Statement by
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General Exchange of Views
at the
Second Review Conference of the United Nations
Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit
Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects

New York, 28 August 2012

(Check against Delivery)
Thank you, Madam President.

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Second Review Conference, and to thank you for your extensive and tireless efforts to prepare for this important occasion. In this regard, our delegation would also like to express its gratitude to the four facilitators – Australia, Egypt, Guyana and Japan – for helping to advance the draft outcome documents. We look forward to working with you, Madam President, and your team in the same cooperative and supportive manner that has characterized our delegation's contribution to the SALW process from the start.

Madam President,

Israel attaches great importance to the UN Programme of Action. We view its effective implementation as crucial for combating the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Illicit trade and uncontrolled transfers of SALW pose an enduring challenge to international peace and security, with significant destabilizing effects and humanitarian consequences.

A successful outcome of this Review Conference would strengthen international resolve to prevent the transfer of arms to terrorists and non-state actors. It could dramatically reduce the human suffering caused by the intentional use of these weapons against civilians. Yet, to achieve this goal we must enhance our level of cooperation in areas that have not yet received appropriate attention, such as trafficking
prevention, border controls, post-conflict smuggling and circulation to other armed conflicts. Those and other coordination challenges have significantly hampered the implementation of the UNPoA.

In this context, Israel would like to emphasize once again its deep concern about the illicit proliferation of MANPADS and short-range rockets. These weapons present a serious threat to civil aviation when they fall into the wrong hands. The international community should allocate the necessary resources to address this grave danger effectively. We must focus on concrete steps - through legal, political and practical measures - to prevent these weapons from reaching terrorists and non-state actors.

Madam President,

Israel has consistently placed the prevention of illicit proliferation in SALW high on its national agenda. We have addressed this issue through strict legislation, administrative regulations, and export control policies that prohibit and curb illegal transfers. We strongly believe that better cooperation and coordination at the bilateral, regional, and global levels will enhance the ongoing efforts to prevent proliferation and combat terrorism.

Like many other states in our region and around the world, Israel views the implementation of the UNPoA as more relevant than ever. A new
Middle East has been evolving over the past two years. It is still undergoing a historic transformation. The turbulence in our region poses great challenges, which should prompt the international community to work together to prevent illicit trafficking and terrorism.

In this regard, Israel – like other countries – regrets that the 2006 Review Conference was not able to achieve a consensus document. We also regret that the Arms Trade Treaty negotiation conference, aimed at addressing standards in international arms trade, concluded without adopting an agreed treaty, exactly one month ago. For the sake of a more secure world, let us hope that a successful outcome document is endorsed by the end of this Review Conference that addresses the illicit transfers of SALW.

Madam President,

Israel is ready to play its part and engage constructively with other Member States to contribute to the success of this Review Conference on the Implementation of the PoA. Please allow me to again convey our appreciation for your relentless efforts to move us forward, and to wish Member States, their delegates here present, and the Secretariat, fruitful deliberations.

Thank you, Madam President.