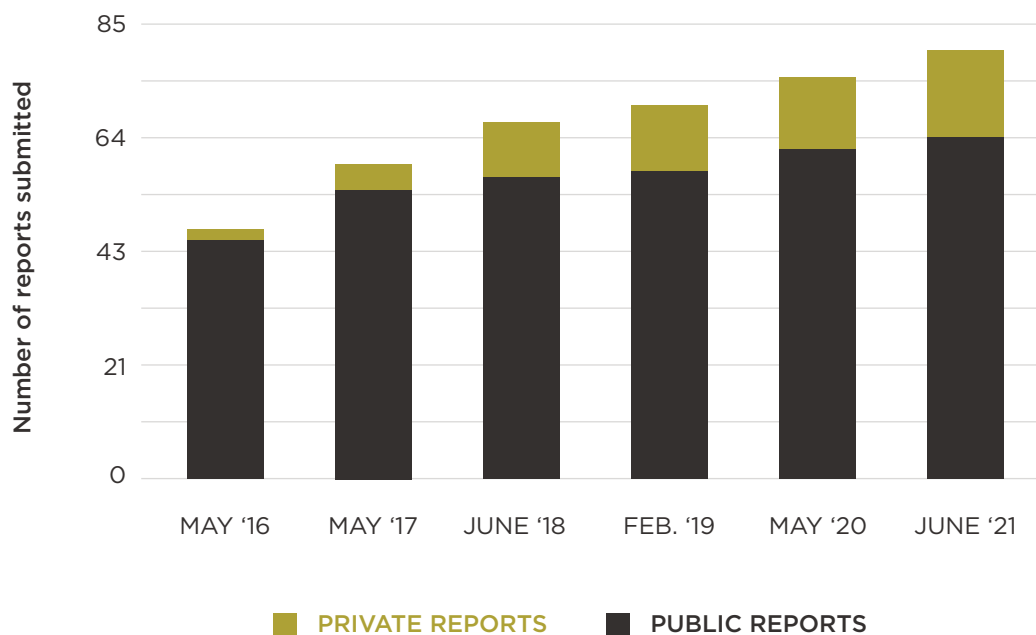
Private reporting represents a worrying and increasing trend within the ATT context. Private reporting poses several challenges, including:

- ▶ **Hindering understanding** of how States Parties interpret and implement the treaty's provisions
- ▶ **Obscuring public accounting** of global arms transfer dynamics
- ▶ **Inhibiting identification** of good practices and assistance needs
- ▶ **Obstructing efforts** to identify problematic sales or dangerous accumulations

## INITIAL REPORTS

Private reports represent an increasing share of all initial reports submitted by States Parties over time and have increased in number each year. In May 2016, only **2 of the 47 initial reports submitted by States Parties were private**, representing 4% of all submitted reports at that time.

### Private Reporting for ATT Initial Reports Over Time (as of 1 August 2021)



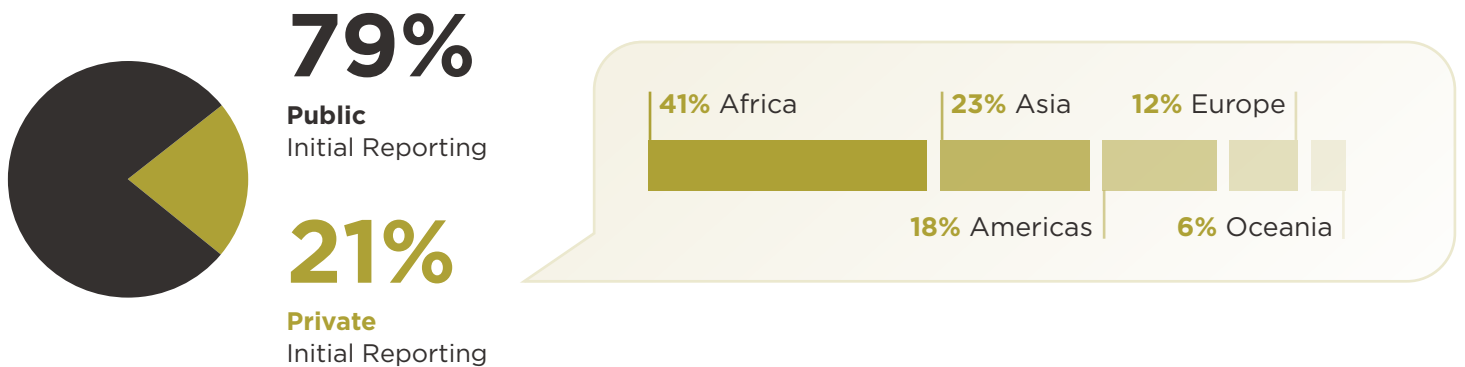
As of 1 August 2021, **17 of the 81 initial reports submitted were private**, representing approximately 21% of all ATT initial reports submitted thus far.

Of the 17 States Parties that elected to make their initial reports private...

