South Africa wishes to congratulate the Chair-designate of Review Conference, Amb Ogwu on her election to the Chair of the PrepCom and values her skilful and transparent leadership in the process thus far.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia and Nigeria on behalf of the NAM and African Groups respectively.

Today’s remarks to focus on Implementation, raising just a few points we feel are important.

The RevCon’s mandate has been clearly set out in GA resolution 66/47. If we stick to that and take into account the lessons learnt in 2006, prospects of a successful PrepCom and RevCon good.

Doesn’t mean we shut the door to any issue in the PoA that we feel has been neglected over the past 11 years. If time permits we are willing to consider and further elaborate those issues as we look towards the next 6 years.

Key to our work is implementation. Our delegation has consistently argued that our efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW starts with implementing our undertakings at the respective national levels.

Effective stockpile management of State-held SALW is the key to preventing these weapons from being diverted into the illicit trade (Section II, paragraph 17). This includes ensuring that marking and record-keeping practices are just as comprehensive as the effective physical safe storage of these arms.

States need to enact legislation and implement administrative measures to establish that diversion, theft and corruption are acts that are as punishable by law as the illicit manufacture, possession and trade.

An integral part of stockpile management is that of a regular review and the identification of surplus arms and destruction of State held weapons. This is a ready source of the illicit trade (Section II, paragraph 18).

As far as transfer controls are concerned, we believe that it is important that States have national regulatory systems in place as set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of Section II of the UNPoA. We wish to emphasise the term “systems” and that such arms transfers are dealt with on an ad hoc basis.

My delegation thus believes that there is an inextricable link between the legally produced, held and transferred SALW and the illicit trade. This, in my delegation’s view is why we agreed to include the phrase “in all Its Aspects” in the title of the UNPoA.
• On regional measures, my delegation is pleased to note that over the past few decades a number of legally binding agreements and instruments that complement national implementation efforts.

• At the global level, our regular joint consideration of the implementation of the UNPoA is vital if we are to monitor our implementation efforts. We need to keep the regularity of such consideration on our agenda for the next 6 years. We are willing to discuss any further proposals on this issue and remain flexible on what we call these future meetings. Probably retaining the current designation (BMS, MGE) will be the best starting point and we doubt if it will be helpful to our cause if we enter into a debate on what we call such regular meetings.

• Finally, my delegation intends to make further comments when we consider the issues of International co-operation and assistance, the Follow-up and the ITI.