Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States
on the UN 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)

Mr. Chair,
On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I would like to assure you of my delegation’s full support to ensure a successful outcome of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

Mr. Chair,
Ukraine fully shares concerns of the international community that the illicit trade, spread and misuse of small arms and light weapons poses serious threat for security and stability in the world. Therefore, we continue considering the UN Programme of Action as one of the most important and universal tool in global efforts to combat this threat. We support proper implementation of the PoA as well as the International Tracing Instrument by all States.

Ukraine has continued implementing the PoA and ITI provisions to comply fully with its obligations under these documents. As it was reflected in Ukraine’s latest national reports, including the last one submitted in 2016, my country has enacted adequate legislation and has put in place appropriate procedures to exercise effective control over SALW.

The production, possession and destruction of this category of weapons is licensed and supervised in accordance with a number of national regulations. These regulations are in compliance with the recommendations of the Program of Action and the ITI and provide, inter alia, for a strict system that enables the competent national authorities to identify and trace the relevant weapons. Measures for the destruction of surplus SALW, as well as of those which are unserviceable or have been seized in connection with illicit traffic, are carried out on a regular basis.

Ukraine attaches particular importance to ensuring effective export control procedures, including in the sphere of brokering activity, that meet all standing international requirements. In this sphere Ukraine strictly adheres to the decisions taken by the UN Security Council, Organization for Security and Cooperation in
Europe and the international export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement. The UN Security Council resolutions which impose sanctions regimes are guidelines for the adoption of the relevant legislation and regulations in Ukraine and are strictly implemented by the national authorities. The number of national legal acts, adopted by the Parliament, the President and the Cabinet of Ministries, are currently regulating all forms of activity related to the export control, including SALW.

At the regional level, Ukraine cooperates closely with participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in developing effective measures aimed at terminating and eradicating the illegal proliferation of SALW. In conformity with the OSCE Document on SALW Ukraine submits each year to the OSCE Secretariat information concerning its exports of SALW to the OSCE States and imports from those States for the previous calendar year, and separately on confiscated small arms and light weapons removed from illegal trade and on their destruction in Ukrainian territory. Similarly, Ukraine exchanges information with other OSCE States concerning its technology and procedures for destroying those weapons, managing stockpiles of such weapons and ensuring their security.

Mr. Chair,

Today we must tackle the issue of illicit transfer, accumulation and misuse of SALW with highest level of responsibility. In this respect, we welcome the entry into force and proper implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty as a comprehensive instrument for establishing common standards in this field, which includes SALW in its scope and contains provisions on ammunition, further raised the level of attention and scrutiny given to controls of SALW.

Mr. Chair,

Addressing the enormous destructive power of conventional armaments continues to be of the utmost importance for the international community especially in the context of regional security.

The Russian military aggression against Ukraine with the use of regular military forces armed with modern types of conventional armaments and ammunition has significantly damaged the existing system of conventional arms control. It is also a great challenge for proper implementation of the PoA and achieving its universality.

The Russian Federation continues its massive transfers of military goods, including SALW, to our territory, both to Crimea and the Eastern Ukraine, in total violation of the PoA provisions. Needless to mention about respecting by this State
any nationally and internationally established export control and licensing procedures, securing effective customs and border controls. On the contrary, possessing powerful law enforcement machine, the Russian Federation totally ignores persistent calls of the international community to establish the effective border control and encourages the inflow of weapons and ammunition into the territory of Ukraine through state-controlled channels thus deliberately destabilizing not only sub-regional but entire European security and stability.

Among other things, such a situation poses deep concern regarding the proper implementation of the PoA which serves as the only universal international tool to address the illicit trade in SALW.

We have no right to be blind with regard to illicit supplies of conventional weapons, including SALW from the Russian Federation to Ukraine and the violation of the PoA provisions.

Mr. Chair,

Finally, Ukraine commends your efforts in elaborating the draft of the outcome document of the BMS6. We consider it as a good basis for further substantive discussion.

It is our strong conviction that the ability of all member States to reach consensus on final documents of the Meeting will evidence our common support of global efforts to combat illicit proliferation of SALW and, respectively, stimulate States to further promote implementation of the PoA and ITI in the future.

Thank you.