13th May 2016

Excellency,

I write further to our productive discussions on “Draft 1” of the prospective outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6), which are reflected in the accompanying “Draft 2” attached to this letter.

Mindful that the draft is still a work in progress, I would like to stress that it is important that we reach broad consensus on the structure and various elements of the document prior to the commencement of BMS6. This will ensure that all Member States feel a sense of ownership throughout this important preparatory process, which will smooth the way for a more constructive negotiation phase during the meeting. Furthermore, I encourage you to focus on textual discussions during our next round of discussions and formulate concrete proposals aimed at improving “Draft 2” and making it more operational.

I would like to thank Member States that have submitted working papers, written contributions and edits, which have enabled me to develop “Draft 2”, and suggest they stand ready to explain their contributions and proposed re-formulated language to colleagues from other delegations. I also encourage States to actively participate and share their views during the consultations and in writing with me, so that I can take into consideration all relevant views.

I look forward to receiving your feedback on “Draft 2” during the next informal consultations on Wednesday, 18th May 2016 at 3:00 pm in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Finally, I would like to thank States that have submitted their national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourage those that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible. The online reporting tool can be accessed through the BMS6 web portal (see www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/salw/bms6).
Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

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; taking into account, as well, the MGE2 discussions, including the Chair’s Summary.
- Preparing the ground for a substantive, forward-looking Third Review Conference (2018).

National Implementation

- Noting the importance of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures; interagency coordination; and national action plans.
- Noting the increase of the on-line trade in illicit small arms and light weapons, including their parts and components.
- Underlining the growing importance of brokering activities in the international transfer of small arms and light weapons, and noting the need to establish cost-effective control measures to prevent illicit brokering.
- Emphasizing the importance of end-user certificates to small arms and light weapons export licensing procedures.
- Highlighting the need to reinforce cross-border cooperation, at both the national and regional levels, given the responsibility that States share in addressing the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects in accordance with the PoA and ITI.
  - To ensure that destroyed and deactivated small arms and light weapons are rendered permanently inoperable such that illicit reactivation is physically impossible.
  - To encourage the utilization of good practices and lessons learnt, including the voluntary use of standardized implementation guidelines.
  - To coordinate national-level implementation of the PoA with related issues and processes, including DDR, border controls, organized crime, terrorism, urban crime, regional commitments, relevant Security Council resolutions and related capacity-building initiatives.
  - To strengthen border controls by establishing and enforcing laws, regulations and administrative procedures that effectively combat the illicit small arms and light weapons trade across borders.

Stockpile Management and Security

- Noting the importance of adequate stockpile management, including sustainable life-cycle management, for minimizing the risk of diversion to illicit markets (through theft, loss and unauthorized re-export), illegal armed groups, terrorists and unauthorized recipients; for preventing accidental explosions; and for improving the control, storage and registration of ammunition.
- Noting that inadequate management and security of small arms and light weapons (and ammunition) stockpiles remains a concern as poorly controlled small arms and light weapons pose significant security threats, due to the risk of their diversion to illicit markets, while inadequate storage continues to pose significant safety risks.
- To implement best practices in physical stockpile management and security in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- To continually assess national stockpiles for surpluses and to responsibly dispose, preferably through destruction, of small arms and light weapons that do not constitute an operational need.

Reporting
- Noting that national reports on the implementation of the PoA and ITI could serve, inter alia, to provide a baseline for measuring progress in national PoA and ITI implementation; build confidence and promote transparency; provide a basis for information exchange and action at all levels; and serve to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources.

- To streamline PoA/ITI reporting requirements with other instruments, including regional ones, and thus minimize administrative reporting burdens.
- To encourage States, in reporting on their implementation of the ITI, to highlight aspects of national implementation that relate to SDG indicator 16.4.2.
- To establish a mechanism for the analysis of national PoA and ITI reports that would, inter alia, identify implementation challenges and opportunities, help strengthen future implementation efforts and guide the work of actors that assist with such implementation, including the UN regional centres for peace and disarmament.

Regional implementation

Role of regional and sub-regional organizations/arrangements
- To establish or strengthen sub-regional, regional and cross-regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, including the sharing of best practices, in order to support PoA and ITI implementation.
- To draw, as appropriate, on regional efforts to develop and share best practices and standards for small arms control.
- To encourage regional organizations to align the timing of regional meetings with the global cycle of meetings, so as to ensure, as appropriate, a maximum of synergies between actions taken at the national, regional and global levels, (RevCon2, III. Para 7) such as improved efficiency and the enhanced sharing of information and good practices.
- To encourage cooperation, coordination and information sharing between regional and sub-regional organizations, specifically with a view to avoiding the duplication of efforts in implementing the PoA and ITI.
- To encourage regional and sub-regional organizations to identify areas of comparative advantages in tackling the illicit small arms trade.
- To strengthen the role of UN regional centres for peace and disarmament in supporting PoA and ITI implementation.
- To consider, as appropriate, channelling assistance through regional programmes or develop assistance proposals in coordination with relevant regional and sub-regional organizations.
- To encourage meetings of national points of contacts in order to strengthen coordination and the exchange of information and best practices between States, in particular at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Global implementation

