Preparatory Committee to the III United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Statement of the Delegation of Brazil on the Follow-up to the Review Conference

Thank you Mr. President.

As regards the follow up to the Review Conference, my Delegation would like to express its preference for the continuation of the Biennial Meetings of States, which should be focused on substantive and action-oriented topics.

As regards the areas for substantive discussions in the context of the follow up mechanism, my Delegation believes there are a number of important issues for consideration. We believe that, to a large extent, the inability of the Programme of Action to attain its goals over the past 17 years does not derive from the lack of implementation of the commitments it contains, but from the fact that key issues were either left aside or not appropriately dealt with in the instrument.

Chief among those is the issue of ammunition. There is no way to deny the obvious: ammunition is an integral part of the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

We fully understand the complexities of the issue. We agree that the trade in SALW has different characteristics than the trade in ammunition, including technical and logistical aspects, and for this reason not all measures that work in the case of combating illicit trade in SALW could feasibly be applied to their ammunition. What we don’t understand is the refusal to even discuss the issue.

It is precisely because we recognize that the subject of ammunition is complex that we support Mercosul’s proposal to launch a structured discussion in the context of the follow up to the UNPOA review Conference. This could take the form of a GGE or of an open-ended MGE, where all states could participate and express their concerns and develop consensus-based solutions for this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.