Remarks of the Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia

At
The Third Review Conference of Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the International Instruments to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

New York, 18-29, June 2018.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset, on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Cambodian Delegation and myself, I would like to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Jean-Claude Brunet for taking up this important presidency and under your able leadership, the Third Review Conference of Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instruments to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, would have a fruitful outcome.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Small Arms and Light Weapons ceaselessly devastate thousands human lives every day instead of protecting human livelihood in the world. The armed conflicts inflict millions of human being to become injured, disable, widows, orphans, refugees, hunger and homeless.

Historically, Cambodia and her people had gone through three decades of bitter experiences, such as guerrilla war, civil war, invasion and poverty that killed nearly three million Cambodians, and destroyed most infrastructures of the country.

At the time, Cambodia is neither arms-weapons manufacture nor arms-weapons broker. During the cold war, weapons, explosives, ammunitions and mines had been flown into Cambodia by big powers.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace completely returned to the kingdom of Cambodia under the Win-Win policy based on the grant spirit of national solidarity and unity of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The chronic armed conflicts in Cambodia were completely ended in the late 1998 under the support of programs of collection and destruction of arms of the United Nations, the EU and Japan.

And the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia preserves peace, security and public order as priority in Rectangular Strategy Policy, including the Arms registration, collection and disarmament.
Taking this opportunity, be kindly informed Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen that today Peace has been stabilized in Cambodia. As a peace lessons learnt country, the Kingdom has a good-will to dispatch its forces to join peacekeeping and humanitarian missions under the umbrella of the United Nations for De-mining and Public Order Management since 2006 in some hot spot countries in African regions such as Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Republic of Central Africa and Mali. This humanitarian mission will be continued as required.

In order to prevent, combat the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light weapons, terrorism and transnational organized crimes, the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia set out the following measures:

The Law on the Management of Weapons, Explosives and Ammunitions had taken into effect on 01/06/2005. The Law covers the equipping, possession, carrying, use, purchase, sale, trading, loan, transfer, distribution, rental, hiring, production, fabrication, repair, transportation, transit, import, export and stockpiling of weapons and explosives of all types, including national regulations and norms set to effectively implement, in particular, and using national mechanism to control and the direct implementation is sub-national levels.

Subsequently, approximately more than two hundred-thousands of all types of weapons were handed over by local people through programs for disarmament and collection. Those illegal arms were publicly destroyed under the slogan "the Flame of Peace". Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my profound thanks to donor countries especially, European Union and Japan (I would like to reaffirm that European Union Assistance on Curbing Small Arms and Light Weapons in Cambodia (EU/ASAC) from 2000 to 2006 and Japan Assistance Team for Small Arms Management in Cambodia (JSAC) from 2003 to 2007. These two projects were conducted in a similar way: Weapons for Reduction and Development, Weapons for Registration and Safe Storage, Public Awareness and National Commission support).

Because of the above initiatives on how to control, use and combat against illegal arms smuggling, the 4th SOMTC meeting in Brunei Darussalam in 2004, Cambodia was mandated as a SOMTC's Voluntary Lead-Shepherd country against arms smuggling (Small Arms and Light Weapons) in the ASEAN region.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cambodia is one of the Member States actively engages in supporting the Arms Trade Treaty and related international instruments of PoA in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Virtually, Cambodia signed the Arms Trade Treaty on 18 Oct, 2013.

I strongly believe that the Plan of Action will effectively prevent, combat the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Member States shall abide by and implement it. Cambodia has strong commitment to act for.

Thank you for your kind attention!