Statement by Turkey  
Thematic discussion on “Conventional Weapons”  
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Mr. Chairman,

The threat posed by the proliferation of illicit conventional weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons, is no less important than the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. Besides causing an enormous range of death toll worldwide, excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of conventional weapons and their ammunition also endangers the socio-economic development in many countries.

Moreover, there is a clear and well-documented relationship between illicit trade in SALW and terrorism and organized crime. For this reason, Turkey strongly supports international cooperation to combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW in all international fora.

The UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects has been a useful platform to tackle this issue. Turkey strongly supports full and comprehensive implementation of the UN Programme of Action at all levels.

We welcome the outcome achieved at the 3rd Review Conference of the Program of Action under the Presidency of France and we look forward to a successful Biennial Meeting of States Parties (BMS7) next year. On this occasion, we wish to congratulate Ambassador Lazarus Amayo of Kenya, who has been endorsed as the Chair-designate of the BMS7. We would like to assure him our full support and cooperation.

Turkey is also fully committed to further strengthening of the International Tracing Instrument. We hope that next year the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on problems arising from the accumulation of ammunition stockpiles in surplus will make a good progress to address current issues in this field.

Turkey is a member of all four export control regimes and diligently implements a robust export control mechanism.

Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction is the cornerstone of the international efforts to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines.

As a party and strong supporter of the Convention, Turkey is taking its commitments to the Convention very seriously and determined to fulfil all of them.
At the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty, we will be working towards a strong outcome at the Fourth Review Conference, which is going to take place in November in Oslo.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is an indispensable part of the international law on conventional weapons with indiscriminate effects. Turkey fully implements the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which it is a party and encourages adherence to this fundamental international regime.

Issues such as Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) continue to be important. Turkey is concerned by the increasing impact of IED attacks worldwide, in particular through the perpetration of terrorist acts. We believe that the UN has an important role to play in dealing with the IED threats.

Thank you.