



**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Moch. Slamet Hidayat
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Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia**

at the

**Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation
of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Eradicate and
Combat
the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects**

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Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to congratulate you upon your election to this high office at this Conference. This responsibility is a reflection of the faith of the international community in you and in the delegation of Sri Lanka. My felicitations also go to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation pledges its full and constructive support to your leadership in our common endeavor to achieve a world free of the menace of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW).

The year 2001 was a landmark year in this process. That year, we reached agreement on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (PoA) which we will be reviewing here during these two weeks. The PoA has put in our hands a global instrument for addressing the serious challenges to human security being posed by the illicit trade in these weapons.

Mr. President,

Indonesia is of the view that the impact of these weapons has neither been *small* nor *light*. They have proved their capacity to inflict and prolong human suffering and inhibit economic development. Regrettably, these are what they will continue to do unless we effectively implement the PoA. Indonesia recognizes that the dangers of illicit SALW cannot possibly be addressed by individual nations alone, given the regional and international dimensions of the issue.

The PoA enjoys remarkable political support. The 2005 World Summit also specifically outlined the support of world leaders for its implementation. This is significant because in an era in which member states often disagree on such important international peace and security issues as disarmament and non-proliferation, the PoA on small arms and light weapons enjoys unanimity. It is the hope of my delegation that we will be able to build on this unity of purpose to create stronger commitments to tackle this terrible problem that takes a life every one and a half minutes, with millions more wounded.

Five years after the adoption of the PoA, we recognize that many initiatives have been taken around the world. However, despite this political support, there is not much evidence that the implementation of the PoA is achieving its stated goals of eradicating the illicit trade in SALW and of reducing the human suffering being caused by them. We hope that this Review Conference addresses the link between declared political support for the PoA and the actual implementation of its provisions, as well as the link between implementation and the real impact on the ground.

As a follow up process, we noted the fact that some countries argue on the necessity of the follow-up mechanism. We believe that even with such mechanism in terms of Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) and a Review Conference, our efforts to implement the PoA have not yet fulfilled our expectation. Therefore, we attach the importance on the need of convening BMS to review the implementation of the PoA with a strengthened mandate as well as a review cycle process to take forward the agreements at the Review Conference and to establish more targeted measures for further implementation and effective action on key issues. This would allow any momentum of success in this field to be maintained. The follow-up mechanism of BMS and

further review cycle will afford room for further discussions among States on these important issues.

In this connection, my delegation cautions against any attempts to take the SALW process outside the United Nations. Within the UN, Indonesia will continue to support any efforts to strengthen the implementation of the PoA. In our view, we must exhaust all means to take the United Nations process forward ~~before, if ever, contemplating any initiatives outside it~~. We believe that the United Nations is best placed to make a success of the challenge SALW.

Mr. President,

We would like to see the outcome document of this Review Conference offer a stronger commitment to the international assistance and cooperation. While we acknowledge, however, that the availability of international assistance to support implementation of the PoA has grown over the last five years, the level of assistance is still insufficient to help affected countries, considering the magnitude of the danger the illicit trade in SALW poses to their communities.

Being an essential aspect of the full implementation of the PoA, we reiterate our call for an effective means to match needs with resources in international assistance. For Indonesia, we attach the importance of capacity building and technical assistance in the fields of marking and tracing, record keeping, border and custom control and information sharing among law enforcement agencies.

Both donor and recipient countries should find ways to bridge the gap between what is available and what is needed. We observe that there is certainly a significant pool of resources that is available and ready to be distributed in an effective and targeted manner. At the same time, there is also the need in many developing countries to boost their capacity to implement the PoA. In this context therefore, there is a merit of a centralized mechanism, perhaps within the UN system that could serve as a clearing house or point that would bridge the demand and supply side.

Mr. President,

My delegation would be supportive of language that would ban the transfer of SALW to non-state armed groups. We believe that no armed group outside of the State should be allowed to bear weapons. We also believe that regulating civilian possession of SALW will enhance our effort to prevent its misuse. In our view, the issue of ammunition should also be addressed in the context of the PoA because in the absence of ammunition, small arms and light weapons pose no danger.

My delegation also recognizes the linkage between the problems associated with illicit SALW and development, in the sense that the misuse and uncontrolled proliferation of these weapons hampers development and the potential for economic growth. We are prepared to work to address this dimension of the small arms problem in this Review Conference.

Mr. President,

While action at the global level is of tremendous importance, the significance of cooperation at the regional level cannot be overlooked. In our view, the next “line of defence” after national implementation of the PoA must be the strengthening of actions against illicit SALW through the enhancement of ties and cooperation among neighboring countries. We note that traffickers are quick to adopt trade routes where national controls are weak and will take advantage of every lapse that they can find. That is why Indonesia will continue to pursue regional cooperation to stamp out illicit SALW.

Finally Mr. President, my delegation expresses the hope that this Review Process will convince members of the international community that on the issue of SALW they can be doing much more. We further hope that our debate during these couple of weeks will re-energize the process that the PoA began in 2001.

I thank you, Mr. President.