Mr. Chairman

We congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this Committee and pledge our support to your leadership.

Mr. Chairman

While Papua New Guinea does not manufacture or export small arms and light weapons, we unfortunately suffer greatly from their use, misuse and abuse.

At the General Assembly, our Leaders have and continue to emphasize our concerns about the ongoing proliferation of small arms and light weapons through illicit trade and their impact on our society.

Like many developing countries, Papua New Guinea faces serious development and security challenges as a result of the use of illegally acquired small arms and light weapons by criminals and other elements especially in the commission of crime and other forms of violence.

Violent conflicts aided by the use of illegally acquired small arms and light weapons pose major challenges to our efforts in promoting economic development and social benefits for our people including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
While remaining steadfast to the commitments under the UN Programme of Action to address these challenges, we believe that effective implementation also requires collective efforts including through cooperation with our partners, regional arrangements and with the international community.

Mr. Chairman

To this end, we welcome the adoption of the Outcome Document of the recently concluded “2nd 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” and congratulate the President of the Review Conference, Ambassador Joy Ogwu of Nigeria for her leadership, commitment and resolve in achieving an agreed outcome of the Conference.

We note the recommendations contained therein, especially on implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level, and I am pleased to report that Papua New Guinea recently submitted its 2nd Country Report to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in August 2012. The Report has now been posted on the UNODA website.

The Report includes the state of our national implementation of the Programme of Action and also highlights areas that require strengthening and support from the international community to assist us in meeting our obligations.

We welcome technical assistance in conducting gap analysis of existing legislation, development of central database registry for SALW issues, review of stockpile management and procedures, training on marking and tracing SALW and learning from international best practices on implementing the Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman

As part of enhancing and protecting our national security and sovereignty while contributing proactively to international peace and security, we are reforming and strengthening our national security architecture which prioritizes effective small arms and light weapons policing.
To further complement this important work, we are re-engaging with the United Nations through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to conclude our National Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime Bill.

We consider these to be significant steps on our part in contributing towards the collective global efforts in addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through implementation of the Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman

We acknowledge and thank our development partners who have assisted and continue to assist us in our efforts including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United Nations, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

We also welcome the Report of the Secretary General on the "Progress Made on 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, 10 years following its adoption" and consider this to be useful information to assist member States in their national implementation efforts.

We however note the disappointing outcome of the Arms Trade Treaty negotiating conference last July and look forward to reinvigorated efforts in 2013 to put in place a legally binding treaty that will effectively apply common standards to monitor and regulate the trade in conventional weapons, especially small arms and light weapons.

Finally Mr. Chairman, Papua New Guinea stands ready to cooperate with other likeminded countries in eradicating the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons including through the sponsorship and support of relevant General Assembly resolutions and initiatives.

Thank you!