Statement by the Netherlands

at the

Preparatory Committee for the Second 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.

Follow up to the UNPoA on the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects

New York, 20 March 2012

Mr. Pieter van Donkersgoed, Deputy Permanent Representative
Netherlands Mission to the Conference on Disarmament
Thank you Madame Chair.
The Netherlands support the statement made by the European Union on agenda point 7. a iii.

1. In our previous statement we mentioned the need for the development of a mechanism to measure progress. Indeed, the mandate of the second Review Conference is to “review progress”, so we must provide the tools to do so.

2. One way of doing so is developing a tool for self assessment and priority setting. Several proposals on this point have been made and my delegation stands ready to take the discussion forward. It is important to explore further possibilities to clarify achievements and identify which further actions in this regard are required.

3. Like other delegations, my country firmly supports the decision by the 4th BMS to proceed to a six-year review cycle.

4. The second Review Conference should agree on an implementation plan for the next review cycle. The months leading towards the second Review Conference provide us with the time to look closer into the content of such an implementation plan. In our view, the ideas put forward by Japan, and for which we thank the Japanese delegation, form a solid basis for further discussion.

5. My delegation believes that the thematic character of the recent PoA meetings contributed considerably to their success and we therefore support the continuation of BMS and MGE meetings along those lines. Although we are flexible regarding their number and frequency, we do feel that it is important to retain regular meetings of States; with all the importance we attach to exchanges at the level of experts, some form of “political” endorsement is also required.

6. We would like to express the relevance of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and support previous speakers that have expressed the wish to see SALW included in the Register as a separate category.

7. We wish to reiterate the important role of NGO’s and CSO’s in the second Review Conference and in the follow up process at all levels.
8. My delegation would like to stress that the position of women in all PoA related issues requires more attention and the active participation of women in all PoA related meetings should be enhanced.

9. Let me conclude by stating that the upcoming Review Conference provides the opportunity to set up a clear follow-up mechanism following Indicative non-paper 5.

10. The Netherlands would like to express the need for a clear outcome document covering above mentioned elements to take the implementation of United Nations Programme of Action forward at national, regional and international level.

Thank you.