

نماینده‌گی دایمی جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان در  
سازمان ملل متحد - نیویارک



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*Permanent Mission of the Islamic  
Republic of Afghanistan to the  
United Nations – New York*

7 May 2014

Excellency,

It is my honor to write to you again following our open, informal consultations on 12 March 2014, which were characterized by active participation and constructive feedback on the “zero draft”.

I am very pleased that so many delegations have contributed to the preparatory process through working papers, national reports and interventions during the previous rounds of informal consultations. The benefit of your active participation in these preparations is evident: the new draft which I circulate herewith – “Draft 1” – is again solely based on these contributions.

I look forward to receiving your feedback on the draft outcome document during the next open, informal consultations on **Friday, 16 May, 3:00 pm in Conference Room 2** in the Conference Building at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

In line with standing practice, this informal meeting will be conducted in English only.

I regret to inform you that due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Wolfgang Bindseil will not be able to continue the tasks associated with his role as Moderator for the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) segment of BMS5. Mr. Bindseil’s contribution to the preparatory process so far has been outstanding, and while he will no longer serve in the capacity of ITI Moderator, I am most grateful for his contribution so far.

In light of this I have appointed a new Moderator on the ITI from the same regional grouping as Mr. Bindseil, Mr. Anthony Simpson of New Zealand. I am confident that his skill and expertise will allow for continuity in the ITI segment of BMS5. I sincerely appreciate New Zealand’s willingness to allow Mr. Simpson to take on this important role at such short notice, and I trust that you will extend to him your full cooperation.

Finally, I would like to thank States which have submitted their national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourage those who have not done so yet to submit their reports as soon as possible. The online reporting tool can be accessed through the BMS5 web portal ([www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/SALW](http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/SALW)).

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Zahir Tanin  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Afghanistan to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**I. Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Stockpile management, including physical security measures**

1. States reiterated that poorly managed and inadequately secured stockpiles of small arms and light weapons pose a serious security threat and remain a prime means through which small arms are diverted from the legal to the illicit market. The proper management of stockpiles is essential to prevent further accidents and reduce the risk of diversion and uncontrolled proliferation.

2. States also encouraged members of civil society with relevant expertise to share experience and research in the area of diversion.

3. States pointed out that stockpile management, including physical security measures, remains a critical factor in addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and features prominently in the first-ever standalone UN Security Council resolution on small arms and light weapons (S/RES/2117 (2013)), as well as the UN Secretary-General's report on small arms (S/2013/503).

4. In particular, States considered the specific requirements for adequate stockpile management, including physical security measures, in conflict and post-conflict countries such as the need for international assistance and the role of peacekeeping missions, including the integration of stockpile management into peacekeeping mandates.

5. States emphasized that stockpile management, including physical security measures, can benefit from technological advances, including electronic controlling devices and new data management applications. While not a panacea, these technologies may also be useful in enhancing stockpile management, including physical security measures, in conflict and post-conflict situations.

6. States emphasized that women and men should both play a role in all domains of the security sector in general and small arms control in particular. States also highlighted the need to facilitate the participation and representation of women in small arms and light weapons policymaking, taking into account UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions as well as the General Assembly Resolution on women, disarmament and non-proliferation and arms control (A/RES/65/69 and subsequent resolutions).

7. States noted that a comprehensive approach to small arms and light weapons management should include ammunition.

8. States indicated that insufficient and/or inadequate life-cycle management procedures pose serious security risks such as diversion and accidental explosions of depots.

9. States encouraged steps towards the establishment of practical guidelines and checklists of procedures as well as cooperation on the compilation of lessons learned relating to the stockpile management and security of small arms and light weapons, including: appropriate locations for stockpiles; physical security measures; control of access to stocks; inventory management and accounting control; staff training; security, accounting and control of small arms and light weapons held or transported by operational units or authorized personnel; and procedures and sanctions in the event of thefts or loss.

10. States noted that the establishment of benchmarks and indicators would be critical for the evaluation of the progress of how stockpile management, including physical security measures, is being implemented by national authorities as well as regional and international organizations.

