Statement by
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On the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects at the National, Regional and Global Levels

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

New York, 19 March 2018
Mr. Chairperson,

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 has severe destabilizing effects and humanitarian consequences, in the Middle East and in other parts of the world.

Israel welcomes the extensive work and achievements so far, but great challenges still lie ahead. Israel is ready to play its part and engage constructively with other member states to contribute to the success of the upcoming Third Review Conference on the Implementation of the PoA in June 2018. The success of this conference could be yet another step in bolstering our resolve to prevent the transfer of arms to terrorists and reduce the human suffering caused by this phenomenon.

In this regard, Israel would like to emphasize its deep concern over the wide spread of illicit proliferation of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS), which pose an ominous threat to civilian and military aviation alike. As a country that 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 MANPADS present when they fall into the wrong hands, especially those of terrorists.

Israel believes that the international community should also focus on the best ways to prevent these weapons from reaching unauthorized and irresponsible recipients, through legal, political and practical measures. These tools already exist in the national and international fora, and if implemented properly, will accommodate prevention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.