Swedish Statement

for the session on Effective International Cooperation and Assistance
during the
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 Aspects

By

Mr. Måns Lundberg
Department of Disarmament and Non-proliferation, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

March 20, 2018
Mr. Chair,

Thank you for allowing me to speak briefly on the important subject of implementation, international cooperation and assistance.

Sweden recognizes the need for coordination among donors, between donors and recipients and across governments, and also for engaging regional organizations and promote local ownership in order to effectively combat the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Last year the Swedish Government adopted a new thematic development cooperation strategy for Sustainable Peace. The overall objective of the strategy is to contribute to the prevention of armed conflict, effective conflict resolution, sustainable peacebuilding and state building, increased human security in fragile and conflict-affected states, and empowerment of women as well as of youth, children and other excluded groups in these situations. One of the goals in the strategy is strengthened capacity to reduce uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons and to implement the ATT.

Mr. Chair,

Sweden has provided support for several projects aiming to fulfil the goals of the PoA.

This includes a project by ODA and UNREC. The project aimed to improve the contribution by, and participation of, women in disarmament work, in particular the prevention of acquisition of small arms, light weapons and ammunition by terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin as well as countries in the Sahel.

Sweden also contributed to UNLIRECs first “Symposium on Women and Security” in December 2017 in Lima, Peru. The Symposium provided a forum to present future strategies of the United Nations system to promote women and security in Latin America and the Caribbean; to deliberate on how the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals can contribute to improving the lives of women in the region; and to explore different approaches to strengthening arms control to that end.

These are two practical examples on how gender perspectives can be highlighted and strengthened and contribute to progress in the field of disarmament and arms control.

Mr. Chair,

Sweden recognizes the importance of cooperation with civil society and has supported several organizations such as the Small Arms Survey, Control Arms, Saferworld, IM Swedish Development Partner and the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and light weapons. Sweden has also contributed to UNSCAR.
Mr. Chair,

The national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons are of great importance to the continued work on implementation of the PoA. The reporting has also been made more important since there are possible synergies between the information requested in the national reports and SDG 16.4 and the information needed for its indicator 16.4.2. In Sweden's national report for 2018 there is also more information on the Swedish assistance related to the PoA.

Thank you.