11. States acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation and assistance on issues such as the destruction or other responsible disposal of surplus stocks or unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons, including the establishment of regional centres of excellence to foster increased regional expertise.

12. In this regard, States also highlighted the need for environmentally-friendly methods of disposing of small arms and light weapons.

13. States further recalled that the PoA stipulated that regional and international programmes for specialist training on small arms and light weapons stockpile management, including physical security measures, should be developed. In this regard, States in a position to do so are encouraged to share information and build further capacity, including relevant training, in this area.

## **The Way Forward**

States agreed to undertake the following:

14. Discussion at future meetings of the PoA to establish agreed guidelines or standards for stockpile management, as well as discussion of the establishment of benchmarks and indicators critical for the evaluation of the progress of the implementation of stockpile management, including physical security measures.

15. To strengthen regional cooperation and assistance on the implementation of the Programme of Action on issues such as the destruction or other responsible disposal of surplus stocks or unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons, including the establishment of regional centres of excellence to foster increased regional expertise.

16. To build further capacity on practices relating to stockpile management, including physical security measures, at the national and regional level, including through the development of training on small arms and light weapons stockpile management and security measures and the provision of such training where requested.

17. To promote the role of women in the security sector, including in the field of small arms and light weapons control.

18. To strengthen physical security measures of small arms and light weapons stockpiles in order to prevent the diversion of these weapons to illicit markets.

19. To ensure the safe and effective management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles in accordance with the appropriate standards and procedures, and to take adequate measures to strengthen lifecycle management procedures of small arms and light weapons.

20. To take advantage of technological advances to strengthen stockpile management, including physical security measures.

## **II. International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons**

21. States noted that the exchange of tracing results as well as other relevant information between appropriate authorities should be enhanced at the national, regional and global levels.

22. States further noted that information exchange should be focused on preventing the diversion of small arms and light weapons. In this regard, information may be shared on illicit activities including corruption, international trafficking routes, illicit brokers, sources of illicit supply, methods of concealment, common points of dispatch, or destinations used by organized groups engaged in diversion. States observed that recent developments in the field of weapons technology, including the development of modular weapon systems and the increasing use of polymer components poses new challenges for effective marking.

23. States highlighted that the tracing of small arms and light weapons was particularly important in conflict and post-conflict zones, where it can increase the effectiveness of arms control measures within the broader context of conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building policies, and where it can contribute immediately to stemming the inflow of illicit small arms and light weapons into conflict and post-conflict zones.

24. Recalling the 2012 Review Conference, States underscored the possibility of increasing the role and capacities of peace support and other relevant missions in weapons tracing.

25. States also encouraged that, where relevant and feasible, the mandate of United Nations and other internationally mandated peacekeeping missions should include provisions regarding the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict zones.

26. At the same time, States indicated the need to keep the activity of tracing within appropriate law enforcement channels to protect sensitive information and support ongoing investigations.

27. States encouraged the Security Council to address the issue of illicit small arms and light weapons and to strengthen arms embargo monitoring mechanisms including, *inter alia*, through

assigning dedicated staff or monitoring units to relevant United Nations Missions to effectively monitor arms embargoes, and by encouraging greater information exchange between expert groups and relevant small arms and light weapons mechanisms in the United Nations;

28. States also highlighted that the tracing of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict zones highlights patterns of illicit flows of weapons and thus supports wider Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), Security Sector Reform (SSR) as well as integrated border management initiatives.

29. States underscored that for the full and effective implementation of the ITI, import marking is fundamental and should be strictly applied by all Member States in accordance with article 8(b) of the International Tracing Instrument.

30. States reiterated their commitment to designate, where they have not done so, one or more national points of contact on the International Tracing Instrument, including to facilitate cooperation in tracing in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, and to update this information in their national reports regularly.

31. States stressed the need for a comprehensive international assistance framework to provide resources, training, capacity-building and technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the ITI.

