Excellency,

The two open, informal consultations on the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 (BMS5) which we have held so far, have shed light on Member States’ perspectives on the possible agenda and other substantive and organisational aspects of BMS5.

I would like to thank you for your active and supportive participation in our open, informal consultations and for welcoming the nomination of Mr. Wolfgang Bindseil, Deputy Head of Division on Conventional Arms Control in the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, as the moderator on the issue of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) for BMS5.

**Agenda**

During our consultations on 20 November, I took note of the points raised by all delegations. These valuable contributions have given me much-welcomed further guidance on how the substantive points to be discussed at BMS5 could be best reflected on the agenda.

In the attachment to this letter I have elaborated further on a proposal for how to structure the substantive agenda points for BMS5 following of our last discussion. The suggested substantive agenda is based on established practice under the Programme of Action meetings.

As you are aware, during the 2012 Second Programme of Action Review Conference, States agreed that the topic of international cooperation and assistance should be an integral element of all Programme of Action and ITI meetings. In addition, States mentioned that the topics of the Programme of Action and the ITI meetings could include ‘physical security measures of small arms and light weapons’ (stockpile management). I have therefore included these two topics under points 3 and 1.a. in the suggested substantive agenda items for BMS5, respectively.

Furthermore, you will recall that the suggested item 1.b., “Other issues, and the identification of priority issues or topics of relevance in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and of their implementation challenges and opportunities”, was on the agenda of BMS3 (2008) and BMS4 (2010).

**Next consultations**

I count on your active participation in the next open, informal consultations at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on **Wednesday, 18 December, 10:00 am** in the Trusteeship Chamber.

Its main objective will be to find agreement on the provisional substantive agenda points for BMS5, so that our substantive preparatory work can start.
In line with standing practice, this informal meeting will be conducted in English only.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the importance of the timely submission of your national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the ITI by 31 December this year. You can access the online reporting tool at the following website: www.poa-iss.org/reporting.

I look forward to seeing you or your representative at the consultations.

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

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

Suggested substantive agenda items for BMS5

1. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels, including:
   a. Physical security measures of small arms and light weapons (stockpile management);
   b. Other issues, and the identification of priority issues or topics of relevance in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and of their implementation challenges and opportunities.

2. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

3. International cooperation and assistance for full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.