PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

by

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Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

at the Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons of the First Committee

67th Session of the General Assembly

23 October 2012
Conference Room 1
UNHQ
Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. This year witnessed concrete efforts on the part of States and the international community to try to end the flow of illicit weapons which remains one of the biggest threats to international peace and security.

While we failed in negotiating an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in July, we managed to successfully conclude the Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) held in August.

The Philippines remains committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALWs and maintains that the implementation of the UN Programme of Action is the best way for individual States to address the negative consequences of illicit SALWs.

Cognizant of its limited capacity, the Philippines continues to strengthen cooperation at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in SALWs.

The Philippines calls on States with the capacity to do so to provide assistance, especially on new technological innovations in marking, record-keeping and tracing, strengthening our border security to prevent the illicit transfer of arms and building additional legislative and institutional mechanisms to implement other provisions of the POA.

Through international cooperation and assistance, the Philippines will be able to establish strong national mechanisms to prevent the illicit trade in SALWs.

The Philippines looks forward to the passage of a bill that will regulate the flow of dual use goods, especially related weapons of mass destruction. We also look forward to the expansion of the scope of the Philippine firearms law to include SALWs as prescribed by international standards.

The Philippines also reiterates our call on producer states, which have the special responsibility to strictly apply the legal restrictions, to curb the illegal trade in SALWS. We call on them to supply arms only to responsible government and their authorized agencies.
Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines remains hopeful that we will be able to resume our work on an ATT which is key to regulating the trade in conventional arms.

The Philippines lends its support to the adoption of a draft resolution that calls for the convening of another Conference in March 2013. In finishing the work that we have started, we urge States to exercise flexibility so that we will finally be able to achieve our goals. We cannot afford another failure to negotiate an ATT.

The Philippines will preside over the 2012 Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). As the Philippines puts priority on the universalization of the CCW, we urge States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention and its Protocols.

The Philippines believes there are synergies between the CCW and other related treaties such as the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions worth looking into, including integrated provision of victim assistance to persons effected by the weapons covered by the three conventions.

Thank you.