Intervention by

H.E. Ambassador Hasan Kleib

Chargé d’Affaires ad interim
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

at the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on
Small Arms and Light Weapons (BMS 4)

New York, 14 June 2010
Mr. Chairman,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Let me first congratulate you on your assumption to chair this very important fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS 4), to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects. I also congratulate the Bureau members on their election. The NAM is positive that under your capable leadership, Mr. Chairman, this meeting will yield tangible outcomes. We assure you and your Bureau our cooperation and active engagement to work for success.

The NAM remains deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of SALW. Their accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world has had lethal results. Tragically, these weapons continue to be the choice tools in most conflicts with lasting consequences for innocent. We fully recognise the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms.

In this regard, the NAM calls on all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of SALW is limited only to governments or to entities duly authorised by governments, and to implement legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing the illicit trade of SALW. We encourage robust initiatives by States to mobilise resources and expertise, and provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.
The NAM underscores a prompt and full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW, which it considers the main framework for addressing the menace of illicit trade in these weapons. The Movement was disappointed that the UN Conference to Review the Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects, held in New York in June-July 2006, was unable to agree on a final Document. We noted the third Biennial Meeting of the States (BMS 3) held in New York in July 2008, which also considered the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action.

We appreciate the presentation of discussion papers circulated at this BMS 4, and consider them useful efforts to facilitate the debate. We underline the importance of the follow-up to the implementation of the PoA and of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), in accordance with the mandate granted by General Assembly Resolution 64/50 "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". We would like to also recall the important regional meetings organised by UNODA under the mandate of the BMS 3 Report that were held in Sidney, Kigali, Lima, Bali and Kinshasa. We hope that the outcome of those meetings, among others, will contribute to strengthening the outcome of the BMS here.

It is high time that all Member States, especially the major producer States brought to bear their political will to work for collective success here. They will find NAM to be an eager and constructive partner.
Mr. Chairman,

The NAM reaffirms the total validity of the UN Programme of Action, and encourages the Member States to coordinate efforts with a view to reaching agreement on a follow-up to the Programme of Action to ensure its full implementation. We call for the full implementation of the international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner the illicit small arms and light weapons, which was adopted by the General Assembly.

While the UN, bilateral and multilateral partners need to increase their assistance to developing countries of NAM for curbing illicit trade in SALW at the request of such countries, such assistance should not be at the expense of support for NAM developing countries in the execution of their national plans to attain the internationally agreed developmental goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Socio-economic progress will ensure that the actions of national governments to control and eradicate the illicit SALW have effective and sustainable results. We welcome the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 64/32 "Relationship between Disarmament and Development”.

The Movement underscores that international assistance and cooperation are essential aspects in the full implementation of the Programme of Action, and expects that among other things, the outcome document of the BMS 4 will outline clearly further measures to facilitate dialogue and follow-up on the questions of assistance and cooperation vis-a-vis the NAM countries.

The NAM considers it essential to also underline the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional
arms for their self-defence and security needs. The Group expresses its concern over the unilateral coercive measures employed by some States, and stresses that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms to governments.

It is worth pointing out that there is significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the developed and NAM States, and the Movement calls for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by the developed States with a view to enhancing regional and international peace and security. The principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments should be embraced.

Finally, the Movement calls for intensified actions at the regional and international levels to promote dialogue and a culture of peace by encouraging, as appropriate, education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

Thank you.