Madam Chairperson,

Nigeria wishes to make the following comments on the substantive issue of International cooperation and assistance.

We wish to note that international cooperation and assistance as provided for in the 2001 UNPoA is necessary as a means of promoting implementation of the programme of action essentially because States affected most by illicit SALW proliferation are in most cases the States that lack the capacity to address the threat posed by these weapons. For a successful implementation of the Programme of Action, it is crucial that the capacity of these States, especially among developing countries, be increased to enable them tackle the immense challenges of illicit SALW proliferation.

The effectiveness of the UN PoA can only be measured by the level of its implementation, including the processes highlighted in the PoA document on the provision of international cooperation and assistance. Implementation efforts by States, as expressed in the PoA, should be undertaken to cooperate and ensure coordination, complementarity and synergy in efforts to deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

A number of views have been expressed by Member States on the approach to be considered in dealing with the substantive issues of implementation, international cooperation and assistance. In particular, the inadequacy of the present level of international cooperation and assistance has been an issue of deep concern to
many States who have expressed their dissatisfaction with the situation.

As the PrepCom considers measures to recommend for consideration by the Review Conference, therefore, it is significant that the challenges of international cooperation and assistance be tackled from source. For considerable impact to be made on the subject of international cooperation and assistance, the delegation of Nigeria wishes to suggest the following additional measures:

i. International cooperation and assistance should commence at the stage of Brokering. One the advantages enjoyed by the network of illicit suppliers of small arms and light weapons is the absence of any robust and credible challenge to their illicit activities. Thus, there is the need to accord due recognition to the problem of illicit brokering;

ii. The value of the various tools developed to support PoA implementation such as guidelines, standards, model legislation, references and sources, could be further simplified to meet assistance needs of all States that require such assistance;

iii. There is the need to properly de-link the concept of international cooperation and assistance from aid. It is important that it is not structured as an aid programme and thus should not be treated as a form of patron-client relationship.
iv. National needs assessment and priority settings should be properly articulated with a view to providing what is necessary at any given time, and finally;

v. There is the need for the establishment of an effective Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in line with practice with other similar international programmes or instruments.

I thank you for your kind attention.