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Российской Федерации  
при  
Организации Объединенных  
Наций



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## STATEMENT

**by Mr. Sergey Petlyakov, Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation  
at the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference to review progress  
in implementation of the UN Programme of Action to prevent, eradicate  
and fight illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects**

New York, January 11, 2006

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Russian delegation let me sincerely congratulate you on your election as a Chairman of our meeting. I am confident that under your highly professional guidance the work of our forum will be productive.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the time elapsed since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 2001 the world has achieved certain progress in establishing control over small and light weapons. A lot has been done in this direction on national, regional and global levels. It is important that today the world community has a clear understanding of the urgency to fight illicit proliferation of such weapons.

The fruitful activity of the open-ended Working Group elaborating international instrument to identify and track illicit small arms and light weapons was an important practical step in implementation of the Programme of Action. The Working Group was able to reach agreement on the consensus document, which, in our view, will help states fight illicit trade of such weapons.

At the same time, despite the efforts applied, the problem of illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons is still there, and in some regions it is aggravating. Hence, undoubtedly, the great significance of the Review Conference whose decisions and recommendations may have a serious impact on national policies of the states in the sphere of production, circulation and transfer of this kind of weapons.

In this regard, we believe that one of the main tasks of the world community in fighting illicit small arms and light weapons is the practical implementation of those provisions of the Programme of Action which provide for enhancing effectiveness of national legislation in this area and strengthening regional cooperation in finding specific and – I would like to emphasize that – implementable measures to prevent illicit circulation of such weapons.

Some states, as known, would like “to fine-tune” or to “improve” the Programme of Action through additions or changes in different aspects countering illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In our opinion, the Programme of Action in its present form is far from being implemented and retains its potential.

We, of course, do not view this document as something eternal. Specification and development of certain provisions of the Programme are acceptable and topical. However, should we open it up for fine-tuning?

We do not believe that it would be appropriate to make changes into the text of the document itself. Additions to the Program on separate aspects, which could have a form of a protocol or an annex, would be another issue.

One should keep in mind that the goal of the Programme of Action is to counter illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. Indeed, the core of the problem of small arms and light weapons lies in its illicit shipments, which represent the main source of weapons for illegal armed groups, terrorist organizations and governments of the countries under embargo of the UN Security Council. In our view, it is possible to discuss legal shipments of small arms and light weapons in the cases when it is directed against illicit circulation of such weapons.

Russia believes that to counter illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and, particularly, to prevent it from falling into the hands of terrorists the following measures are important:

1. Regulation of broker activity in arms trade as well as restrictions on the number of intermediaries in such activity.

In some countries there are dozens and even hundreds of intermediaries. Practice shows that the big number of intermediaries hampers control over external trade in military products. In this regard, we would like to mention our experience in this field. Some years ago in Russia there were several state-owned specialized companies engaged in intermediary activity in arms trade, but now this right is granted to only one company – “Rosoboronexport” – which enables efficient control from the state over all transactions with military products.

2. Denial to ship small arms and light weapons to non-governmental structures and organizations because such shipments would elevate the risk of access to such weapons by various anti-governmental groups and criminals, including terrorists.

3. Limiting and cutting off the production of weapons in absence of a license, including a license of a state, which is the original manufacturer and owner of the production technology of these weapons. Unfortunately, in practice the non-licensed production of small arms and light weapons and production under expired license is still

widely spread in the world. Such production is one of the sources of illegal circulation of weapons.

4. Random inspections by the exporter of storage conditions for the weapons received by the importer.

5. Elaboration under the aegis of the Programme or Action of a set of measures to counter uncontrolled shipments of manpads.

The issue of strengthening control over shipments of such "sensitive" weapons has a special significance and urgency due to the threat of its use for terrorist purposes, in particular, against civil aircraft. The role of the United Nations in the context of the manpads subject-matter and its potential are quite important. Widest possible circle of both exporters and recipients of such weapons should participate in the work on this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia is ready for cooperation in all these areas. We expect that the Review Conference will be a success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.