Swedish Positions in the Preparations for BMS6

General Remarks

- Sweden would like to see references to other relevant international agendas and instruments on inter alia gender equality and sustainable development. Linking the PoA and ITI to other processes draws attention to synergies and highlights the cross-cutting nature of SALW.

- Specifically, the outcome document of BMS6 should make reference to relevant documents and resolutions on women, peace and security, including UNSCR 1325 and General Assembly resolution 65/69, and subsequent resolutions, as well as the Global Study on Implementation of UNSCR 1325.

- A gender perspective should be applied to the discussions at BMS6, to the outcome document of the meeting and to overall work under the PoA, reflecting the following “three R:s”:
  
  - **Representation**: Women should be better represented in the planning, creation and implementation of national and international SALW policies. Sweden would like to see women’s full and effective participation in the PoA and ITI clearly stated in the outcome document. At BMS5 states undertook to “promote the role of women in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including through access to training, as well as through their meaningful participation and representation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including stockpile management and physical security measures, and awareness-raising and education”. BMS6 is the natural forum to follow up on this commitment.
  
  - **Rights**: While recognising that both men and women can be victims and perpetrators of armed violence, states should express particular concern
about the cases where small arms contribute to acts of sexual and/or gender-based violence. The outcome document should embrace the fourth recommendation of the Secretary General’s annual report on small arms and light weapons and recognise that “the gendered nature of armed violence and conflict must inform policy and programmatic responses”.

- **Resources**: An equitable share of funding should be dedicated to projects and programmes on disarmament, DDR and arms control that are gender mainstreamed and/or address gender-related issues. This should include funding for the collection of gender disaggregated data and research on the different impact of armed violence on women and men, girls and boys.

- Several SALW issues intersect with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. Illicit trade in SALW has implications for many of the SDGs, including the goals relating to poverty reduction, health, gender equality, sustainable cities, and – most concretely – on peace and justice. BMS6 offers an opportunity to discuss how to make best use of the links between the PoA process and the 2030 Agenda. The outcome document should explicitly refer to SDG 16.1 on reduction of all forms of violence and related death rates, and SDG 16.4 on reduction of illicit arms flows, and suggest ways to exploit the synergies between these processes.

**On Implementation of the PoA**

- Inadequate **Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)** of SALW and ammunition remains a concern. Poorly controlled SALW is a significant security threat, due to the risks of diversion to illicit markets. There are also significant safety risks associated with inadequate storage. PSSM work has long been a focus area in the PoA, and these efforts need to be sustained. BMS6 should seek to build on earlier progress and explore how further work and new technology could strengthen PSSM results.

- **Ammunition** needs to be an integral part of the PoA. Efforts to improve the control, storage, registration and tracing of SALW should also apply to ammunition. Effective control of SALW requires effective control of ammunition. This includes full life-cycle management, in order to avoid accidents and diversion. BMS6 is an opportunity to apply a more comprehensive approach to ammunition management.

**On the Implementation of the ITI**
• Sweden supports further development of the concept of “conflict tracing”, to which ITI could make a valuable contribution. Conflict tracing can help monitor destabilising accumulations of weapons, provide early warning and inform more effective conflict prevention. Tracking instruments such as iTrace assist in mapping how conventional weapons and ammunition are diverted into conflict zones. Access to such information can improve the monitoring of arms embargoes and strengthen national transfer control measures.

On International Cooperation and Assistance

• Sweden supports the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR). UNSCAR’s support to domestic controls and international transfer controls is invaluable. UNSCAR is uniquely placed to highlight and strengthen the complementarity between domestic measures to combat diversion on the one hand, and international transfer controls on the other.

• So far only ten states have provided funds for UNSCAR. To ensure UNSCAR’s long-term viability, its donor base needs to be expanded. BMS6 offers an opportunity to discuss how this can be achieved. The outcome document should encourage new donors to consider contributing to the fund.

• The outcome document should encourage SALW-related projects that are gender mainstreamed, that reflect the objectives of Agenda 2030, particularly SDGs 16.1 and 16.4, and that strengthen the complementary nature of domestic controls and international transfer controls in the prevention of diversion of arms to illicit markets.