



**MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY DR. ROBERTO LAMARCHE, UNDER SECRETARY  
OF INTERIOR, AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW  
PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME  
OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT, AND ERRADICATE THE ILLICIT  
TRAFFICKING OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS  
ASPECTS**

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*Check against delivery*

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[UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION]

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like first of all to join those who have congratulated you on your election as President of this Review Conference, and we hope to work closely with you during the course of our deliberations. We also extend our congratulations to the other distinguished members of the Bureau.

The Dominican Republic recognizes the contribution and significance of the United Nations Programme of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. In this regard, we have embraced this initiative, which provides a base for establishing regulatory controls at the national, regional, and international level. Since 2001 we have maintained an active participation in the matter, and it is in that spirit that we reaffirm that we associate ourselves completely with the Declaration of Antigua, adopted this past May by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. We take the opportunity, notwithstanding, to make the following observations in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic attaches great importance to the fight against the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, as this constitutes a problem which counteracts the efforts undertaken by our governments at the national, regional, and international levels, on the subjects of development and security. In the context of the United Nations, we could cite as examples of these efforts the positive results obtained by peacekeeping operations, or the future expected achievements of the recently inaugurated Peacebuilding Commission. For us it is indispensable to have a forum such as this one, where 191 countries can meet with the objective of finding the best way to put an end to this threat to the respect of human rights, sustainable development, and our citizens' security, these being notably affected by the actions derived from drug trafficking and criminality. However, we are of the opinion that, for the benefit of our peoples, we should strive to obtain the most ambitious results possible.

Included in the measures that we should discuss during this Conference are those related to the effective controls of civilian possession of small arms and light weapons, as well as transfer controls, with the intention of preventing the exchange of arms

through channels unauthorized by the States of importation, exportation, and transit. These measures would help countries have a greater accountability and control of the weapons within their territory, thereby reducing the potential of deviation to the small arms and light weapons illicit market. In the case of the Dominican Republic, there is legislation in place to regulate the commerce, carrying, and possession of firearms and their components. In another regard, we are pleased that a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) will meet within a short time to discuss the problem of illicit brokering, with a view to implementing international measures on this matter. On a similar note, we support the initiative of those Member States which seek to expand the Programme of Action to include ammunition.

Mr. President,

We all know that the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons affects the countries of the world, with those most affected being developing countries, which include some that are experiencing, or have experienced, conflict situations. In these countries, international cooperation and assistance are essential in the materialization of effective responses with respect to the menace of illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. For

this reason, we recognize and appreciate that several countries have in the past provided others with international cooperation and assistance, both technical and financial, and we urge all those in capacity, to do so, as lack of resources and expertise have impeded the fulfillment of the needs of all States that have wanted to implement specific measures.

On another note, we also believe important the application of regional and international policies oriented to strengthening border and customs controls, in coordination with the competent authorities.

Mr. President,

We know that every process has a beginning and an end, with some taking more than others to run its course. This is why it is our understanding that we should continue to discuss this issue, until we are satisfied with the results of the implementation of the Programme of Action, with the objective of eliminating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in its totality. We reiterate that we cannot allow the disturbance of our efforts undertaken to improve the quality of life of our citizens. For this reason the delegation of the Dominican Republic reaffirms its

position to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, and hence everything related to the prevention, combating, and eradication of illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

I thank you.