Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to brief the First Committee in my capacity as Chair of the Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which took place in June this year.

The Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts or “MGE2” had a technical mandate, and was aimed at allowing for free discussion of topics amongst experts on the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action. Thanks to a sponsorship programme supported by the government of Australia, many experts from capital were able to attend MGE2, which considerably enriched the discussions.

States agreed that MGE2 should consider 4 agenda items:

One: The implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing;

Two: Practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments;

Three: The transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

and finally: Additional issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

At MGE2, States considered that recent developments in SALW technologies have the potential to both positively and negatively impact the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons: Some new technologies for marking and record-keeping (such as use of polymers, marking on polymers, insertion of metal tags, laser marking, the challenges of micro-percussion in conjunction to the ITI requirement for visible markings, modular weapons marking, use of biometric methods, GPS, RFI or Bluetooth for weapons marking, storage and possible future handler recognition) may prove helpful to States in fulfilling their obligations under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing
Instrument. Conversely, the 3D printing of weapons now offers the possibility of new forms of “craft production”, posing new control challenges.

While States noted that there was a technological divide between countries, and that new developments in small arms and light weapons technology affect States differently, there was general agreement of the need to together ensure that the international community remains well-prepared and even ahead of the curve when it comes to addressing challenges related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

In this context, discussions at MGE2 also focused on the adequacy of existing voluntary trust fund mechanisms for international cooperation and assistance, including the transfer of technology, as well as how States may wish to engage these for the more effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

I have attempted to capture the main discussions of MGE2 in a Chair’s summary, issued under my own responsibility. It is my hope that this document will be a useful reference for further consideration of these issues at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action which will take place in 2016.

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The linkage between the need to address the illicit flows of arms for development has now been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

No development is possible without security, without the respect of the international law, without respect to the human lives.

The UN Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument together remain an important global framework at our disposal to tackle the complex issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Let us continue to put our utmost effort into taking steps forward in implementing them.

I thank you.