Thank you, chair.

I’m pleased to speak on behalf of the International Action Network on Small Arms, IANSA. We are a global network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to decrease the human costs of armed violence. We are also the official coordinator of civil society in the United Nations small arms process. We gratefully acknowledge the support of UNSCAR for this work.

**Costs of small arms and light weapons**
The devastating human costs of small arms and light weapons use are well known. The Small Arms Survey has estimated that 560,000 people lost their lives as a direct result of armed violence in 2016. This number significantly understates the harm caused by these weapons, as it does not include those who lost their lives as an indirect result of armed violence. And these counts do not include people were injured or displaced.

**Progress at Review Conference**
The human costs of these weapons form the context for my talk, which will focus primarily on the results of the third Review Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

At the Review Conference, States made important commitments on almost all of the six key issues that IANSA has highlighted in our recent work:

- The illicit trade in ammunition;
- Gender-based action to curb small arms and light weapons proliferation and violence;
- Destruction of surplus and excessive accumulations of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition;
- Links among Sustainable Development Goal 16, small arms and light weapons reduction, and development;
- Measures to address armed violence, crime, and conflict; and
- Synergies in implementing the Programme of Action and the Arms Trade Treaty.

**In moving forward, we need sustained and integrated work across relevant agendas**
These agendas include the Secretary-General’s disarmament agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Programme of Action, the UN Firearms Protocol, and the Arms Trade Treaty.

We don’t have the time or resources for all of these efforts to be independent of each other. We have to find areas of synergy in order to be effective.
In his civil society presentation at the Review Conference, armed violence survivor Alex Galvez illustrated this point, saying, “We need an improvement in the attention to survivors of armed violence. We need a focus on guns in crime, not just in conflicts…. And most importantly, we should regulate ammunition.”

I will next discuss some ways in which IANSA and civil society can help in these efforts
We’d be delighted to speak with you individually or in your regional and substantive groupings about any of these issues. In the time available today, I can only touch on them.

IANSA has recently produced a dozen publications with extensive analysis of these issues and relevant policy proposals. These publications are available on the IANSA website.

We work to ensure the equal, full, and effective participation of women, through activities such as our Call to Action on Gender and Small Arms Control.

We work to enhance civil society advocacy networks and civil society’s engagement with governments. For example, we do a great deal of work coordinating with women’s networks and with groups that serve youth, primarily focusing on groups in the global South.

At all levels, local, national, regional, and global, we believe that education is – and will remain – critical.

Civil society’s involvement is crucial to all of these missions, and none of this will be possible without funding. Civil society needs continued and increased financial assistance in order to be fully effective in assisting States in implementing UN agreements.

Time is not on our side, and we must listen to the voices of survivors
It’s time to remember the words of Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000, when he said that “Small arms proliferation is not merely a security issue; it is also an issue of human rights and of development.”

It’s time for the trade, possession, and use of small arms and light weapons to be brought fully into the rule of law, including humanitarian law.

It’s time to leave behind the historical patterns of excessive and destabilizing accumulations of weapons.

It’s time to – finally – fully include women on small arms commissions, on delegations, in decision-making. Not as tokens, but as full and effective participants. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in these efforts.

As Mei-Ling Ho-Shing, a survivor of the Parkland Florida shooting, said in her moving civil society presentation at the Review Conference: “The decisions that governments make here this week will affect my future, and all young people around the world. Please don’t let us down.”

Thank you.