Bitte prüfen Sie vor der Übermittlung.
Permit me to make a brief statement in my capacity as Chair.

At the outset, let me welcome you all to this 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. It is a great honour for Jamaica and for me personally to be elected as its Chair and I thank you for the confidence you have entrusted in me to guide the work of this important meeting.

I reiterate the pledge I made during our preparatory process, which is to remain accessible to all delegations and to conduct our work in an inclusive and fully transparent manner. I have not the slightest doubt that we all, each delegation herein assembled, will approach the agenda of BMS6 with a sincere desire to enhance our collective efforts in the fight against the illicit trade in and uncontrolled proliferation of these weapons.

As we commence our work today, it is impossible for us to do so without being cognizant of the humanitarian and developmental impacts that are caused by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, which wreak utter havoc on the lives of people the world over. It is quite worrying that the humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons have been staggering in recent times. The Geneva-based Small Arms Survey has reported that in 2015 alone, 70,000 people died as a direct consequence of armed conflict.

We must come to grips with the dangerous inter-section between the activities of transnational criminal organisations, terrorist groups, state and non-state informal actors and violent extremists. The instability they foment is fueled primarily by their access to instruments of war, which consists primarily of small arms and light weapons; the tools of choice used in most of world’s conflict and through which innocent civilians suffer the greatest harm. As the Secretary-General’s 2016 Report notes, “those suffering the most from the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are civilian populations trapped in situations of armed violence in settings of both crime and conflict, often in conditions of poverty, deprivation and extreme inequality”.

At the recently concluded World Humanitarian Summit, the international community, once again, underscored the need to de-escalate violence and to preserve human dignity and social stability. The reduction in the flows of SALW will undoubtedly contribute to attaining this goal.

The Programme of Action, together with its International Tracing Instrument, form a global framework designed to effectively address the continued illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, at the global, regional and national levels. The three main substantive items on the provisional agenda of BMS6 are all vital to preventing and combating the illicit trade in arms and to addressing the humanitarian and sustainable development needs of today’s world.

The careful examination and discussion of these topics during BMS6 will enable Member States to further consider the practical implementation of Programme of Action measures. In doing so we must ensure that our deliberations and decisions are commensurate with the challenges of a rapidly changing international and technological environment, where the only constant is
the fragility that eludes people living in situations devoid of the stabilizing forces of peace and security.

We should not lose sight of the fact that BMS6 takes place at an opportune moment, which allows us to feed into and strengthen the review process for the implementation of the PoA and ITI at the national, regional and global levels. Last year, the Second Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) focused on the increased use of new materials, technology and design in the manufacturing of weapons, their components and ammunition, such as modular weapons, 3-D printing, craft production and micro-stamping. These recent advances call for commensurate control efforts to address existing and future challenges that may stem from the development and application of such new technologies. In other words marking, tracing, record-keeping and SALW stockpile management must match the efficiency of the new technologies.

I am particularly pleased that with the adoption last September of the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we have an opportunity to move beyond our tendency to view the PoA through a narrow security lens and to address its broader dimension, as reflected by the nexus between security and development. As the Secretary-General’s report rightly observes “with the inclusion of the specific target to, ‘by 2030, significantly reduce illicit (...) arms flow’, States have embedded the objectives of the PoA in a time-bound, measurable, development-focused perspective, that may now guide further work under the Programme of Action”. Member States have, through the 2030 Agenda, given the disarmament community a mandate to contribute to our shared objective of establishing an environment conducive to sustainable development for people, planet and prosperity.

This will require enhanced national efforts to, for example, secure arms and ammunition stockpiles. We will also need to increase capacities within national law enforcement systems and statistical offices to sustainably collect and analyse data on the global indicators established under SDG target 16.4.

As you are well aware, national reporting is an integral part of the implementation of the PoA and ITI. National reports should be frequent and comprehensive, as they will become increasingly useful in understanding the technological developments relating to SALW and in complementing the collection of information and data for SDG Target 16.4.

While the primary responsibility for implementing the PoA and ITI rests with the Member States, the contribution of other entities including the United Nations agencies through CASA, regional, sub-regional and international organizations (such as INTERPOL, the WCO), as well as civil society organizations is important in widening the scope of the required solutions.

We must bear in mind that BMS6 is the final meeting, under the current PoA cycle, before the 2018 Review Conference. Our deliberations this week will, therefore, be all the more significant in laying the ground work that will facilitate a meaningful review process under RevCon. 3.
In this regard, I urge that, in our common march towards 2018, instead of shying away from those issues that may be deemed as "controversial", we adopt an inclusive approach based not on an outright rejection of each other’s views, but rather in a spirit of compromise. The PoA and the ITI should not be static mechanisms, but rather dynamic and living instruments that are adaptable to new and emerging international realities.

I am confident that, with your cooperation, BMS6 will adopt a robust and progressive outcome document with a mandate that places us in a position to make the most of the forthcoming Third Review Conference.