UK Statement

Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its Aspects

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
Mr Chair, the United Kingdom welcomes this opportunity today to discuss implementation of the ITI and is grateful for your efforts in the preparation of this session. We look forward to frank and open dialogue with our international partners.

Mr Chair, the UK remains fully committed to the ITI and aligns itself with the Statement presented on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would like to make a few additional points in our national capacity.

**UK Implementation of the ITI**

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) has been the UK organisation responsible for all firearms tracing since September 2013. It provides intelligence capability to ensure that UK law enforcement agencies are able to quickly resolve crimes in which firearms have been used.

NABIS holds a national database of recovered firearms and ammunition used in crime and identifies and tracks ballistics items from the moment of recovery, through examination processes, and to the eventual moment of their destruction. Information in the database is recorded in sufficient detail to facilitate operational and strategic analysis necessary to identify emerging trends in criminal use of firearms at the local, regional and national levels.

The UK continues to support information exchange and international cooperation including through provision of information to the INTERPOL's iARMS database and responding to requests from international law enforcement partners to enable them trace firearms that may have been manufactured in the UK. Since June 2014, NABIS has made over 450 tracing requests to other countries via iARMS.

The UK also continues to support the development of the EU and German-funded iTRACE database, created and operated by the Conflict Armament Research. This has become an important source of information about diversion of weapons and trafficking routes in conflict-related situations.

NABIS also works with international partners to exchange experience and best practise. In November last year, NABIS hosted a European Conference in
Birmingham, which included a discussion on firearms tracing. NABIS looks forward to hosting a follow-up conference this September.

Policy implications of new materials and technologies
We welcome the discussions that took place at the second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) in June last year and proposals that the policy implications of new materials and technologies be considered at BMS6.

We acknowledge the continued challenges posed by 3D-printed firearms or their component parts, as well as by modular weapons and the reactivation of poorly deactivated or decommissioned weapons. We believe these are issues which merit further focused discussion.

The UK has some of the toughest firearms laws in the world. The authority to possess firearms is only granted in limited circumstances and is subject to stringent conditions. The Government has reviewed firearms legislation and issued new guidance in April this year, making it clear that this also applies to 3D-printing of firearms and their component parts.

We remain committed to further strengthening firearms legislation in order to close any loopholes which may be open to abuse by criminals. The Policing and Crime Bill, currently going through Parliament, includes a range of measures such as introducing a new sentence for converting imitation firearms and new controls for defectively deactivated weapons.

Mr Chair, the UK remains fully committed to the ITI and intends to continue its informative and productive discussions with partners on this matter.

Thank you