Statement of the delegation of the Russian Federation

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)

Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national level

The Russian Delegation shares the view of many that the responsibility for controlling the circulation of SALW rests with the Governments of the States in whose territories the arms are. Nations – both exporters and importers, within their jurisdiction – should take all possible efforts to cut the channels through which arms get into illicit circulation. Thus, the main “battlefield” is at the national level, complemented by collective response at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

In this respect, there is a set of measures that can be stipulated in national legislations in order to close channels through which arms, in particular SALW, get into the hands of terrorists, extremists, illegal armed groups, and armed criminals of all kinds, including organized crime. Their objective is to strengthen national control systems over all activities related to arms circulation – both domestic and international, including arms exports and imports.

Among such measures, there are:

- In the field of intermediary, or brokering, activities - to define clearly their framework under direct governmental control. (In the Russian Federation there is only one intermediary - a state-owned enterprise established by a presidential decree. This guarantees efficient control over its activities.)
• To consider unacceptable arms re-exports or changing of their end-user without prior written consent of their original exporter. Also relates to armaments manufactured under license.

• To prohibit arms transfers to entities not authorized by the Government of a recipient state.

• To practice more actively end-use control procedures as joint co-operation partnership network of exporters and importers. (*In our practice, provisions allowing such possibilities are included in the contracts dealing with “sensitive” armaments.*)

We propose to discuss such and, possibly, other measures that may be proposed by different delegations, at the Review Conference.