First Committee
General Assembly
63rd Session
12th meeting

Statement by
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Delegate of
the Republic of Indonesia

Thematic Debate: Conventional Weapons

New York, 20 October 2008
Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the NAM Statement made earlier by my delegation and wishes to use this opportunity in our national capacity, to speak on the four issues, namely: 1) Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), 2) the Arms Trade Treaty process, and 3) the Mine Ban Convention and the 4) Cluster Munitions Convention.

SALW

Mr. Chairman,

- The impact of small arms and light weapons has never been in any way small or light, particularly on the communities and countries that they have affected. Time and again, we see the capacity of these weapons to inflict human suffering, and inhibit socio-economic development. The people will continue to live in fear and suffer unless all members of the international community effectively implement the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (SALW). It is clear that the dangers of illicit SALW cannot possibly by addressed by individual nations, given the regional and international dimensions of the issue.

- Indonesia therefore reaffirms the validity of the PoA, and emphasizes the importance of its continued and full implementation, as well as the International Tracing instruments. We welcome the Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-3) convened in New York in July this year.

- At the BMS-3, States stressed the importance of regional approaches and underscored their support for the convening of meetings at that level. As part of the PoA process, Indonesia will continue to work with the UN, as well as countries in the region, to facilitate such meetings in the Southeast Asia region.

- With regard to the PoA, we support the creation of a common framework for linking needs with resources in order to enhance the implementation capacity of States. In this context, we welcome the establishment by the United Nations of the PoA Implementation Support System, as well as the initiative of UNIDIR, to develop the database for matching needs with resources.
• While supporting those practical measures, my delegation is also of the view that the legitimate defense and security needs of the States should always be taken into account. The inherent right of individual or collective self-defense, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, including the right of States to maintain their territorial integrity, should not fall victim to our efforts to prevent small arms from falling into the wrong hands. The legitimate rights of sovereign States for acquiring and possessing small arms, and the government-to-government trade relations pertaining to these weapons should be guaranteed.

Mr. Chairman,

**With respect to the Arms Trade Treaty**

• We welcome the process leading to the establishment of a common international standard on import, export and transfer of conventional arms within the context of the United Nations. My delegation is flexible, and is open to consider a treaty that will enforce control over export, import and transfers of conventional weapons, thus preventing their acquisition by irresponsible entities, provided that this does not hamper the legitimate transfers between governments for self-defense and security needs.

• Such common international standards should be negotiated multilaterally, and should take into consideration the views and concerns of as many States as possible, including those from the developing countries, which are the main importers of weapons. Following the process of a Group of Governmental Experts, which discussed the feasibility, scope and draft parameter of a possible ATT, the draft resolution on ATT this year, requests the convening of an open-ended working group. This, we believe, is consistent with our approach of inclusiveness and transparency. We look forward to participating in the open-ended working group and encourage Member States to make use of this opportunity to do the same and actively express their views.
Mr. Chairman,

**On the issue of Anti-Personnel Landmines**

Indonesia became party to the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Convention in 2007. Following that event, Indonesia immediately started the implementation of its commitments, as required by the Convention, especially on the stockpile destruction. We are happy to say that the first phase of destruction was completed in February 2008.

It is our fervent hope that our steps will be followed by other countries that remain outside the Convention, particularly in the Southeast Asia region, which is considered one of the most mine-affected regions of the world. To facilitate the implementation of the Convention, and to encourage its universalization, Indonesia and Canada, supported by Australia, co-hosted a regional Workshop in Bali in February 2008 on the implementation and universalization of the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Convention.

We are cognizant that the non-state parties are important actors, and need to be engaged positively. Some do face big challenges once they join the Convention. Hence, active international cooperation is crucial not only for the implementation of the Convention, but also for the efforts to universalize the Convention effectively.

Mr. Chairman,

**On Cluster Munitions Convention**

The use of cluster munitions has caused unacceptable harm to civilians in the past 40 years, killing and injuring thousands and engendered widespread suffering. It is proven that there are disastrous humanitarian consequences, and the munitions effects cause indiscriminate devastation both during, and long after the conflict has ended.

So we view it as positive that over 100 states took decisive action, and adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dublin, Ireland, in May 2008, with a view to ending the decades of human grief and misery caused by these munitions.

Compared to others, our region, Southeast Asia, suffers due to the most severe and widespread contamination caused by the use of cluster munitions. It
is ironic that not all countries in our region have committed to supporting the Convention. It is therefore of utmost importance that the countries promote a **regional adherence** to the Convention. We welcome the Regional Meeting on Cluster Munitions in Southeast Asia, which holds this week in Laos. We hope that a greater political will would be shown at this important meeting, and we look forward to a positive outcome.

We would also encourage the states to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which will be opened for signature in Oslo, Norway on 3 December 2008. We hope that they would also ratify it thereafter.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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