STATEMENT

BY

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CHAIRPERSON: NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

AT

THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS
REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT
AND ERADICATE THE ILLICITE TRADE
IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

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Madam President,

At the outset, my delegation joins previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of this very important Second Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects. Namibia is confident that under your able stewardship, the review conference will achieve its intended objectives. We also congratulate members of the Bureau on their election and pledge our cooperation to work with all delegations of this august conference.

My delegation fully associates and aligns itself with the statements made by the delegation of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, as well as Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Madam President,

Namibia remains fully committed to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and we continue to fulfill our obligations, as outlined in our latest country report submitted to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Like many member States, Namibia agrees with the approach of the report of the Secretary-General (S2011/255) which informs the Security Council on a number of issues that merit special attention, including trade and intermediate; marking, records keeping, identification and tracing, armed violence, and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), trade in ammunitions, parts and components.

Namibia remains committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials. Therefore for us, these mechanisms continue to be the most effective international, regional and sub-regional frameworks to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade and proliferation of firearms in the world.

Madame President,

The Namibian Constitution provides the foundation of her foreign policy. Article 96 of our Constitution provides that the “State shall promote international cooperation, peace and security and that it shall foster respect for international law and treaty obligations. Hence, the Namibia National Action Plan (NNAP) on small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is but one of the many practical efforts in our commitment to honor the afore-mentioned instruments by properly maintaining, managing, and curbing the acquisition, possession, distribution and use of SALW in order to contain their illegal usage.
Madam President,

Namibia regards the issue of prevention, combating and control of the proliferation of illicit trafficking in SALW and economic development as inseparable undertakings. In this respect, we have developed and adopted the National Action Plan on SALW, to ensure a sustainable implementation of the aforementioned instruments. Other notable achievements include the decentralization of our National Action Programme through the establishment of regional structures and the formulation of a public awareness strategy to sensitize the public on the danger posed by SALW. All these interventions will be made possible through the implementation of the ongoing e-policing project which makes provision for effective tracing of all marked fire arms in the country.

Another notable effort the country has made is the progress on the amendment of the Arms Ammunition Act. Such development comes with its own challenge. First to educate the public on need to mark; records and trace all firearms in circulation, and secondly to ensure competency test for all applicant for fire arms licenses.

The main challenge in this endeavor remains capacity building for law enforcement officers and the effective use of technology in order to conform to global norms and best practices. Namibia therefore encourages the international donor community to continue rendering financial and technical support to mitigate on the above challenges for the effective implementation of the PoA.

Madam President,
Distinguished delegates,

In conclusion, let me reiterate the significance we attached to the PoA as the main framework to effectively deal with issues of proliferation of SALW. It is our high expectations that this Review Conference through consensus will be able to attain its noble goals. We stand ready to contribute to a successful outcome of the Conference through your leadership.

I thank you