Statement by

Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

at the

Preparatory Committee for the Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme 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. President,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other officers on your election to the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, and assure you and all Member States of the constructive engagement of the NAM Member States in the deliberations of the Committee meeting towards a successful Third Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

3. Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) are deeply concerned over the illicit trade, transfer, and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread
to unauthorized recipients in many regions of the world with its wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequence.

4. Furthermore, the Movement stresses the urgent need for strict adherence and respect by all States to international law, the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and general principles listed in the 2001 UN-PoA.

5. The Movement wishes to highlight that the mandate of the Conference is to review the implementation of the PoA and stresses the importance of preserving the value of the PoA as the only consensual instrument in the UN context to combat illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

6. The Movement recalls that according to article 6(e) of the ITI, weapons are illicit if they are transferred without a license or authorization by a competent national authority.

7. The Movement emphasizes that States bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and, accordingly, should intensify their efforts to identify the problems associated with such illicit trade and find ways of resolving them. In this context, the Movement stresses in particular the urgency and importance of international efforts and cooperation aimed at combating this illicit trade simultaneously from both a supply and demand perspective.

8. NAM underlines the need for the full and effective implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, the purpose of which, inter alia, is to promote and facilitate international cooperation and assistance in marking and tracing and to enhance the effectiveness of, and
complement, existing bilateral, regional and international agreements to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The Movement is of the view that the proposals regarding the possible application of certain advanced technologies in the context of the ITI requires in-depth discussions among the experts to fully assess the technical and economical impacts of such proposals and their feasibility. The Movement further stresses that according to article 7 of the ITI, the choice of methods of marking SALWs is a national prerogative.

9. The Movement reaffirms the vital importance of the Programme of Action as a robust essential universal document in mobilizing the political will at the international level to address the multi-faceted challenges of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. NAM, therefore, strongly calls for the full, balanced and effective implementation of the program of action. Against this background, the Movement stresses that international assistance and cooperation is essential to that end. In the view of NAM, there is an urgent need to intensify efforts to promote international cooperation and assistance. The Movement also urges all States to mobilize resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the PoA. Accordingly, NAM underlines the importance of rendering actual and continued unconditional and non-discriminatory assistance to developing countries, upon their request, to promote their capacity to fully and effectively implement the provisions of the Programme of Action.

10. The Movement expresses its disappointment that a Report of the Secretary on national experiences relating to the implementation of the Program of
Action, as mandated in the Final Document of the last Review Conference, has yet to be published.

11. The Movement is of the view that the availability of international assistance to support the implementation of the Programme of Action is still not sufficient and does not commensurate with the needs of the affected countries, taking into account the growing magnitude of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and the danger it continues to pose. The adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of such international assistance should be ensured.

12. The Movement regrets that the Report of the Secretary General in where should be reflected the recommendations and requests made by the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, in paragraphs 27 and 38 of its outcome document, including the comprehensive study on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology and equipment to developing countries since 2001, has not yet been submitted.

13. In view of the essential importance of international cooperation and assistance in promoting the implementation of program of action, Movement has submitted a Working Paper containing its recommendations on this subject for consideration and incorporation in the outcome document of the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

14. Taking into account the importance of rendering actual and continued unconditional and non-discriminatory assistance to developing countries,
upon their request, to promote their capacity to fully and effectively implement the provisions of the Programme of Action, the Movement will attach great importance to result-oriented decisions by this Review Conference that meets this objective. To this end, NAM is determined to pursue the establishment of a Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons for developing countries, to train relevant officials nominated by their respective governments in areas related to the implementation of the PoA. Likewise, NAM will vigorously follow the issues related to transfer of technology and equipment to developing countries to improve their capacity for effective and full implementation of the PoA and ITI.

15. NAM will continue its constructive engagement to ensure that this Review Conference is successful in promoting increased practical implementation of the PoA.

Thank you.