PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

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Thank you, Madame President.

Allow my delegation to once again extend our congratulations and gratitude to you for your able Chairmanship of this Review Conference.

The Philippines assures you and your bureau of our full support in the next two weeks as we deliberate on the progress we have made and chart the way forward in our implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Philippines remains steadfast in its commitment to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons which continue to kill thousands of people every year and threaten peace and security.

The Philippine position remains that the implementation of the Programme of Action is the best way for individual countries to address the illegal trade in SALWs. It is for this reason that the Philippines continues to further strengthen cooperation at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in SALWs.

At the national level, the Philippines uses authenticated end-user certificates and does not re-export or re-transfer imported SALWs. We await 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 small arms and light weapons as prescribed by international standards.
Madame President,

While the Philippines continues to fulfill our part in addressing the issue of illicit trade in SALWs, we reiterate 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.

Our very own licensed arms manufacturers, in cooperation with relevant government agencies, are careful in making sure that their products are only exported to countries which have diplomatic relations with the Philippines.

Meanwhile, we wish to underscore that arms embargoes established by the United Nations should be complied with.

For this second Review Conference of the UN POA on SALWs, the Philippines would like to stress that capacity of states to implement the provisions of the Programme of Action is key. Thus, the Philippines calls for strengthened international cooperation and assistance in this area.

States should be able to exchange knowledge and expertise especially in the area of records keeping. We reiterate our call on States and relevant international and regional organizations to consider extending more technical and financial assistance in the areas of capacity building, training for law enforcement authorities, and conduct of public awareness programs on the problems caused by the illicit trade in SALWS.

Thank you.