Statement

by

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of Pakistan

at the

Preparatory Committee of the 2nd Review Conference to review progress made in the implementation of UNPoA on SALW

New York, 19 March 2012
Madame Chair,

We felicitate you on your election as Chair of this important PrepCom and assure you of our delegation's full support for carrying out your work in a successful manner.

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Madame Chair,

In a formal sense, this PrepCom is mandated to prepare the ground for the Second Review Conference in July 2012. However it also presents an opportunity to take stock of the degree of implementation of the UN PoA on SALW including the challenges that have hampered the PoA's full implementation. We look forward to constructive discussions leading to agreed outcomes.

Madame Chair,

Nearly eleven years ago, the international community rightly identified that illicit trade in SALW causes human suffering, fuels conflicts, abets crimes and contributes to narcotic drugs and terrorist activity.

Adoption of UNPoA in 2001 reflected international consensus on the necessity of preventing, combating and eradicating this illegal trade in SALW by actions at national, regional and international levels. In the run up to the July Conference, it would be in the fitness of things to reaffirm the cooperative approach and the spirit of consensus that yielded the PoA.

At all levels, the implementation report card of the PoA presents a mixed picture of progress and challenges. Assessment of progress at national, regional and international levels overall, as well as in specific thematic areas points to the continued need of concerted long term action by all stakeholders.

Considering the difficulties arising from national circumstances, priorities, as well as availability of financial and technical resources, the PoA implementation progress at the national level is satisfactory. The number and frequency of reports by States testifies to this assessment. A number of national reports also highlight the myriad of implementation challenges, ranging from regulatory controls to enforcement mechanisms.

The varying degree of implementation at the regional and sub-regional levels signifies differences in regional characteristics, complexities, needs and challenges.

Progress at the international level is relatively more significant. The adoption of International Tracing Instrument in 2005 is a concrete manifestation of progress in the context of PoA. Similarly, the regular Biennial Meetings, the Meeting of Group of Experts, among others, have served a useful purpose i.e. exchanging ideas, information, best practices and lessons learnt.

We look forward to active participation in the thematic debates and sharing in greater detail our perspective on progress and implementation challenges.
In the last ten years, the United Nations, regional organizations, research bodies and the civil society at large have played a vital role in raising awareness, publishing useful research, providing assistance and working with States to advance the goals of PoA. We take this opportunity to recognize their contribution and underline the value we attach to their efforts.

Madame Chair,

The Government of Pakistan has taken several steps to promote the implementation of PoA. We have filed national implementation reports at regular intervals, outlining the measures that we have taken over the years.

Last year, we established an Inter-Ministerial Group to address the SALW related issues in an integrated manner. This Group comprises senior representatives from concerned Ministries and Departments to examine the legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures regularly with a view to identifying problems and putting in place improvements and remedial measures, where needed.

Among other important initiatives, the Inter-Ministerial Group has adopted policy guidelines on the export of conventional arms, setting a national evaluation mechanism to regulate trade in arms. The Group is in the process of instituting additional measures to augment further, the enforcement regime including in the areas of imports and licensing.

Madame Chair,

The complex nature of the challenges arising from the illicit trade in SALW requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account both the supply and demand angles. The PoA and ITI represented significant steps in regulating the illicit trade and the manufacturing side of these weapons, but essentially from a supply perspective. These approaches are useful and should continue. However, equal attention is needed to address the issues related to these weapons from a demand side as well.

The demand side of the equation is reflected by the continuation of conflicts in various regions and sub-regions, the growth in terrorist activities, the rise in narcotic drugs and organized crimes. As in the case of supply side, a corresponding level of effort and resources would be crucial in the demand side of the SALW puzzle to ensure full and effective implementation of PoA.

We hope that the PrepCom and the Review Conference would pay serious attention to this larger context and evolve appropriate recommendations with a view to dealing with SALW challenges in a comprehensive manner.

Madame Chair,

International Assistance and Cooperation are central to the implementation of the PoA. In the absence of meaningful and sincere effort in this regard, full implementation of the PoA will remain elusive.
The Non-Aligned Movement has presented a comprehensive working paper on this vital issue. We fully endorse the paper with its several valuable recommendations aimed at channelizing international assistance and cooperation as the central vehicle to promote progress and overcome challenges in the full implementation of PoA at all levels.

We trust that the PrepCom as well as the Review Conference would examine these recommendations with the seriousness they deserve. We look-forward to engaging with other delegations constructively on all issues covered by the PoA, particularly on the issue of international assistance and cooperation.

Thank you Madame Chair.