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20<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Excellency,

I am pleased to invite you to the next informal open consultations in preparation for the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) to Consider 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 that will take place in New York, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016. These consultations will be held on **26<sup>th</sup> April from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber.**

The main objective is to pursue an exchange of views on the first draft of the Outcome Document of BMS6.

As you will recall, our previous informal consultations enabled us to produce a “Zero Draft” for an Outcome Document based on the views expressed by Member States, including through working papers that were submitted on issues relevant to the BMS6.

The attached “Draft 1” of the Outcome Document is still a preliminary, non-exhaustive draft reflecting the inputs received from many delegations, based on the four agreed provisional agenda items of BMS6. We will continue our discussions on the basis of ‘nothing is agreed until everything is agreed’.

Bearing in mind the wish expressed by many delegations for the Outcome Document to be concise and yet comprehensive, the present draft attempts to capture the action-oriented points that have been offered by many delegations.

In line with previous practice, I have not yet elaborated the “Way Forward” sections of each substantive agenda item, nor identified items for possible inclusion in the “Other Issues” section (Chapter IV).

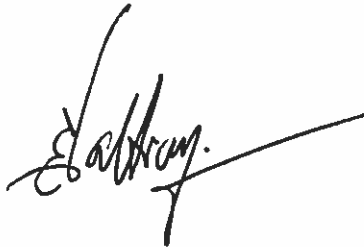
I look forward to a productive and constructive exchange of views on this “Draft 1” at next week’s consultations.

As we are pressed for time, our preparations should now shift from discussions on the desirable, to discussions on the feasible. It would be highly useful, therefore, for delegations to focus their attention on those topics where tangible progress can be made.

I also encourage all delegations to further develop their thinking on how BMS6 can lay the groundwork for the 2018 Review Conference of the Programme of Action, which will be at the forefront of our agenda as soon as BMS6 is behind us. This includes process-related topics such as policy implications of new weapon technologies, improving the matching of needs with available resources, the utility of national reports, and synergies with other instruments. We will need concrete proposals to make meaningful progress.

Finally, I would like to thank delegations that have submitted their national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourage those who have not yet done so to submit their reports to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Rattray', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

E. Courtenay Rattray  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
of Jamaica to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the  
United Nations  
New York

**i. Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level – including through regional and sub-regional arrangements and organizations – and at the global level, and in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- Building on the agreed outcome documents of RevCon2 and BMS5, as well as the MGE2 discussions, including the Chair's Summary.
- Preparing the ground for a substantive, forward-looking Third Review Conference (2018)
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**National Implementation**

**Key challenges**

- National laws, regulations and administrative procedures; interagency coordination; national action plans
  - Where relevant, synergies with the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol, with UN Register of Conventional Arms, and with implementation of SC Res. 1540
- Stockpile management and security / sustainable life-cycle management, including risk of diversion (theft, loss), accidental explosions, etc. (BMS5 para 11)
- Marking, record-keeping and tracing
  - Integrated approach, where relevant, with Firearms Protocol requirements
  - Complementary role of ballistics investigations (BMS5 para 26)
- Growing importance of on-line illicit trade in SALW
- Utilisation of good practices and lessons learnt; voluntary use of standardized implementation guidelines
- National coordination with related issues and processes (SSR, DDR, building institutions, rule of law, border controls, organized crime, counter-terrorism, SC Resolutions 2117, 2220 and 1325, urban crime, regional commitments etc)
- Limited national capacity
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**Reporting**

- Utility of national reports:
  - Providing a baseline for progress in national PoA and ITI implementation
  - Transparency and confidence-building

- Providing a basis for bilateral / sub-regional / regional information exchange and action
- Identifying needs and opportunities for assistance and cooperation
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- National reporting on ITI as a contribution to SDG Indicator 16.4.2
- Match needs with available resources
- Develop a mechanism for the analysis of national reports in preparation for RevCon3
- Consideration of an assessment of PoA implementation by means of a global survey to be presented at RevCon3
- Streamline PoA and ITI reporting requirements to ensure synergies with other instruments
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## **Regional implementation**

### **Role of regional and sub-regional organizations/arrangements**

- Establish or strengthen sub-regional or regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms in order to support PoA and ITI implementation
- Draw, as appropriate, on regional efforts to develop best practices and standards for small arms control
- Reiterate the encouragement to regional organizations to align the timing of regional meetings with the global cycle of meetings, so as to ensure a maximum of synergies (RevCon2, III. Para 7)
- Cooperation / information sharing between regional organizations
- Strengthen the role of UN Regional Centres
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## **Global implementation**

### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- Welcome the adoption of Target 16.4 for Sustainable Development Goal 16, which calls for the significant reduction of illicit arms flows by 2030
- Underline the importance of the full and effective implementation of the PoA and ITI for this purpose
- Welcome the adoption, by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, of Indicator 16.4.2, regarding the “[p]roportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments”, such as the ITI
- Explore how the UN and governments through their national reports under the ITI can support data collection for this indicator
- Support the development of further indicators, based on the PoA and ITI, to complement Indicator 16.4.2, similar to developments in other existing UN processes<sup>1</sup>
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<sup>1</sup> E.g. biodiversity, climate change, desertification, sustainable consumption & production, UN Energy, UN Water

