



# ECUADOR

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY  
GERMAN ORTEGA  
HEAD OF DELEGATION**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF 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**

**New York, July 3rd 2006**

*\* Please check against delivery*

Mister President,

My delegation would like, first of all, to congratulate you for your election as President of the First 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, as well as to the members of the table, since together you have the responsibility of guiding our work.

The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects was adopted in 2001. Today, five years later, we are reviewing our progresses in the aim of accomplishing the goals established then.

Mister President,

The Delegation of Ecuador aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of Argentina on behalf of MERCOSUR and Associated States; we participated in two preparatory events previous to this Conference, in April and June 2006, in Buenos Aires. We also reaffirm the Antigua - Guatemala Declaration of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean States 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.

Mister President,

With regard to the implementation of the programme of action, at national level, in the legislative scope, Ecuador adopted the "Law for the manufacturing, importation, exportation, commerce and use of weapons, ammunitions, explosives and accessories" and its referent Rules; likewise, the "Surveillance and Private Security Law" and the "Amendment Law to the Criminal Code and to the Law for the manufacturing, importation, exportation, commerce and use of weapons, ammunitions, explosives and accessories" are in force.

Equally, we accept Decision 552 of the Andean Community of Nations and the Inter-American Convention against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related materials (CIFTA), of which we are signatories.

The PoA has been an incentive to Ecuador to make the necessary efforts to prevent and resist the illicit trafficking in firearms, avoiding that the weapons would be in hands of criminals, gangs or people mentally unstable to use them or state entities.

Mister President,

Regarding the accomplishment of the Weapon Control Law and its Regulation, Ecuador has promoted an amendment to the regulation, with the intention of implementing it in a better way, searching better results, especially in the concerning to the registration and marking of firearms and tracking the final user.

One of our biggest problems is the existence of informal arms manufacturing workshops, for that reason we have held several work meetings with the manufactures, in order to make the marking of arms a compulsory requirement to their production, and therefore improve their registration and control. The fact that 80% of the firearms that are confiscated are of national production allows to notice the importance of this matter.

The punishments for those who use weapon illegally were strengthened. On March 17<sup>th</sup> 2006, the Amendment Law to the Criminal Code and to the Law for the manufacturing, importation, exportation, commerce and use of weapons, ammunitions, explosives and accessories was published in the Official Register No. 231, it includes important modifications: the punishment for the transgressors was established as imprisonment from three to six years and penalties from one thousand to five thousand US dollars. Other cases, more serious, will be punished with imprisonment from four to eight years, these punishments do not entitled option to bail.

The abovementioned Law determines a 120 days term within which people must register their arms in the Joint Forces Command. In this sense, we are implementing an informative campaign as preventive measure, since from July 18, when the registration term ends, the operatives for illicit weapons control will be intensified.

Mister President,

The efforts made have generated positive results, 10243 illicit weapons have been confiscated and destroyed since 2003, and there are another 2800 firearms ready to follow the destruction process.

In the other hand, we are organizing seminars on small arms and light weapons control, what allows to promote the inter-institutional effort, as well as the civil participation, to motivate the actors of the society to joint efforts for this purposes.

Our country is implementing the National System of Arms Control (SICOAR) developed by military engineers of the Ecuadorian Army Forces, product that, in private business market is valuated in 750.000,00 USD; thought this system it is possible to monitor the arms, ammunitions and explosives as well as the people that use them. Likewise, it is possible to provide with support in the legal process carried out by the Office of the Prosecutor General within the cases by illicit use of firearms.

Every effort is positive, however, it seems that we are walking slowly in front of the increasing armed violence, the international organized crime, armed students, domestic violence, express kidnappings, etc., all of them with a common factor that generates violence and intimidation: a small arm and light weapon.

Facing this reality, Ecuador has strengthen its National System to Control Arms, Ammunitions and Explosives, activity that will be complemented with the actuation of the Forces of Joint Duty, in order that they will carry out the control in their jurisdictions and therefore the whole country territory will be covered.

Mister President,

Within the preventive aspect, there are several actions to be considered and in this sense our statement is that we should fortify the human values. In this context, in particular, we propose that toy weapons would not be commercialized, avoiding then that our children, grandchildren, younger brothers and sisters and nephews get use to employ weapons.

Ecuador is conscious that the effort to control this crime should be a joint dutty, and therefore we state the necessity to canalize the international cooperation materialized as information exchange, training and management of national, bi-national and regional projects, that consider the illicit firearms as common threat.

In the same sense, the Republic of Ecuador totally agree in fortifying the control on the transference of weapons to avoid that the arms will be in the hands of the illicit actors, for what a coordinated work of importers and manufacturers is required in order to have a better register of the legally commercialized weapons.

Finally, Mr. President, the Republic of Ecuador avails this opportunity to emphasize that the responsibility of the weapons control is a commitment of the international community and, in this sense, we are convinced of the necessity of carry out periodical reviews in the implementation of the programme of action.

Thank you.