Thank you Mr. President.

Please allow me to make a few remarks on the follow up to the Third Conference of the Programme of Action.

Follow-up mechanisms are of great importance to achieve effective implementation of the Programme of Action. There is still a lot that can and needs to be done to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). And it is all there in the Programme of Action already.

Mr. President,

In order to increase ownership and achieve greater effectiveness in terms of implementation, apart from all the efforts done on the national and regional level, we need to solidify continuous implementation on the global or multilateral level. We also need to share the ownership for this collective responsibility. This means increased engagement on a day-to-day basis, rather than meeting once every two years on this issue in this forum.
There are many challenges that require constant attention. This includes diversion, transparency and information sharing, addressing the impact of new technologies, and to foster more structural cooperation and assistance on this multilateral level.

Mr. President,

Please allow me to briefly elaborate on this. The topics I just mentioned merit more continuous consideration. For example, cooperation and assistance would greatly benefit if a number of interested Member States, together with the UN Secretariat, work on the implementation of the commitments made in the PoA. We need to see more concrete action, such as on the identification of challenges/needs and bringing these together with available assistance.

We have good experiences in the context of other conventional weapons instruments in dealing with effective implementations of specific commitments under these instruments. In Geneva, for example, this is done through enhanced coordination mechanisms, such as an active Bureau or Coordination Committee that meets regularly throughout the year to coordinate the implementation of the commitments. The whole membership of said instruments actively engages in this process. Progress on implementation is reported at every annual meeting of states parties forms the basis of discussion at the meeting. The Netherlands is keen to see us work on the substantive implementation of the PoA in the areas mentioned. Hence, we might draw inspiration from how substantive implementation is monitored under other instruments.

Mr. President,

The PoA’s universality makes it the most important instrument we have to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. By solidifying our intersessional process, we ensure that commitments under the PoA are achieved, our ownership is increased and as member states we support the UN Secretariat in the important work they carry out on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Thank you.