32. States noted that electronic information exchange and the use of data bases and online technologies could further contribute to improved effectiveness, efficiency and speed in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons. In particular, States welcomed the development of the INTERPOL iARMS tool that facilitates information exchange and investigative cooperation between law enforcement agencies in relation to the international movement of illicit small arms and light weapons as well as licit small arms and light weapons that have been involved in the commission of a crime.

33. States highlighted the utility of ballistic information collection for the tracing of weapons in the context of criminal activities.

## **The Way Forward**

States agreed to undertake the following:

34. Enhance the exchange of tracing results, as well as other relevant information, between appropriate authorities at the national, regional and international levels in conformity with paragraphs 14 and 15 of the International Tracing Instrument in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons, including by further developing and making full use of databases and online technologies (such as iArms and iTrace).

35. To share further information including on illicit activities including corruption, international trafficking routes, illicit brokers, sources of illicit supply, methods of concealment, common points of dispatch, or destinations used by organized groups engaged in diversion.

36. Request the UN Secretariat to consider ways to compile information on identified diversion and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons from existing UN-databases and reports (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations expert panel reports) into a database specifically designed for arms control purposes.

**III. International Cooperation and Assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including:**

**a) Capacity building, including training;**

**b) Transfer of technology and equipment**

37. States reaffirmed that international cooperation and assistance is essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

38. States reaffirmed that international assistance and cooperation should be rendered upon the request of developing countries and the principles of non-conditionalities, taking into account the priorities of recipient states.

39. States suggested focusing on the participation and representation of women in international cooperation and assistance for Programme of Action and ITI implementation, in line with Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and other related resolutions.

40. States underlined that governments may request, offer or receive assistance through, inter alia, the United Nations, international, regional, sub regional or national organizations, non-governmental organizations, or on a bilateral basis.

41. States acknowledged that many relevant national and regional organizations are in need of financial and technical support in order to effectively implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

42. States indicated that there is a need for increased exchanges of expertise, techniques and procedures for law enforcement and security experts.

43. States welcomed the existence of global information exchange platforms made available by the United Nations Secretariat and encouraged their use by all Member States.

44. States welcomed the further development of existing tools and mechanisms for addressing assistance needs and for matching needs with available resources.

45. States reaffirmed that further development of mechanisms increases the measurability and effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance and indicated the need for monitoring and evaluation of the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of such assistance.

46. States took note of the establishment, as mandated by the 2012 Review Conference, of a dedicated United Nations trust fund, and encouraged financial contributions by donor states, as well as the cooperation of States in need of assistance.

## **The Way Forward**

States agreed to undertake the following:

47. Make further efforts to use national reports as a tool to identify, prioritize and communicate assistance needs; to formulate concrete project proposals with measurable goals as part of relevant national plans; and to mobilize necessary resources, with assistance from international and regional organizations.

48. Develop assistance proposals in coordination with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, with a view to integrating such proposals into regional and sub-regional initiatives.

49. Encourage States to avoid duplication in providing or requesting assistance, and to look beyond traditional sources of international assistance and explore regional partnerships to draw upon the expertise and technical capabilities of neighbouring States.

50. Enhance the exchange of knowledge, expertise and lessons learned at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels including through North-South, South-South, bilateral, multilateral (including triangular cooperation) and through international and regional organizations.

51. Encourage the convening of sub regional, regional and interregional meetings of relevant enforcement authorities in order to exchange information and to promote common practices in the prevention of the trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

52. Work with the UN to better articulate the benefits of arms embargoes to national and regional governments subject to arms embargoes, and to work collaboratively with panels of experts, peacekeeping missions (where relevant) and UN entities to identify capacity gaps and trends.

53. Provide, upon request, financial and technical assistance to States subject to UNSC embargoes, including on physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons, and their marking, record-keeping and tracing, to improve the management and monitoring of small arms and light weapons supplied in accordance with arms embargo exemptions.

