Excellency,

It is my honour to write to you again following our open, informal consultations on 16 May 2014. During which our discussions on “Draft 1” of the outcome document for BMS5 were highly productive. I would like to thank Member States for their clear inputs which have enabled me and my team to refine the document to further reflect these suggestions.

I am pleased to now circulate “Draft 2”. Mindful that the draft outcome document is still very much a work in progress, I would like to stress that it is important that we do as much work on this as we can prior to BMS5. As BMS’s are only a one-week meeting, we have seen in the past that time management is crucial to produce the shared goal of a meaningful outcome.

I look forward – together with the Moderator on the International Tracing Instrument, Mr. Anthony Simpson – to receiving your feedback on “Draft 2” of the outcome document during the next open, informal consultations on **Wednesday, 4 June, 3:00 pm in Conference Room 4 NLB** at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In line with standing practice, this informal meeting will be conducted in English only.

It is my intention to make best use of our time during this next round of open, informal consultations by undertaking – immediately following general remarks – a more detailed discussion of the draft document: section by section.

In particular I would alert delegations who have provided inputs e.g. through a working paper or through previous oral comments, to stand ready to explain their contributions to other delegations, and where relevant to suggest re-formulated language. I consider it of utmost importance that throughout our process that all Member States feel a sense of ownership and that the draft remains a product constructed solely of the building blocks provided by Member States.

I also wish to emphasize that I will not be seeking final agreement on any paragraph of the draft before BMS5.

BMS5 (16-20 June) is approaching quickly. For the final two weeks of preparations, my intended schedule is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>3-6 pm</td>
<td>Open informal consultations on “Draft 2”</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 June</td>
<td>10 am-1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
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<td>Release of “Draft 3”</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 June</td>
<td>3-6 pm</td>
<td>Bureau meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>3-6 pm</td>
<td>Open informal consultations</td>
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Noting the tentative date of the Bureau meeting for the 12 June, I encourage all relevant regional group chairs to communicate their candidates for the Bureau to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (conventionalarms-unoda@un.org) as soon as possible.
Also, please note that the Secretary-General’s report on new technologies in small arms tracing is now available on the BMS5 website (www.un-arm.org/BMS5).

Finally, I would like to thank States that have submitted their national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, 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-arm.org/BMS5).

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

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

Zahir Tanin
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Afghanistan to the United Nations
In the context of 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, States considered the implementation of Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Bearing in mind the different situations and capacities of States and regions, they welcomed progress made in the implementation of both Instruments; noted the continuing challenges to their implementation, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance; and reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument over the period 2012-2018 in accordance with the implementation measures adopted at the 2012 United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, Annex II) and endorsed by the General Assembly in A/RES/68/48.

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 in settings of endemic crime and armed violence and in conflict and post-conflict situations, and that the proper management of stockpiles is essential to prevent further accidents and reduce the risk of diversion and uncontrolled proliferation. States also pointed out that stockpile management, including physical security measures, 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).

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

3. States further noted the importance, where relevant, of integrating stockpile management measures with wider disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations.

4. 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.
5. States noted women’s important role and contribution in all domains of the security sector in general and small arms control in particular. States also highlighted the need to facilitate participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to small arms and light weapons including in processes related to stockpile management, including physical security measures, taking into account UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions as well as the General Assembly resolutions on women, disarmament and non-proliferation and arms control (A/RES/65/69 and subsequent resolutions).

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

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

8. States encouraged steps towards the establishment of practical guidelines and checklists of procedures as well as the 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 diversion, thefts or loss.

9. States noted that the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), launched by the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism on 29 August 2012, provide practical guidance on implementing commitments made by States in the UN Programme of Action and other relevant instruments, including on stockpile management and physical security measures; and encouraged all UN entities participating in the CASA mechanism to use ISACS when providing advice and support, upon request, to Member States on issues related to small arms and light weapons control, in order to ensure that such advice and support is of a consistent high quality.

10. At the same time, States also encouraged not only Member States, relevant international organizations, regional and subregional organizations to do so, but also members of civil society with relevant expertise to share experience and research in the area of diversion.

11. States noted that the evaluation of how stockpile management, including physical security measures, are being implemented by national authorities would benefit from the establishment of benchmarks and indicators.

12. States acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation and assistance, including through regional and sub-regional organisations and United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, on issues such as the destruction or other responsible disposal of surplus stocks or unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons.
13. In this regard, States also highlighted the need for environmentally-friendly methods of disposing of small arms and light weapons.

14. 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:

15. To strengthen physical security measures of small arms and light weapons stockpiles in order to prevent the diversion of these items to armed groups.

16. 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 life-cycle management procedures.

17. 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.

18. To strengthen international and 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.

19. To encourage subregional and regional organizations, as well as United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, to assist States, upon request, in building relevant national capacities.

20. 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 physical security measures and the provision of such training where requested.

21. To promote the meaningful participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to small arms and light weapons, including in processes related to stockpile management, including physical security measures.

