Please allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon your appointment as President of the Third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action against Small Arms and Light Weapons. The French presidency has shown great commitment to creating a truly comprehensive and transparent preparatory process and Germany would like to commend you; Mr. President, and your entire team for the outstanding work you have done so far.
Germany stands ready to support you in your endeavor for an ambitious outcome document of this Review Conference. We are deeply committed to the UN Program of Action as the central guiding document for the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the world.

Thanks to the PoA the fight against Small Arms and Light Weapons around the world has gained more momentum than ever before. The creation of the PoA has for the first time put the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons on the political agenda of governments and multilateral organisations. The PoA has helped us set common standards for all relevant aspects and it has been instrumental in creating an expert community of practitioners providing advice to governments and their security agencies.
The political relevance of the UN PoA is as high as ever. Small Arms and Light Weapons continue to drive conflicts, forced migration and humanitarian disasters in many parts of the world. Irresponsible stock-piles of these weapons constitute grave security risks to affected countries and their illicit trafficking can cause the destabilization of entire regions as we are currently witnessing in ongoing conflicts.

The inclusion of the fight against illicit trade in Small Arms as part of the Sustainable Development Goals – namely goal 16.4. – has given new prominence to this endeavor.

UN Secretary General Guterres has underscored the relevance of the continued fight against Small Arms and Light Weapons in his speech in Geneva on 24 May while unveiling the new UN agenda for disarmament "Securing our Common Future". His call for "disarmament that saves lives" recognizes the unrivalled number of casualties caused by this particular category of weapons.
Germany is already actively involved in bringing progress to SALW-control and many of the other areas mentioned in the UN agenda. We look forward to working with the Secretary General and in strong alliance with fellow UN members in underscoring the new agenda for disarmament with concrete action.

Germany while fully recognizing the accomplishments of the UN PoA is convinced that this instrument needs to be strengthened further – both by assuring a more comprehensive implementation and by expanding its scope to include the full range of threats associated with Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Germany will therefore work for the following points to be reflected in the outcome document of this Review Conference:
Germany considers the control of ammunition to be integral to the control of small arms and light weapons. Ammunition is the very fuel to many of the world’s ongoing conflicts. Putting effective measures against the flow of ammunition in place would starve these conflicts of their most vital input. This is why Germany is working towards a global consensus on strengthening ammunition control. Germany is therefore strongly in favour of identifying effective ways for the control of ammunition and the reduction of ammunition flows into areas of conflict as part of existing UN-processes.
Germany would like to see the important role recognized which can be played by regional organisations and regional processes in closing the implementation gap with regards to PoA-provisions including building a stronger role for regional organisations in providing coordination, formulating regional normative frameworks and producing guidance for implementation at the level of member states. Germany would like to see a special mention of best-practices provided by regional processes as part of the PoA-outcome document.

The PoA needs to acknowledge the impact of new technologies including 3D-printing, polymer- and modular weapons and adapt the relevant instruments for marking and tracing accordingly.
We need to identify better ways to promote and assist national implementation, including by measuring performance according to a set of clearly defined goals.

Given the ongoing proliferation of SALW, particularly into areas of conflict around the world Germany advocates for increasing the PoA focus on ways to combat illicit cross-border transfer of SALW and ammunition.

Germany further believes that the role of women in security needs to be strengthened, inter alia by more explicit and effective integration of Security Council Resolution 1325 into the PoA.
As military peacekeeping missions are often first to apprehend large numbers of SALW in areas of conflict, Germany wishes to see the importance of integrating SALW-control elements into the mandate of UN-peacekeeping missions underlined.

Germany has been engaged and committed on SALW and ammunition control for many years, investing millions of Euros into a safer world across Africa, Eastern Europe and the Western Balkan, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Asia. We look forward to strengthening the normative basis of our work with this Review Conference and assure you, Mr. President, of our full commitment to this endeavor.