Madam Chair,

Please allow me to begin my statement by congratulating you on your hard work and leadership.

My delegation made a comprehensive statement yesterday. So at this point we would only like to react to the current debate on the “Follow up” to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects.

Madam Chair,

We have a serious debate in our hands. Some countries have spoken in favor of going beyond the review of the implementation of the Program of Action and have suggested an array of new commitments that they consider that states could implement on the way forward. A substantial number of developing states have spoken to the contrary, suggesting that additional commitments have not been agreed upon and are therefore beyond the scope of the Review Conference.
Allow me to add my voice to this last group of countries: those who believe that the way forward consists in the full implementation of existing commitments within the agreed Program of Action, and nothing else.

My delegation, as perhaps many others, is afraid that by trying to do too much we may fail to properly do what is realistically within our means and capacities.

Madam Chair,

If developing countries are still struggling to fully and effectively implement the Program of Action as it currently exists, in light of our limited resources and technical capacity, how exactly are we expected to be able to fulfill new requirements and demands?

Madam Chair,

My delegation is absolutely committed to the successful implementation of the Program of Action. We strongly value the fact that this is the fundamental tool in tackling the serious problem of illicit trafficking in small arms and lights weapons. And we believe that we must continue to work within existing commitments.

Madam Chair,

We need time and resources to be able to fully and consistently implement existing commitments within the Program of Action. We cannot be abruptly demanded to do more than that. It is not only beyond our existing means and capacities, but it is also beyond the mandate of the Second Review Conference.

When the time comes we might be able to consider the new proposals on the table. But such time has not yet come and this is not the forum to
discuss them. What we need is more cooperation to fully and effectively implement current commitments.

Madam Chair,

This process is built on trust, consensus and the will of countries to tackle the terrible scourge of illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons. It is therefore imperative that we continue to work together in preserving that trust, consensus and will. That is, from our point of view, the only way to move forward.

Thank you.