Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

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Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia associates with the statement made earlier by the Non-Aligned Movement.

Indonesia is deeply concerned by the indiscriminate use of conventional weapons, in contravention of the international humanitarian law, which is responsible for the immense loss of life and property in numerous parts of the world. The illicit trade and unregulated use of these weapons, especially in the hands of non-state actors, has already had a devastating human, material and economic toll. Regrettably, this tragedy is right there on news media every day but with not nearly sufficient response. The situation continues to pose a serious threat to international security.

Indonesia stresses dangers arising from the illicit manufacture, transfer, and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), which happen to be weapons of choice in most conflicts. We call on particularly the major producing States, to ensure that the supply of SALW is limited only to governments or to entities duly authorized by them. The balanced, full and effective implementation of the Program of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument is essential. In this regard, there is also a need to enhance international cooperation and assistance.

Indonesia is concerned by the devastating humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions. We express our solidarity with the cluster munitions-affected countries. We urge the parties to armed conflict to exercise utmost restraint and care. While cluster munitions should never be used, every effort should also be made to ensure that innocent civilians caught in the conflict are not harmed and protected.

Indonesia also condemns the use of anti-personnel mines in conflicts, in contravention of the international humanitarian law. These have maimed, killed and terrorized innocent populations in many regions. We stress full implementation of the Ban Treaty as well as urge the states not yet party to it to join in. While international assistance remains vital in landmine clearance
operations and victims' rehabilitation, national ownership by the affected states to ensure that the victims are rehabilitated properly and peacebuilding is deepened is equally so.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia also underlines the sovereign right of states to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and ammunition for their self-defense and security needs. In this regard, we are against any undue restrictions and coercive measures placed by the exporting states on the importing states.

Finally, we also share the concern expressed on the increasing global military expenditure, a significant part of which could be spent on development needs instead. This is very important for alleviation of poverty as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Climate Agreement. It is high time that the energies and money were reprioritized. Let us all play our part to ensure that global peace is fostered and the Sustaining Peace agenda is successful.

Thank you.