

**Statement by the Representative
Of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
Before the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider
the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW
11 to 15 July 2005, New York**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start at the outset by congratulating you on your assumption to preside over this important Meeting of the United Nations. I am sure that your diplomatic skill coupled with the professional assistance from the Secretariat would ensure a successful meeting for this august body.

I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Thalmann of Switzerland, the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group for his excellent job in finalizing the International Instrument on Marking and Tracing.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the countries located in the middle of the passage of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in the region has sustained a great deal of losses both in human and material resources. Such a bitter situation grows worse in combination with drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism in our region. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran has the highest motivations to support the UN Programme of Action. In the view of my country, the implementation of the UN Programme of Action is the most appropriate measure in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW.

Consequently, a variety of plans and actions at national, regional and international levels is accomplished or is being implemented by our Government to follow up and promote the UN Programme of Action. The Islamic Republic of Iran, through a series of national planning and measures, pursues the promotion of the UN Programme of Action. Iran believes that prevention of illicit trade in SALW and national control measures would lead to the regional and international stability and security consistent with the UN Charter.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has implemented the UN Programme of Action since its adoption in 2001 and now is finalizing its second national report which includes different measures undertaken by our government such as the following:

1. A comprehensive and revised set of regulations for effective control over transfer of SALW and preventing illicit trade in SALW;
2. Enhancing the relevant national laws and regulations banning and punishing the smuggling and illicit trafficking of any kind of weapons and ammunitions;
3. Establishment of a Central Commission for monitoring over non-military arms and ammunitions;
4. Several official orders for general amnesty which resulted in the collection of thousands of different kinds of illicit SALW;
5. Plans for promoting public awareness concerning the dangers associated with the illicit weapons and encouraging the delivery of these weapons.

In the interest of time, I refrain from explaining the details of our national report.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, as it is referred in paragraph 7 of the Preamble of the UN POA, I would like to stress once again on the close link between drug trafficking and the illicit trade in SALW and the need for international cooperation and assistance in this field.

Providing assistance to States at the forefront of fight against drug trafficking would further enable the UN Member States to better implement the Program of Action. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a State fighting against both drug trafficking and illicit trade of SALW, expects that the U.N Biennial Meeting and the upcoming Review Conference would specifically address this issue and take further practical measures in this regard.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.