



**Statement of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
Global Week of Action against Gun Violence
10-16 May 2010**

Governments have a responsibility to ensure public safety, and a vested interest in providing human security and an environment conducive to development to their citizens. However, the excessive accumulation and universal availability of small arms negatively impact on security, human rights and social and economic development in many parts of the world.

This year, 2010, represents a year of renewed commitment in our struggle against the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms. In June, States will come together at the United Nations in New York to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. In July, negotiations are scheduled to start at the UN on an Arms Trade Treaty. In addition, in September, world leaders will discuss the UN Secretary-General's report "Keeping the Promise", which introduced the negative impact of armed violence on attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Such high-profile events are encouraging signs of action at the global level.

Although the illicit arms trade and armed violence are matters of truly global concern, their most serious impact is often suffered at the local level. Civil society organizations provide the vital linkages among international, regional, national and local players, and are instrumental in rebuilding capacities, and translating norms and standards into concrete and pragmatic actions aimed at deterring armed violence, especially in local communities.

The Global Week of Action against Gun Violence provides us with an excellent opportunity to further enhance this cooperation between civil society and governments – to ultimately make the life of people all over the world safer and more secure.