54. Encourage States to take advantage of cooperation with the World Customs Organization, INTERPOL and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime, as managing overlap with these instruments and mandates of these organizations and leveraging their country membership, and expert constituencies, as well as the capacity building opportunities they offer, will be essential for ensuring the Programme of Action is implemented and remains relevant.

55. States are encouraged to exercise due diligence in the transfer of technology and equipment for the detection and tracing of the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. This includes the provision of technology and equipment which in accordance with local structures and procedures as well as the application of accompanying measures such as capacity building for involved personnel and maintenance of transferred equipment.

56. States and international organizations in a position to do so are encouraged, upon request, to provide adequate technical and financial assistance, including relevant equipment such as marking machines and training in order to improve national marking, record keeping, and tracing capacity necessary for the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

57. States called for the General Assembly to mandate the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to establish a Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons for developing countries, to train relevant officials nominated by their respective governments in areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

58. States encourage major arms exporting countries and States in a position to do so, to facilitate sustainable transfer to developing countries, upon request, of related technology and equipment, as well as to increase related training and capacity building, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

59. States called on all States and international organizations, in a position to do so, to provide developing countries with the requisite training and capacity building to improve, inter alia, marking, tracing, record-keeping and destruction of small arms and light weapons and the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

60. States encourage the United Nations to: a) carry out a comprehensive study on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology and equipment to developing countries since 2001, for the full implementation of the Programme of Action, and to submit this study for discussion at the meeting of governmental experts in 2015 and consideration at the BMS6; b) to collaborate with relevant research and training institutions from developing countries on activities regarding SALW and to establish a comprehensive database of experts, researchers and training and research institutions with expertise on SALW, including those provided by developing countries; c) and to establish, in 2015, a web portal containing studies, reports, books, periodicals and other electronic resources related to the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.

61. States encourage the Open Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts in 2015 to consider, among other things, issues related to transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity building, in particular, training within the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

## **IV. Follow-up to the Second Review Conference**

### **Schedule of meetings 2014-2018**

62. States referred to their decision to hold, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2014 and 2016 and a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015 to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

63. States referred to their decision to hold a Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2018. This conference will be scheduled as a two-week event and be preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting to be held in early 2018.

64. [Possible follow-up from SG report on new technologies].

65. Acknowledging the opportunities for the enhancement of marking and tracing of Small Arms Lights Weapons associated with new developments in design and manufacturing, and welcoming the recent report of the Secretary General, States envisaged to task the 2015 meeting of governmental experts to further discuss this issue.

66. States noted the critical importance of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity building to furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and therefore that this topic should continue to be an integral element of all Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings.

67. States reaffirm the importance of the early designation of the Chair of future Programme of Action meetings and endorsed the nomination of [candidate from Eastern Europe Group] as Chair-designate of MGE2.

### **Regional meetings**

68. States encouraged interested States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings in preparation for, and/or to follow up on, the meetings on the Programme of Action.

69. States note the consideration, where relevant, of aligning the timing of regional meetings regarding illicit small arms and light weapons with the global cycle of meetings, so as to ensure, as appropriate, a maximum of synergies between actions taken at the national, regional and global levels.

### **Engagement of civil society**

70. States acknowledged the important role civil society organizations play in the implementation of UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

71. States encourage civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to engage, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, regional, sub regional and national efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

### **National reporting**

72. States reaffirm the utility of synchronizing voluntary national reporting as regards the Programme of Action, with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means to increase the submission rate and improve the utility of reports, as well as to contribute substantively to meeting discussions.

### **Support for meeting participation**

73. States encourage States in a position to do so, with a view to promoting wider and more equitable participation of States in Programme of Action meetings, to provide financial assistance, through a voluntary sponsorship fund where appropriate, to enable States that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in meetings of the Programme of Action, in particular meetings of governmental experts and review conferences.

## **V. Other issues**

74. [During the discussion of agenda item 9, without prejudice to the views of other States, some States indicated that, in their view, certain issues were important for the implementation of the Programme of Action. On these issues, other delegations expressed a different opinion. These issues included:

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