



# **THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

335 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

---

*(Check Against Delivery)*

**Statement**

**by**

**Amb. Shin Kak-soo**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea**  
**to the United Nations**

**at**

**Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference**  
**to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action**  
**to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade**  
**in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**

**11 January 2006**  
**New York**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on assuming the chairmanship of the Preparatory Committee. I am confident that your proven leadership and resourceful experience will steer our deliberations toward a fruitful conclusion.

We believe that this PrepCom will provide us with an important opportunity to look back on what has been done and what has not been done since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 2001, and to make recommendations to the upcoming Review Conference. The primary aim of the review process is to review progress made in the implementation of the PoA. In doing so, however, we recognize the need to take a thorough and comprehensive approach in order to address a complicated web of problem related to illicit SALW in its entirety. We should not be overambitious in carrying out our mandate. Nor should we be overly modest in fulfilling our ultimate vision to achieve a world without illicit SALW.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the significant progress made thus far in the implementation of the PoA. In particular, the hard-earned conclusion of the negotiation on marking and tracing of SALW last June has once again demonstrated the resolute will of the international community to eliminate the illicit trade in SALW. As the political nature of the PoA does not dilute its importance as a milestone document in the field of SALW, we hope the same would apply to the case of marking and tracing instrument. We also welcome the awaited entry into force of the UN Firearms Protocol as one of the legally-binding norms to fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Despite considerable achievements during the last five years, a lot of further action remains to be done. SALW continues to kill or wound hundreds of thousands of innocent people including women and children every year in conflict zones alone. The Republic of Korea laments that the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of SALW and their unrestrained transfer continues to undermine the security, safety, health, education, development and economic livelihoods of millions of innocent civilians. In particular, we recognize the need to work on developing common international

standards for SALW transfer controls, taking into account the fact that most illicit trade in SALW begins as licit trade. Moreover, the illicit SALW hampers peace-building and peace-making efforts as well as humanitarian assistance and economic aid. The overall cost of SALW on socio-economic dimension is beyond calculation, requiring our urgent action to curb them.

One key challenge that deserves our particular attention is the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons. Illicit brokering continues to undermine compliance with Security Council arms embargoes and the efforts to build peace in fragile regions, including UN peacekeeping operations. An effective and broader approach to illicit brokering is urgently required. My delegation wishes to extend its full support to this endeavor, including the establishment of a group of governmental experts to submit an in-depth report to the General Assembly. For our part, the Republic of Korea has recently strengthened controls on arms brokering activities by introducing the registration and licensing system provided in the newly enacted Defense Industry Act, which entered into force from the beginning of this year.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the national implementation of the PoA, the Republic of Korea has put in place adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure effective control over the production and trade of SALW. My government has developed and maintained strict but efficient measures for the control of military and non-military use of SALW throughout overall stages of manufacturing, storage, management, transfer and dismantlement. We also attach great importance to effective export control measures, including the catch-all system designed by the Wassenaar Arrangements.

We believe that each government must undertake appropriate measures to account for its stocks for SALW. In this regard, my government has developed an electronic inventory of all its domestic military SALW through a computer program known as the Firearms Management System. It has also introduced effective procedures with regard to the disposal of small arms and light weapons. We are ready to share our experience, know-how and technology with those countries that are in need of these.

With regard to actions at the international level, we believe that the Security Council should play a key role in supplementing national and regional efforts. We would like to see the Security Council continue to strengthen the monitoring mechanism of its arms embargoes. We further stress the need for the Council to incorporate comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs into its peacekeeping operations. On the other hand, we envisage the possible important role of the newly-launched UN Peace Building Commission in planning and implementing the DDR programs in conflict areas.

Mr. Chairman,

While we recognize the immense value of the national reports, we would like to point out the need to improve the reporting mechanism. Reporting, though of a voluntary nature, is an indispensable tool to promote trust and cooperation among States as it enhances level of transparency by providing basic information on States' implementation of the PoA. As such, reporting is in constant need of improvement in terms of substance, format and others. We look forward to detailed discussion on the reporting mechanism at the interactive thematic debate session.

The Republic of Korea hopes to see this meeting take full account of the work of NGOs and civil society that have constantly played significant role in the process of implementing the PoA. The NGOs have demonstrated their capabilities and competence in fight against the illicit SALW particularly through their invaluable first-hand experience and determined commitment to eliminating scourges caused by the illicit use of SALW.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation will do its utmost to work constructively and cooperatively throughout this session of the PrepCom with other delegations and civil society representatives in order to identify common priorities for further action. Reaffirming our unswerving commitment to the cause of the PoA, I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and active participation in deliberations of the meeting.

Thank you.