### **Strengthening the PoA process**

- Identify areas for improved measurability of implementation (BMS5 III. para 37)
- Improve the matching of needs with available resources (see e.g. BMS5 III. para 38(f))
- Enhance international cooperation, including information exchange, for purposes of combating transnational terrorism
- Strengthen the contribution of civil society, including industry, to PoA and ITI implementation
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### **Role of World Customs Organization, INTERPOL**

- Enhance cooperation with WCO and INTERPOL, as well as other relevant organizations, to identify and act against groups and individuals involved in the illicit SALW trade, including the supply of SALW to terrorists
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### **Conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building, including peacekeeping missions**

- Promote an increased role for peacekeeping operations in the area of SALW control, including arms embargo monitoring, through appropriate mandates and capacities
- Take account of SALW in post-conflict reconstruction programmes, including peace-building, DDR and SSR programmes
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### **Gender**

- Take into account, in SALW policy and programming, the differing impacts of SALW on women, men, girls and boys
- Ensure effective gender mainstreaming
  - Protection of civilians
  - Promote women's participation and representation in PoA-related policy-making, planning and implementation processes, including community safety and conflict resolution
  - Include women's groups in national commissions on SALW
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- Foster creation of alternative livelihoods for young men
- Promote and support data collection on gender and SALW
- Increase funding for gender-sensitive SALW control
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### **Culture of peace**

- Reaffirm the importance of promoting dialogue and a culture of peace through education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, involving all sectors of society
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## **Way Forward**

### **II. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument**

#### **Policy implications for the ITI in the light of recent developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design**

- Policy implications for marking as a result of the use of new materials in small arms manufacture
- Policy implications for marking, record-keeping and tracing as a result of the development of modular weapons
- Policy implications of 3D-printed small arms, including the problem of illicit craft production, for the implementation of the PoA and ITI
- Policy implications of new technologies for the tracing of SALW ammunition
- Policy implications of new technologies for enhanced SALW control
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#### **Conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding, including peacekeeping missions**

- Strengthen the tracing of SALW in conflict and post-conflict situations, including capacity-building
- Embed conflict tracing into broader conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding policies and programmes
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#### **Diversion**

- Enhance the exchange of tracing results at the national, regional and global levels in order to prevent SALW diversion
- Enhance cooperation with INTERPOL in identifying and tracing diverted small arms and light weapons
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#### **Information sharing and exchange**

- Share and analyse information relating to illicit SALW trafficking at the national, regional and global levels
- Increase exchange and use of information on illicit small arms trade and diversion, also by means of web-based databases such as those of INTERPOL (iArms<sup>2</sup> and IBIN<sup>3</sup> databases) and Conflict Armament Research (iTrace)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Firearms/INTERPOL-Illicit-Arms-Records-and-tracing-Management-System-iARMS](http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Firearms/INTERPOL-Illicit-Arms-Records-and-tracing-Management-System-iARMS)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Firearms/INTERPOL-Ballistic-Information-Network-IBIN>

- Develop or establish regulatory frameworks for the marking, record-keeping and tracing of transferred SALW, including the enhanced exchange of information on such transfers
- Linking SALW tracing to the strengthening of SALW control measures
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### **Way Forward**

### **III. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building:**

#### **a) Ways to strengthen the implementation of the PoA and ITI through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology**

- **Capacity-building, including training**
  - Build capacity for sustainable life-cycle management of SALW stockpiles (normative frameworks, structures and procedures, training, personnel management, financing and infrastructure)
  - Build capacity for enhanced cross-border information exchange and cooperation for the purpose of combating the illicit SALW trade across borders
  - Build capacity for SALW identification, tracing and control in conflict zones
- **Transfer of technology and equipment**
  - Build capacity for sustainable life-cycle management of SALW stockpiles (equipment and maintenance)
  - Ensure the suitability of technology and equipment before its transfer

#### **b) Ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the PoA and the ITI, including financial and technical assistance**

- **Enhance the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance, including coordination of assistance and cooperation**
  - National reports to identify assistance needs and match them with available resources
  - Improve coordination among donors and between donors and recipients
  - Involve national authorities in the project planning and implementation cycle; tailoring assistance to local structures and procedures; ensuring project sustainability

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<sup>4</sup> [www.conflictarm.com/itrace/](http://www.conflictarm.com/itrace/)

- Consider the effectiveness of and potential improvements to assistance frameworks, including measurability, evaluation, and coordination
  - Encourage cross-sectoral approaches to PoA/ITI assistance and cooperation
  - Encourage the sharing of information on assistance projects (lessons learnt and best practices)
  - Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures as a forum for matching needs and resources (A/RES/69/60)
  - Opportunity to embed SALW control projects in SDG-related frameworks
- **Technical and financial assistance, including trust fund modalities**
    - Acknowledge the need for financial and technical assistance, also in light of the SDG commitments
    - Consider adequacy of existing structures
      - The UN Trust Facility Supporting Conventional Arms Regulation (UNSCAR)
      - UN Regional Centre region-specific trust funds
      - Management of funds by other parts of the UN system that contribute to PoA implementation, including UNDP, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNODC, UN WOMEN

### ***Way Forward***

## **IV. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument**