Statement by
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On the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

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.

Israel attaches great importance to the ITI and views its effective implementation as crucial for combating the illicit trade in SALW. With regard to the issue of **marking and record keeping** we would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the Israeli experience as well as some challenges we see with regard to these issues.

Madam Chair,

As for **marking**, Israeli companies manufacturing SALW are obliged by regulations to mark, at the time of manufacture, the weapons with unique markings which include the name of manufacture, country of manufacture as well as a serial number. They are also encouraged to include in the markings the year of manufacture, type and caliber. In reality, the four major Israeli manufacturers include all of the aforementioned information in their markings using methods such as stamping and engraving.

With regards to SALW imported to Israel, those are required to have the necessary markings prior to their arrival to Israel.

It should be emphasized that in Israel, licenses for private possession of firearms are granted per weapon, and not as a general license for possession. In this respect, a license will not be obtained without the demonstration of the necessary markings.
Madam Chair,

We would like to refer to two challenges we see with regard to the issue of marking:

The first challenge refers to the fact that increasingly more components of SALW are made from materials other than metal. This has direct impact on the method of the marking employed and hence on the permanency of the markings, or in other words, on the ability to alter or deface the markings. This is of course crucial to states' ability to trace SALW.

The second challenge refers to marking at the time of import of SALW. This may be carried out by states of varying capabilities, inter alia with regard to expertise and machinery. This in turn will determine the method of marking employed, its permanency as well as possibly even adversely affecting the performance of the weapons. In this respect, ITI member states should look for ways and means to improve the situation, be it by providing assistance to enhancing the capabilities of importing states or by giving priority to carrying out marking by professional manufacturers.

Madam Chair,

With regard to record keeping I would like to refer to some aspects of the Israeli experience in this field. In March last year, the overall authority for the granting of licenses for private possession of firearms was transferred from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Public Security. In connection to this transfer, the Minister of Public Security has indicated
his intention to promote reforms for enhanced monitoring of the possession of firearms in order to prevent more effectively the illegal possession and use of weapons. The transfer of authority has accordingly transferred also the responsibility over record keeping to the Ministry of Public Security. This is now a work in progress.

The records, which have up to this point been kept by the Ministry of Interior, are computerized, and include information *inter alia* regarding the owners of firearms licenses, details relating to the firearms themselves including serial numbers and other identification information. These records are kept indefinitely.

Regulations pertaining to SALW produced in Israel require manufacturers to keep records for at least 30 years. These regulations mandate that records regarding the import/export of SALW be kept for at least 20 years. In many cases they are kept for significantly longer periods. For example, the IWI has a computerized system which dates back to 1986 and has manual records dating from earlier years. Information regarding the export/import of SALW could also be found in the records of the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Public Security, depending on the recipient of such arms.

Thank you, Madam Chair.