26th February 2016

Excellency,

I have the pleasure of writing to you following our third informal consultations of 22nd February 2016, in preparation for the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) 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, which will take place in New York from 6th to 10th June 2016.

The deliberations of the informal consultations were fruitful, due to the active involvement of delegations. I wish to thank all delegations for their participation and the spirit of cooperation and compromise that enabled us to reach ‘in principle’ agreement on the substantive agenda items of BMS6.

As promised, I am attaching hereto, the draft provisional agenda on the basis of which I have prepared the ‘zero draft’ of the outcome document for the BMS6, also attached. Please note that given the preliminary nature of the ‘zero draft’, it only provides an indication of proposed topics and possible ways forward.

In keeping with the schedule of our work which I communicated to you earlier, the next informal consultation, which will be devoted to the consideration of the ‘zero draft’ outcome document, will be held in the week of 14th March 2016. An invitation letter containing the specific date and details of this informal consultation will be sent to you in due course. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to approach me or my team on any matter you may wish to discuss.

I take this opportunity, once again, to invite delegations to submit working papers to UNODA’s Conventional Arms Branch (conventionalarms-unoda@un.org), including considerations and suggestions on any of the agreed topics for BMS6.
As national reports will represent a key input in the outcome document, I reiterate my request for delegations to submit their national reports on the implementation of the PoA and TPI by the deadline of 31st March 2016.

As I mentioned during our last informal consultation, a Note Verbale (reference ODA/25-2016/SALW) has been sent to all Member States by UNODA to this effect.

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
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
New York, 6-10 June 2016

Draft Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting by the Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

2. Election of the Chair.

3. Statement of the Chair.

4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

5. Election of other officers of the meeting.

6. Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level - including through regional and sub-regional arrangements and organizations - and at the global level, and in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. 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, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument.

8. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building:
   a. Ways to strengthen the implementation of the PoA and ITI through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology;
   b. Ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness, and sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the PoA and the ITI, including financial and technical assistance.

9. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

10. Consideration of the draft final document.

11. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting.
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
New York, 6 - 10 June 2014

The provisionally agreed agenda for BMS6 provides guidance for the draft outcome.¹

BMS6 Outcome Document – Zero Draft

1. Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level - including through regional and sub-regional arrangements and organizations - and at the global level, and in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

   Consideration of actions agreed at RevCon2 and BMS5 and discussed at the 2015 Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2):
   - National level
     - Life-cycle management, good practice and lessons learned
     - Reporting
   - Regional level
     - Role of regional and sub-regional arrangements/organizations
   - Global level
     - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular elements of Target 16.1 and Target 16.4)
     - Voluntary implementation standards
     - Role of international organizations such as the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL
     - PoA in the context of conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building, including peace-keeping missions
     - Role of women and UNSCR 1325

The Way Forward

¹ http://www.un.org/disarmament/conarms/salw/bms6/
2. 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, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument.

- Consideration of actions agreed at RevCon2 and BMS5 and discussed at MGE2: policy implications for the International Tracing Instrument in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology.
- ITI in the context of conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building, including peace-keeping missions.
- Efforts and capacity to trace illicit weapons in conflict- and post conflict zones
- Diversion
- Information sharing and exchange

The Way Forward

3. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building:

- Review of actions agreed at RevCon 2 and BMS5 and discussed at MGE2.

a) Ways to strengthen the implementation of the PoA and ITI through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology;

- Capacity-building, including training
  - Capacity building measures to improve physical security and stockpile management (PSSM)
- Transfer of technology and equipment

b) Ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness, and sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the PoA and the ITI, including financial and technical assistance.

- Enhance effectiveness and sustainability of assistances, including coordination of assistance and cooperation
  - Technical assistance
  - Financial assistance
    - Link with SDGs as funding prospect
    - Trust fund modalities
- Best-practice guidelines for project implementation

The Way Forward
4. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.