Statement by
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Preparatory Committee
For the Second Review Conference of the UN
Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade
in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects

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(Check against Delivery)
Thank you, Madam Chair.

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, please allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of the PrepCom and the Second Review Conference, as well as on your extensive and timely efforts to prepare for this important meeting both here and in Geneva. We are looking forward to continuing working with you and your team in the same cooperative and supportive manner which has characterized our delegation's contribution to the SALW process from the start.

Madam Chair,

Israel attaches great importance to the UN Programme of Action and views its effective implementation as crucial for combating the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Illicit trade and uncontrolled transfers of SALW have severe destabilizing effects and humanitarian consequences. Israel is ready to play its part and engage constructively with other member states to contribute to the success of the upcoming Review Conference on the Implementation of the PoA. A successful outcome could be yet another step to bolster our resolve to prevent the transfer of arms to terrorists and reduce the human suffering caused by this phenomenon. In order to achieve this goal we must enhance our level of cooperation in areas that have not attained the appropriate results, such as trafficking prevention, border controls, post conflict smuggling management etc. Those and other challenges of coordination have hampered significantly the implementation of the UNPoA.
In this context, Israel would like to acknowledge the successful outcome of the Open Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts in May 2011, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Jim McLay of New Zealand. It was the first meeting of its kind focusing on marking, record keeping and cooperation on tracing of small arms. In our view this meeting was very professional and has contributed significantly to this process. We will all benefit from advancing further this type of meeting format.

In this regard, we would like to thank the Japanese delegation for presenting the working paper on the "Follow up mechanism of the UNPoA". In our view, there would be merit in re-thinking the appropriate balance between the politically oriented meetings, such as the BMS, and the professional meetings such as the MGE.

Madam Chair,

Israel also welcomes the successful finalization of the preparatory process of the Arms Trade Treaty, under the able leadership of Ambassador Moritan. As the ATT is aimed at addressing legal transfers of arms, and the UNPoA is aimed at addressing the illicit transfers of SALW, successful outcomes of the 2012 meetings in both tracks could make an important impact on the latter's dangerous and destabilizing phenomena.

It is Israel's view that the negotiations, planned for the coming summer, could eventually lead to the creation of a good legally-binding instrument, provided that certain principles are endorsed by all parties to the
negotiations. It is our view that internationally-accepted ATT will also contribute significantly to the ability of States to implement the UNPoA on SALW.

Finally, Madam Chair,

Israel would like to emphasize its deep concern over the wide spread of illicit proliferation of MANPADS, which pose an ominous threat to civilian and military aviation alike. As a country that has narrowly escaped the shooting down of one of its civilian passenger aircrafts, in Mombasa, in November 2002, Israel is all too aware of the dangers Man-Portable Air Defense Systems present when they fall into the wrong hands, especially those of terrorists. It is high time the international community allocates the necessary time and energy to address properly this grave problem, by focusing on the best ways to prevent these weapons from reaching unauthorized and irresponsible recipients, through legal, political and practical measures.

Thank you, Madam Chair.