Thank you Mr. President.

Please allow me to make a few remarks on implementation and on cooperation and assistance.

The implementation of the PoA on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is a collective responsibility, to which we attach great importance. Submitting national reports is an effective way to take stock of national implementation, and we encourage all states to continue submitting national reports.

Mr. President,

International cooperation and assistance is vital to enhance the implementation of the PoA. The Netherlands is supporting efforts in this regard. For example, we provide funding for a UNDP ammunition destruction programme in Bosnia and Herzegovnia, which is implemented under the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Via this project, 3,000 tonnes of unsafe ammunition are being destroyed and senior officers of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovnia are being trained on ammunition stockpile management. We believe this combination of practical assistance and capacity-building can create a positive
snowball effect for states that request assistance. And it also contributes to our collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, we have funded the Small Arms Survey, an independent research organisation in Geneva, over the past six years for their work on arms flows in Northern Africa and the Sahel region. These geographic areas have been mentioned by multiple delegations since the beginning of the conference, and we believe we should continue to pay due attention to the illicit regional arms flows that followed the collapse of the Ghaddafi regime in 2011. Evidence-based, policy-relevant research can help better inform States Parties’ policies on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Allow me in this regard, Mr. President, to repeat our unequivocal support for, and belief in the relevance of, non-governmental organisations in our collective work for the UNPoA.

Thank you Mr. President.