Excellency,

The open informal consultations on the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 (BMS6) held on Tuesday, 15 December 2015 were highly constructive, enriching and well-attended. Our gathering gave me valuable insights regarding Member States’ perspectives on the possible agenda and other substantive and organizational aspects of BMS6, which is scheduled to take place from 6-10 June 2016.

**Working Methods**

I have noted from our consultations a broadly held preference for adopting the same working methods that were successfully employed in past Programme of Action (PoA) meetings. This includes the established practice of going directly into substantive discussions without a general debate or high-level segment; the early circulation of a ‘zero-draft’ outcome document after informal agreement on the agenda items, and with ample possibility for open, transparent consultations in the lead-up to the meeting itself; and encouraging States to consider their national reports as their contribution of views on the general implementation of the PoA.

**BMS6 Agenda Items**

At the consultations, I took good note of the constructive views expressed by States on the agenda for BMS6, on the basis of which I have now formulated an initial list of suggested agenda items for our meeting.

*International Tracing Instrument / new technologies*

Firstly, States have reconfirmed that, as per our standing mandate, the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) would be an agenda item to be included at BMS6. Furthermore, States have expressed the wish to address more specific issues under the International Tracing Instrument. Therefore, the first agenda item (and sub-item) I propose would be as follows:

**Proposed agenda item 1**

**Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons**

- Recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and its implications for the International Tracing Instrument.
States have already discussed this issue of recent developments in small arms and light weapon technology at a technical expert level, during a Meeting of Governmental Experts in 2015 (MGE2). A report by the Secretary-General (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/1) has also enhanced knowledge on this issue. I would encourage States, on the basis of what was discussed at MGE2 and taking into account the Secretary-General’s report, to consider at BMS6 the policy implications of recent developments in small arms and light weapon technology. This could include an examination of possible next steps on this topic in the context of the Third Review Conference under the Programme of Action (RevCon3, 2018).

**International Cooperation and Assistance**

Secondly, I have noted in particular that the recommendations from the 2012 Second Review Conference for Member States to focus on international assistance and cooperation (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, section III, paras 3 and 4) garnered general agreement from States. I have also noted that States expressed further views on what the focus could be under the broad issue of international cooperation and assistance. I would therefore propose that the second agenda item (and sub-items) could be as follows:

**Proposed Agenda Item 2**

**International cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building**

a) Consideration of ways to strengthen the implementation of the PoA and ITI through the provision of equipment, technology and training;  
b) Consideration of ways to ensure the sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the PoA and the ITI.

I have understood that for the consideration of international cooperation and assistance, States would like to utilize the forthcoming SG’s report ‘on recent developments in small arms and light weapon technology; the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology and equipment, particularly to developing countries since 2001; as well as options for the enhanced funding of activities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument’.

Similar to proposed agenda point 1, this topic may include an examination of possible next steps in the context of RevCon3.

**Additional Measures**

Finally, some States have proposed to have as an agenda item additional measures for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument; several focal areas were mentioned. Therefore, I would propose a third and final agenda item (and sub-items) as follows:

**Proposed Agenda Item 3**

**Additional measures for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument**

a) Consideration of the implications for the implementation of the PoA of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development target 16.4, which calls for the significant reduction of illicit arms flows by 2030;  
b) Consideration of ways to strengthen the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in the implementation of the PoA and the ITI;
c) Other additional measures.

I look forward to an early agreement on a set of meaningful agenda items for BMS6. In that regard I trust that you will combine a continued commitment to strengthening the fight against the illicit trade in small arms, with the flexibility necessary for making progress in multilateral settings.

Timeline for Informal Consultations

In order to facilitate the scheduling and planning of delegations as we prepare for BMS6, I have been requested to provide a timeline for forthcoming informal consultations.

Some delegations have indicated a preference to begin our consultations in January 2016. In this regard, I would propose the following tentative timeline:

**BMS6 informal consultations in 2016**
1) Tuesday 19 January
2) Week of 15 February
3) Week of 14 March
4) Week of 25 April
5) Week of 9 May
6) Week of 23 May (if required)
7) Thursday 2 June

**Next Consultations**

Consequently, our next informal consultations will be held on **Tuesday, 19 January at 10:00 am in Conference Room 1**. I look forward to your Mission’s active and goal-oriented participation.

In the meantime I wish you a happy holiday season.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

E. Courtenay Rattray
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York