Swedish Statement on 19 March, 2018

for the session

Preparatory Committee for the 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 Aspect

By

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Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, please allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President of the Third Review Conference of the Programme of Action. We also want to thank you for all your excellent work in preparing for the third review conference and the preparatory committee. I can assure you that Sweden is a strong supporter of the UN Programme of Action and will participate constructively in our common efforts to contribute to a successful outcome of the review conference. We are looking forward to continuing working closely with you and all delegations and actors during this important process.

Mr. President,

Sweden aligns itself fully with the statements already made by the European Union. In addition to the European Union statements, Sweden wishes to highlight some specific aspects.

The illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition are key drivers of crime and terrorism. They enable and fuel armed conflicts that are having devastating effects on sustainable development. Efforts to counter the illicit flows of these weapons therefore also contributes to reducing armed violence and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. This includes, but is not limited to, SDG 16.4, which calls for a significant reduction of illicit arms flows by 2030. Illicit trade in SALW has implications for many of the SDGs, including the goals relating to poverty reduction, health, gender equality, sustainable cities, and peace and justice. It is important that we discuss how to make best use of the synergies and links between the PoA process and the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President,

Sweden would like to pay specific attention to the importance of applying a gender perspective in the implementation of the PoA, and express its
appreciation for the comprehensive language regarding these issues in the outline of elements.

Sweden would like to see women’s full and effective participation in the PoA and ITI. Mainstreaming gender issues in small arms control efforts and fully integrating a gender perspective into all cycles of small arms control is of utmost importance in addressing the consequences of illicit arms flows. We must recognize that armed violence affects women, men, girls and boys differently. We also have to address the gendered nature of armed violence and conflict and intensify our efforts to prevent small arms from being used to commit acts of sexual and gender based violence.

Mr. President,

Sweden views physical security and stockpile management as essential components of the PoA framework. Poorly controlled SALW and its ammunition is a significant security threat, due to the risks of diversion to illicit markets. There are also significant safety risks associated with inadequate storage. There is still room for much improvement worldwide. It is therefore important to continue to explore how new technological advances can contribute to improved practices for stockpile management.

Sweden would also like to highlight the importance of including ammunition in both the context of stockpile management and as an integrated part of the overall PoA framework. Effective control of SALW requires effective control of ammunition.

Mr. President,

Sweden remains committed to the full and effective implementation of the PoA and we look forward to contributing to our joint efforts to ensure that the UN Programme of Action lives up to its full potential and becomes an even more effective instrument in combatting the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.