Madam Chair,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election. We are confident that your success in guiding us smoothly through this process so far, will bear fruits at the end of this week and in August. I would also like to seize this opportunity to congratulate Angela Kane on her appointment as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

The issue of preventing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, and therefore eliminating its negative impacts on security and safety thereof, maintains its importance and relevance for the international community as a whole.

This topic could be taken up from two broad and separate, nevertheless closely interrelated dimensions: first being the international, regional and national security, and the second being human life and safety, including the socio-economic development. On one hand proliferation of SALW is considered a disarmament issue; on the other, a humanitarian one. In this context, even though the PoA is a key instrument to prevent the illicit trade of SALW, we have to bear in mind that it is part of the larger context, where addressing the root-causes of the problem, including development, is necessary.

As a country that has suffered the negative impacts of illicit trafficking, uncontrolled proliferation and unauthorized use of small arms and light weapons, in the context of fight against terrorism, Turkey hopes for a more effective implementation of the PoA.

The details of Turkey's implementation can be found in its national reports. However there are few general and cross-cutting views we would like to share, regarding the implementation of the PoA at the national, regional and global levels.

- **Transfer controls** over arms and ammunition lie at the heart of the matter. Effective transfer control systems must include clear criteria that States should consider in transfer licensing decisions, as well as in the administration and enforcement of the transfer authorization process.
- A well-functioning transfer control system should be based in law and supported by comprehensive [enforcement mechanisms](#).
- Law enforcement agencies, in particular Customs authorities, play an important role. Training and capacity development for these authorities do also have special importance. Inter-departmental consultations should be placed among the issues of critical importance in enforcement.
- **End-user documentation**, has fundamental importance for the prevention of diversion. In cases of uncertainty regarding the end-use or end-user of the proposed transfer, States should refrain from authorizing a transfer, as a measure to prevent diversion or a destabilizing arms build-up.

- **Stockpile management and security, brokering regulations, and marking and tracing** are other issues that the international community has been dwelling upon. We believe that these issues should continue to be among priorities.

- **Transparency and information sharing** would certainly help promote consistency in the implementation of agreed standards and measures. The PoA should attempt to improve transparency and information sharing, which in the long run, would bring more consistency and confidence to the implementation process.

- **International cooperation and assistance** are fundamental to the successful implementation of the UN Programme of Action and other relevant documents and measures. Although resources available for cooperation and capacity-building have been increasing over the past decade, there still seems to be a gap between available resources and needs. Increased cooperation and assistance is needed in stockpile management, especially physical security of stocks; training of border and customs officials; technical support for legislative measures; awareness-raising, including on the size/origins of the illicit trade and misuse of small arms and reducing the humanitarian impact of the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

There are many efforts and instruments that are complementary to the PoA, at national regional and international levels. All three levels are equally important and mutually reinforcing. The best practices at all three levels should be closely examined and utilized to strengthen the PoA where appropriate.

Turkey anticipates fruitful discussions at the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty due to take place in July this year. Turkey is committed to actively pursuing a strong and robust treaty that contains the highest possible, legally-binding standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons, including with regards to SALW. Turkey looks forward to a synergy between the PoA RevCon and ATT Conference processes.

Thank you.