Second Review Conference of the UN PoA

Working Paper on
Follow up mechanism of the UN PoA
Proposed by Japan

1. In order to make further progress on the UN Programme of Action (PoA), an agreement should be reached at the second review conference on the basic program for the next round of inter-sessional meetings in the period up to the 2018 review conference.

2. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED
   a) In order to establish an agreed timeframe, priorities for the next six year cycle need to be identified among the various issues. In the last two intersessional periods we have seen progress in the following areas:
      i. Marking, record-keeping and tracing was covered by International Tracing Instrument (ITI) and discussed at the Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE) in 2011.
      ii. Brokering was discussed at the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in 2008.
      iii. International transfer is being dealt with through the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.

   b) What is not directly addressed under the umbrella of the PoA are the issues of “Manufacture”, “stockpile management”, “Public awareness”, “DDR” and so forth. While it is important to ensure all aspects of the issues related to PoA can be discussed in the next six-year cycle and not to prejudice the future course of discussions, it is desirable to have some areas of focus for Member States to have effective considerations for implementing the PoA. Bearing in mind the progress achieved to date as well as the issues that have not been dealt with among Member States, it would be useful for the next inter-sessional period to tackle the following:
      i) **Stockpile management and destruction** (referred in PoA
Section II. para. 17-19, 29)
Given the high possibilities of diversion to illicit markets as well as a number of incidents in some countries, this is one of the most serious and urgent issues that needs to be addressed. The most recent accidental explosion in the Republic of Congo in early March is a clear example for the necessity to build capacity among Member States in this area. Ways for improving cooperation at the bilateral, regional and global level can be discussed among Member States.

ii) **Reporting** (referred in PoA Section II. para. 33 as well as ITI para. 36)
An appropriate template should be considered in order to improve its use. By improving the format as well as the information contained in the reports, the system of reporting could be utilized more effectively for matching needs and resources as well as for assessing implementation.

3. **APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION FORA**

a) How and at what forum should we address issues is the next question. Many Member States share the view that a technical meeting among technical experts, like an MGE, would be useful under the PoA process. A GGE could also be an option for the Member States to elaborate technical issues among a limited number of experts in a few successive meetings. At the same time, feedback from such technical discussion should be fed into the policy-planning level of the PoA, and be deliberated at venues such as the Review Conference and the Biennial Meeting of States (BMS).

b) Against this backdrop, the following format could be considered as one concrete way of moving forward over the next six year cycle to the 2018 Review Conference.

i. **Option 1** (Priority on technical meetings. Replace BMS with MGE)
- 2014* MGE (Stockpile Management and Destruction)
- 2015 GGE (Development of Reporting Template)
2016*  MGE (?)  
2018*  PrepCom** and 3rd Review Conference  
(**PrepCom could be in 2017)

ii. **Option 2**  
2014*  MGE (Stockpile Management and Destruction)  
2015  TMS (Triennial Meeting of States)  
2016*  MGE (?)  
2018*  PrepCom** and 3rd Review Conference  
(**PrepCom could be in 2017)

iii. **Option 3**  
2014*  MGE (Stockpile Management and Destruction)  
2015  GGE (Development of Reporting Template)  
2016*  BMS  
2018*  PrepCom** and 3rd Review Conference  
(**PrepCom could be in 2017)

iv. **Option 4** (Status Quo)  
2014*  BMS  
2015  MGE on Stockpile Management and Destruction  
2016*  BMS  
2018*  PrepCom and 3rd Review Conference  
(**PrepCom could be in 2017)

*Note: It should be born in mind that national reports on the implementation of the PoA as well as on the implementation of the ITI have to be submitted in 2014, 2016 and 2018. According to the PoA, it is agreed “to convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the PoA” (IV. 1. (b)).

c) Among these four options, Option 1 would provide an appropriate format in order to achieve the following key objectives.  
i. It is important to continue technical discussion among experts on specific topics which have not been addressed yet, in order to
elaborate further concrete actions. An MGE, which includes all UN Member States, is the right place.

ii. At the same time, it is worth discussing specific technical issues among a limited number of experts (15 or so), such as development of a reporting template for the purposes mentioned above.

iii. It is also important that technical discussion be fed into the policy-planning level of the PoA. Preparatory Committees and Review Conferences are the right place to deliver and decide further actions.

iv. Above all, it is important to keep in mind how to most efficiently structure the six year cycle by maximizing the existing resources.