Opening Remarks by the delegation of the Russian Federation
at the Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference of the United Nations
Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in
Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects
(New York, March 19-23, 2012)

Since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 2001 much has been
done at the national, regional and global levels to implement its provisions. At the
same time we all know there is still much to be done to make our collective effort
towards shared goals far more effective in practical ways.

On the other hand, the Russian delegation shares the view that the PoA is a living instrument subject for a further development, if and when needed. That said, we are to be mindful of maintaining a balance between the Programme’s founding blocks and among priorities of Participating states of how best to address issues related to illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Our common cause can be a successful one only when it enjoys an overwhelming support of the whole international community.

The main task of 2012 Review Conference is to do its best to achieve progress on both tracks. In this regard, the Russian delegation during the week will share its experiences and ideas that in combination, as we hope, can contribute to our common work.

We stand ready to work together in a constructive way on different aspects of the problem related to uncontrolled SALW proliferation.