22. 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

23. States noted that mechanisms for information gathering and exchange should be strengthened, and focused not only on combating but also on preventing the diversion of small arms and light weapons to armed groups. 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.

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

25. States observed that recent developments in weapons technology, including the development of modular weapon systems and the increasing use of polymer components, pose new challenges for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing.

26. Acknowledging the opportunities for the enhancement of marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light 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.

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

28. States highlighted that the tracing of small arms and light weapons was particularly important in conflict and post-conflict situations, 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.

29. Recalling the 2012 Review Conference, States underscored the possibility of increasing the role and capacities of relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional organizations, in weapons tracing.

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

31. 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.

32. States encouraged the Security Council to continue to address the issue of illicit small arms and light weapons and to strengthen arms embargo monitoring mechanisms in the framework of United Nations Missions 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.

33. States also underscored that the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict zones draws attention to patterns of illicit flows of weapons which may be useful in the planning and implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), Security Sector Reform (SSR) as well as integrated border management initiatives.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. States noted that online technologies could further improve the 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.

37. 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:

38. 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 online technologies (such as iArms and iTrace).

39. 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 criminal groups engaged in diversion.

40. Explore the development of a comprehensive international assistance framework to provide resources, training, capacity-building and technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the ITI.

41. 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.

42. Request the UN Secretariat to consider options for enhancing the sharing of information on identified diversion and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons between relevant United Nations entities, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, and United Nations expert panels, to support effective mandate implementation.

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

43. 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 at the local, national, regional and global levels.

44. States reaffirmed that international assistance and cooperation should be rendered upon request, without conditionalities, taking into account the needs and priorities of recipient States and that its adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability should be ensured.

45. States highlighted the importance of 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.

46. 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.

47. 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.

48. States identified the need for increased exchanges of expertise, techniques and procedures, including best practices and lessons learned for relevant enforcement authorities.

49. States recognized the value of addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders, in accordance with the Programme of Action, and the need to promote cooperation on this matter through the appropriate channels, with full respect for each State’s sovereignty over its own borders.

50. States welcomed the existence of global information exchange platforms made available by the United Nations Secretariat and encouraged their use by all Member States.
51. States welcomed the further development of existing tools and mechanisms for addressing assistance needs and for matching needs with available resources.

52. 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.

53. States noted the establishment of a United Nations trust fund, as a voluntary multi-donor facility to mobilise reliable assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of the PoA and the ITI, as mandated by the 2012 Review Conference 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:

54. 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.

55. 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.

56. 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.

57. 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.

58. Establish or strengthen, where appropriate, subregional or regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, in particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information sharing among, as relevant, law enforcement and national border and customs control agencies, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders.

59. Work with the UN to better articulate the effects of arms embargoes on neighbouring States and to work collaboratively with panels of experts, peacekeeping missions (where relevant) and UN entities to identify capacity gaps and trends.

60. For States where arms embargo exemptions are in place, to consider providing, upon request, financial and technical assistance, including on physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons, and their marking, record-keeping and tracing, and
to encourage the United Nations Security Council, when appropriate and feasible, to consider the provision of assistance to States subject to UNSC embargoes

61. 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.

62. 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 in accordance with existing infrastructures and procedures as well as the application of accompanying measures such as capacity building for involved personnel and maintenance of transferred equipment.

63. 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 critical 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.

64. States called for the General Assembly to ensure that the Disarmament Fellowship Programme adequately takes into account relevant technical developments in the implementation of the PoA and the ITI and reinforces the South-South dimension of this program.

65. 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.

66. States invite 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 particularly 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 on activities regarding small arms and light weapons and to establish a comprehensive database of experts, researchers and training and research institutions with expertise on small arms and light weapons.; 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.

IV. Follow-up to the Second Review Conference

Schedule of meetings 2014-2018

67. States referred to the General Assembly’s decision, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2012 to 2018 agreed at the Second Review Conference, to convene, in
accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States, in New York in 2014 and 2016, a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015, to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and to hold the 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 for a period of two weeks, preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting early in 2018.

68.  [Possible follow-up recommendations on the meeting of governmental experts in 2015 and the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States in 2016 from SG report on new technologies].

69.  States encourage the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts in 2015 to consider the topics of transfer of small arms-related technology and equipment, capacity building, and training for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

70.  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.

71.  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

72.  States welcome the significant role of regional and subregional organizations and instruments in many parts of the world in raising awareness, building capacity, and promoting cooperation and assistance to support States, upon request, to implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and encourage measures to further enhance the effective role that regional and subregional organizations can play, as appropriate, in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

73.  States reaffirmed the important role that regional and sub-regional organizations play in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

74.  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 and the International Tracing Instrument.

75.  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

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

77. 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 and the International Tracing Instrument.

78. States encourage engagement with industry, as appropriate, to support effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and to ensure the process remains fully informed of relevant technical developments.

National reporting

79. 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

80. 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

81. [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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