- 7 are from **Africa**
- 3 are from the **Americas**
- 4 are from **Asia**
- 2 are from **Europe**
- 1 is from **Oceania**



**Rates of Public vs Private Initial Reporting** (as of 1 August 2021, in approximate percent)

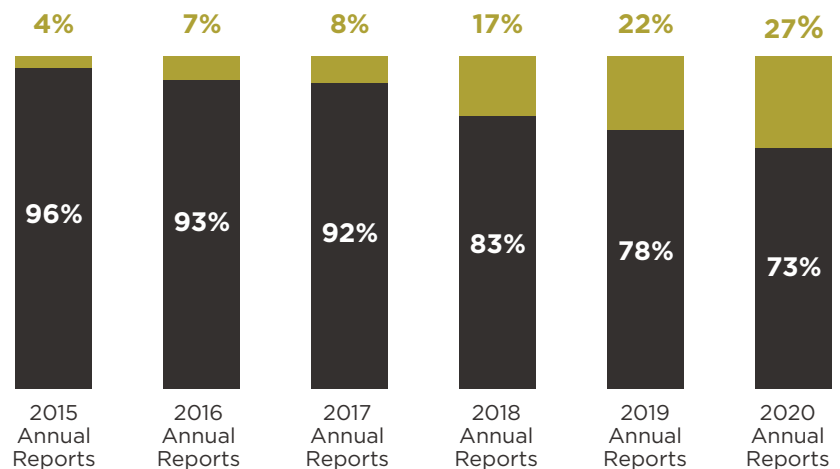


At least **88%** of the ATT States Parties that submitted private ATT initial reports have reported publicly on their national arms transfer control systems in a national report on implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

**Rates of Private vs Public ATT Reporting on Annual Arms Exports and Imports** (as of 1 August 2021, in approximate percent)

Private reports represent a growing share of all annual reports submitted by States Parties detailing arms exports and imports. **The rate of private annual reporting has increased dramatically over the last six years.** Only 4% of 2015 ATT annual reports are private, compared to 27% of 2020 annual reports submitted as of 1 August 2021.



■ PUBLIC REPORTING ■ PRIVATE REPORTING

Nine States Parties have only ever submitted private ATT annual reports to the treaty Secretariat. Ten States Parties have alternated between public and private reporting, with no discernable trend in their reporting behavior. By comparison, at least six States Parties have changed their reporting practices from public reporting for their first annual report(s) to private reports in recent years.

Since the first round of ATT annual reporting, a total of 25 States Parties have submitted private annual reports to the ATT Secretariat at least once.

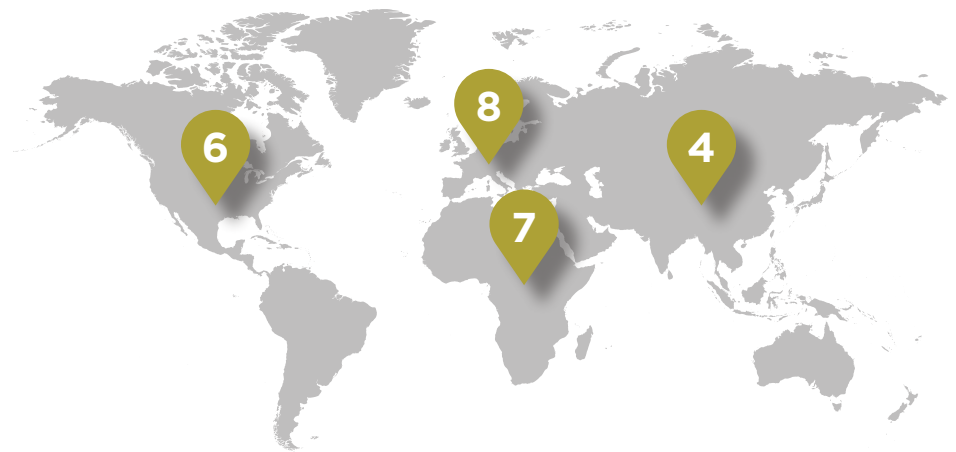
**Of these States Parties...**

**7** are from **Africa**

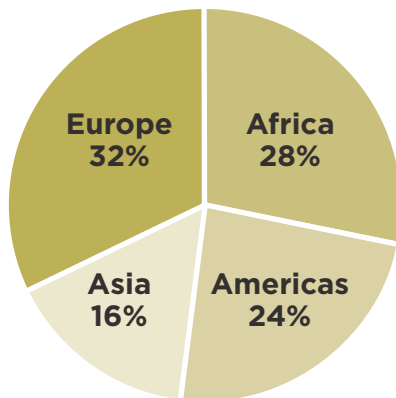
**6** are from the **Americas**

**4** are from **Asia**

**8** are from **Europe**



**Regional Share of Private Annual Reporting** (as of 1 August 2021, in approximate percent)



Of the States Parties that have submitted a private annual report at least once, approximately **92% have reported publicly on their annual arms exports and imports** either in the ATT context or to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA). Seven of these States Parties submitted a public UNROCA report in the same year(s) they submitted a private ATT annual report.

## REASONS FOR PRIVATE REPORTING

States Parties have rarely indicated why they have chosen to make their ATT initial and/or annual reports private or have switched to private reporting after reporting publicly on their annual arms exports and imports. Private reporting may result from a change in personnel completing the reports or a change in national policy and practice. In responses to a survey conducted by the Stimson Center and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute that examined the reasons for private ATT reporting, States offered the following explanations:

▶ Concerns relating to the release of information regarded as sensitive

▶ Security concerns

▶ Reported privately by mistake

▶ Obligation of a regional/multilateral/international agreement to which the State Party is a member