

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**Statement**  
by H. E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser

**Permanent Representative**  
**of the State of Qatar**  
**To The United Nations**

**Before**  
**The United Nations General Assembly**

**On**  
**United Nations Conference to Review Progress**  
**Made in the Implementation**  
**Of the Programme of Action**  
**To Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in**  
**Small Arms and Light Weapons**  
**In All its Aspects**

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**In the Name of God Most Compassionate Most Merciful**

**Mr. President,**

My delegation would like to join the preceding speakers in congratulating you for presiding over this important conference. We would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau; we wish you Godspeed, and hope your conference will be crowned with success. In this regard, I would like to associate myself with the statement delivered by the Arab Group.

**Mr. President,**

The challenges surrounding the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are great and daunting. It takes the concerted efforts of the entire international community to stem and codify this trade through every mean available, including through international treaties or regional and bilateral agreements. The grave danger posed by failure to trace and control the illegitimate transfer of these weapons is due to the failure by some governments to strengthen their control over the inbound and outbound movement of these weapons to and from their countries. Therefore, governments are duty bound to tighten controls in order to prevent arms smuggling to and from their territories. My delegation believes it is extremely important to stress once again the gravity of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and their impact on the already strained security conditions in volatile regions.

This review conference must therefore emphasize the importance of, and commitment to the United Nations Programme of Action adopted on July 20, 2001 that remains the main frame of reference for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, adopted after an arduous negotiating process. Attempts to reopen discussions on agreed conclusions in the Programme of Action will deal a blow to efforts made in 2001. Re-discussion of a given element in the Programme will give way to reopening the discussion on the entire Programme, which will ultimately constitute a revocation of previously agreed results.

We therefore believe we should commit to previously achieved results that we can build upon, stressing at the same time the need to evince the political will necessary for the implementation of the Programme. Since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 2001, the State of Qatar entrusted the National Committee on Disarmament in Qatar with the task of implementing the Programme. To this end, the Qatari competent authorities adopted resolution 26 of 2004.

**Mr. President,**

The Programme of Action to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons embodied extremely important principles and terms to put successfully into effect its different provisions. Foregoing some paragraphs and bypassing others constitutes an unacceptable breach of the agreements reached in 2001.

Accordingly, my delegation stresses the importance of paragraphs 8, 9,10,11,13 and 17 of the Programme of Action, all of which emphasized the underlying nonnegotiable principles of the UN Charter that must not be compromised. They are intrinsically linked to the independence and sovereignty of states, to the rights of people under foreign occupation to self-determination, and to preventing and combating the trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

**Mr. President,**

The unbridled proliferation of small arms and light weapons is undoubtedly a cause of concern and a source of tension to any society. It has repercussions on the security situation, particularly if it were associated with a breeding environment of socio-economic disparities, compromised political rights, and compromised rights of minorities. When we address the impact of conflicts, it is extremely important to explore the real causes of armed conflicts. This will allow us to weigh in all the factors, arrive at a sound conclusion and attempt to devise solutions in the context of international cooperation.

**Mr. President,**

Taken as a whole, transparency in armaments is a noble objective because it furthers international peace and security, and promotes confidence building among states and governments. The problem though lies in the absence of a genuine political will to succeed in pursuing this transparency, especially that it is only applicable to one class of weapons. To be useful, transparency must be comprehensive and non-discriminatory. Moreover, it must be governed by the principles of international law. It also should avoid selectively singling out one class of weapons.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation believes that we must avoid jumping to conclusions with regard to the work of the group of governmental experts established pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution to consider the illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. The governmental Group of experts must be given the opportunity to arrive successfully at agreed positive results. We wish the group success in its work.

*Thank you, Mr. President.*