Thank you Mr. Chairman.

My Delegation congratulates you for your designation as Chairman of the Third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action. We also congratulate the members of the bureau for their election. We are certain that under your able stewardship the Conference is destined for success. It behooves us all to assist you in the pursuit of this goal, by exercising utmost flexibility and creative thinking.

Brazil fully associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. the Permanent Representative of Paraguay on behalf of Mercosul and Associated States.

My Delegation expresses its appreciation for the open and transparent informal consultations on the outcome of the Conference that you conducted both here in NY and in Geneva, as well as the outline of elements that you have circulated to guide our discussions in this regard. Brazil notes with particular satisfaction the sections of this document related to the improvement of coordination with regional organizations and with the WCO and Interpol, as well as the references to the linkage with the SDGs and the inclusion of a gender perspective, which recognize the impact of illicit small arms trafficking in development and its disproportionate effect on women and children.

Our first concern, Mr. President-Designate, is with the urgent need to carry out and in-depth examination of how the illicit trafficking of ammunition can be effectively addressed in the context of the UNPOA. The attainment of the UNPOA objectives will always be beyond our reach as long as we continue to ignore its most glaring deficiency, which is the fact that the Programme does not adequately address the issue of illicit trafficking of ammunition. There are a number of immediate measures that could be considered for immediate action in this regard by the Review Conference, such as the inclusion, in the final document, of a specific reference to the need to subject ammunition to the same controls that apply to the weapons for which they are designed, including those related to export
authorizations. But we should be ambitious and aim for the discussion and establishment of a comprehensive approach towards ammunition, in the context of follow-up mechanisms to be established by the Review Conference.

We would also wish to see specific references to the issue of transfers of small arms and light weapons to non-state actors, particularly in conflict situations. Such unauthorized transfers are a particularly dangerous form of interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states, and due to the long life-span of small arms, their effects are long-lasting and unpredictable. It is high time we address this issue in the context of the UNPOA.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is part to all relevant global and regional instruments in the field of small arms and light weapons, and we would hope to see all of them attain universal status. In this regard, we are in favor of exploring synergies between the UNPOA and other international instruments in the field of conventional arms. In doing so, however, we should take into account the wide differences in membership, legal nature and institutional arrangements among such instruments.

Turning now to the issue of new developments in SALW-related technologies, we welcome the discussion of how technological advances since 2001 may impact on the implementation of the UNPOA and on the pursuit of its goals. We should strive to make sure that the UNPOA remains current and effective in the face of new technological trends, in particular those that enhance the traceability and safety and security of small arms and light weapons. But in doing so, we should steer clear of any undue restrictions on the legitimate transfer of such technologies, many of which have widespread civilian applications, such as additive manufacturing (3D printing).