Merci Monsieur le Président.


My Delegation fully associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. the Permanent Representative of Paraguay on behalf of MERCOSUL and Associated States, and would like to offer some additional comments in its national capacity.

Mr. President,

Brazil believes that the UN-PoA is a landmark document that has contributed to strengthening and coordinating the work of Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations in the fight against the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

As already recognized by the UN-PoA in 2001, the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons has a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences, which pose a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, security, stability and sustainable development at the local, national, regional and international levels. We welcome therefore the increasing recognition of the linkages between the implementation of the Programme of Action and the sustainable development goals, in particular objective 16.4.

Brazil is committed to the full implementation of the UN-PoA. In 2003, new Legislation on the control of small arms and light weapons has been adopted, which has considerably reinforced national regulations and procedures on control of manufacturing, acquisition and export of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the new Agenda for Disarmament announced recently by the Secretary-General. We note with particular satisfaction that it deals not only with the
urgent need to reduce the human toll provoked by uncontrolled flows of conventional weapons, but also with the existential threat that continues to be posed by weapons of mass destruction. We believe the agenda should provide renewed impetus for overcoming the current stalemate in the field of disarmament, which is all the more urgent given the dangerous signs of deterioration of the global security environment.

On the section of the SG's agenda related to small arms and light weapons, we agree with its push for more sustained, integrated international assistance for the control of such weapons, and we take note of the proposal to establish, to that end, a multi-partner trust facility within the UN Peacebuilding Fund. We highlight however the need to ensure that all interested countries, and not only those in post-conflict situations, will be able to benefit from this new approach.

Mr. President,

17 years after its adoption, the UN-PoA is unfortunately still far from attaining its objectives. Reaching these goals will depend not only on a renewed push towards its full implementation, including by strengthening and refocusing the key elements of international cooperation and capacity-building, but also on addressing key issues that were either left aside or not appropriately dealt with in the UN-PoA.

Chief among those, Mr. Chairman, 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. An overwhelming majority of States have been consistently calling for discussions on how to address ammunition within the UN-PoA. However, a few States still insist that the issue is beyond the mandate of the Programme of Action.

We fully realize the complexities of the issue of ammunition. We understand that the characteristics of the trade in small arms differ, to some extent, from those of the trade in ammunition, including technical and logistical aspects. For these reasons, not necessarily all measures that work in the case of combating illicit trade in arms could feasibly be applied to their ammunition. But all States should agree that, as a minimum, appropriate national controls should be exercised over the manufacture and export of ammunition. More specific and detailed discussion on this issue should be undertaken as part of the follow-up process of this Review Conference.

Mr. President,

My Delegation thanks you for the circulation of the second draft of the final document of the Third Review Conference, which we believe provides a good basis for our discussions. Our Delegation will introduce specific drafting proposals throughout the following sessions. At this point, I would limit my observations to the issues of arms embargoes and new manufacturing technologies.
As Brazil and several other Delegations have reiterated during the consultation process, the only arms embargoes that are relevant for the UN-PoA are those duly authorized by the UN Security Council, in accordance with the UN Charter. The UN-PoA cannot - and will not - be used as a conduit for legitimating or enforcing arms embargoes adopted in national, regional or plurinational settings.

As regards the issue of new technologies for the manufacturing of small arms and light weapons, such as 3D printing, Brazil believes that any discussions in this regard should scrupulously avoid the imposition of restrictions to the exchange of such technologies, which have widespread civilian applications and that are crucial for economic development.

Mr. President,

As regards the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), Brazil strongly supports its full implementation and further strengthening. We welcome the proposal for discussions on how to supplement the technical requirements of the ITI in view of the emergence of new materials and modular weapons.

Brazil is going beyond the scope of the marking requirements established by the ITI. Since 2003, all ammunition manufactured for use by the Armed Forces or law-enforcement agencies is marked individually with a lot number imprinted at the base of each cartridge, which greatly facilitates their traceability. This measure contributes to proper management and security of stockpiles, and is an important deterrent against diversion.

Thank you, Mr. President.