Strengthening the PoA process
- Highlighting the utility of exchanging information on standards and practices used by States to combat small arms trafficking.
- To enhance, as appropriate, synergies between the PoA and relevant sub-regional, regional and global instruments in which they participate, including those that are legally binding.
- To identify opportunities for strengthened measurement of progress in the implementation of the PoA and ITI.
- To strengthen the contribution of civil society, and of industry, to the implementation of the PoA and ITI.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Welcoming the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16 and Targets 16.1 and 16.4.
- Noting that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons also has implications for the realization of other Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality, and safe cities.
- Underlining the importance of the full and effective implementation of the PoA and ITI for purposes of implementing Targets 16.1 and 16.4.
- Welcoming the agreement, by the United Nations Statistical Commission, on the SDG indicators, in particular 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.
- Highlighting the utility of target 16.4 in establishing baselines and measuring progress in national-level implementation of the PoA and ITI, including progress made in the implementation of national action plans.

- To explore how governments, through their national reports under the ITI, with the assistance of the UN, can support data collection for indicator 16.4.2.
- To support the development of further indicators, based on the PoA and ITI, to complement Indicator 16.4.2, drawing, as appropriate, on the experiences of other UN processes.1
- In implementing the PoA and ITI in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to encourage the establishment and strengthening of cooperation and partnerships at all levels among governments, international and intergovernmental organizations, and civil society.

Role of World Customs Organization, INTERPOL
- To enhance cooperation with WCO and INTERPOL, as well as other relevant organizations, to identify and act against groups and individuals involved in the illicit small arms and light weapons trade, including illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients.

Conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building, including peacekeeping missions
- Highlighting the UN's role in peace-building and conflict prevention.

- To encourage peacekeeping operations, in line with their mandates and capacities, to play an enhanced role in the area of small arms and light weapons, including arms embargo monitoring.
- To take account, in post-conflict reconstruction programmes, of the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including through peace-building, DDR and SSR.
- To take account, in post-conflict settings, of the needs of affected States for assistance in implementing the PoA and ITI.

Gender
- To take account, in small arms and light weapons policy and programming, of the differing impacts of small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

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1 E.g. biodiversity, climate change, desertification, sustainable consumption & production, UN Energy, UN Water
To ensure effective gender mainstreaming in small arms and light weapons policies and programmes relating to the protection of civilians.

To promote the meaningful participation and representation of women in PoA-related policy-making, planning and implementation processes, including their participation in national small arms commissions and in programmes relating to community safety and conflict resolution, taking into account General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and subsequent resolutions on that question, as well as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and follow-up resolutions.

To foster the creation of alternative livelihoods for young men.

To promote and support the collection of disaggregated data on gender and small arms and light weapons.

To increase funding for gender-sensitive small arms and light weapons control.

**Culture of peace**

- To 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 small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, involving all sectors of society.

**Terrorism**

- Noting that the full and effective implementation of the PoA and ITI helps to prevent the acquisition of small arms and light weapons by terrorists, thus reducing the potential impact of their attacks.

- To take account, in implementing the PoA and ITI, synergies with other UN counter-terrorism initiatives.

- To enhance international cooperation, including information exchange, for purposes of combating transnational terrorism.

**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

**National Implementation**

- Recognizing the importance of developing or establishing strict regulatory frameworks for the marking, record keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons, including for purposes of enhancing control over legal transfers and exchanging information on such transfers.

- Recognizing the importance of marking and record-keeping for the management and security of small arms stockpiles, including inventory management and accounting control.

- Integrating, where relevant, the requirements of the Firearms Protocol in the implementation of the ITI.

- Highlighting the complementary role that the exchange of ballistics information and the use of ballistics databases, including the provision of technical and financial assistance for the purpose of strengthening national capacities, could play in relation to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in the context of criminal investigations.

- To mark, record and trace small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, including those relating to marking at the time of manufacturing and import.
- Encourage those States and international and regional organizations in a position to do so to provide technical assistance for the development of record-keeping systems that support implementation of the ITI.

**Policy implications for the ITI in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons 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 small arms and light weapons ammunition.
- Policy implications of new technologies for enhanced small arms and light weapons control.

- To enhance dialogue with industry, especially regarding the effective marking of small arms and light weapons in light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.
- To increase assistance to developing countries in order to bridge the technological gap between States.
- To consider the implications for the ITI of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design as an input to the PoA’s Third Review Conference in 2018.

**Conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding, including peacekeeping missions**

- Noting that the tracing of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations can complement broader conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding policies and programmes.
- Highlighting the utility of conflict tracing in strengthening control over the international transfer and brokering of small arms and light weapons, including by helping to prevent the diversion of transferred weapons.

- As necessary, upon request, to assist States and relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional organizations, to build capacity for the tracing of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- In accordance with the provisions of the ITI, to strengthen the tracing of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations for purposes, inter alia, of identifying and containing the flow of weapons into such zones, providing early warning of destabilizing weapons flows and preventing conflict, including through the use of tools such as INTERPOL’s IARMS system and the iTrace database developed by Conflict Armament Research.

**Information sharing and cooperation**

- Noting that the tracing of small arms and light weapons can serve to strengthen small arms and light weapons control measures.
- Noting that Security Council Resolutions 2117 (2013) and 2220 (2015) urge Member States, relevant United Nations entities, intergovernmental, regional and sub-regional organizations, in a position to do so and where appropriate, to cooperate and share information relevant to the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation or misuse of small arms and light weapons with potentially affected States and with relevant United Nations entities, including experts groups assisting sanctions committees and peacekeeping operations.

- To enhance the exchange of tracing results at the national, regional and global levels in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets.
- To make full use of information on illicit trade routes and diversion methods, revealed by tracing, in order to strengthen PoA implementation.
- To enhance cooperation with INTERPOL in identifying and tracing diverted small arms and light weapons.
- In accordance with the provisions of the ITI, to share and analyse information relating to illicit small arms and light weapons trafficking in order to identify trafficking trends and patterns.
- To strengthen the exchange and use of information on the illicit small arms trade and diversion, including through the use of web-based databases, such as those of INTERPOL (IArms² and IBIN³ databases) and Conflict Armament Research (ITrace).⁴

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
- Underlining the importance of sustainable outcomes and impacts when designing and implementing cooperation and assistance programmes and, for this purpose, ensuring these programmes have national ownership, and providing for the training of managers and leaders and the establishment of personnel career structures that retain, sustain and strengthen knowledge and skills.
- Noting the importance of staff training, adequate infrastructure and equipment, maintenance, inventory management and record keeping to the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

- To explore options for building sustainable capacity for the life-cycle management of small arms and light weapons stockpiles (normative frameworks, structures and procedures, training, personnel management, financing and infrastructure).
- When designing small arms assistance programmes, to take into account other related programmes with a view to avoiding duplication, maximizing synergies and enhancing the effectiveness of assistance programmes.
- To build capacity for enhanced cross-border information exchange and cooperation for the purpose of combating the illicit small arms and light weapons trade across borders.
- To build capacity for small arms and light weapons identification, tracing and control in conflict zones.
- To identify synergies between assistance aimed at supporting small arms tracing and that aimed at strengthening the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.
- To increase national capacity to take into account diversion risks when assessing applications for small arms and light weapons export authorizations, and put in place adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure effective control over the export and transit of small arms and light weapons, including the use of authenticated end-use certificates and effective legal and enforcement measures.
- To build capacity to report on small arms and light weapons that have been seized and which have been recorded and traced.

Transfer of technology and equipment

³ http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Firearms/INTERPOL-Ballistic-Information-Network-IBIN
⁴ www.conflictaid.com/itrace
• Stressing the importance of the transfer of technology and equipment and the accompanying need for measures, such as capacity building, to maintain transferred equipment.

- To build capacity for sustainable life-cycle management of small arms and light weapons stockpiles (equipment and maintenance).
- To ensure the suitability and sustainability of technology and equipment before its transfer.
- To urge States in a position to do so to provide developing countries, upon request, with critical equipment and related training and maintenance, essential to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

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**

• Emphasizing that international cooperation and assistance remain essential to the full and effective implementation of the PoA and ITI.

• Noting that national reports can be used to identify assistance needs and match them with available resources.

• Emphasizing that assistance programmes should aim at building sustainable capacity in the recipient country by, inter alia, identifying potential barriers to sustainability at the design phase, along with opportunities for complementary programming that can mitigate these barriers.

• Noting that the Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures can serve as a forum for matching needs and resources (A/RES/69/60).

• Noting the opportunity for synergies between small arms and light weapons control projects and SDG-related projects.

• Noting the need to regularly update national action plans in order to reflect, inter alia, progress made in PoA and ITI implementation and new needs, as well as new potential synergies with new or existing programmes, for purposes of enhancing the sustainability and effectiveness of cooperation and assistance.

- To improve coordination among donors and between donors and recipients, as well as within countries
- To ensure national ownership of international assistance projects by, inter alia, involving national authorities in the project planning and implementation cycle and tailoring assistance to local structures and procedures.
- To ensure the sustainability of international assistance projects through, inter alia, the allocation by the recipient country of financial, administrative and other resources to the project.
- To identify, prioritize and communicate assistance needs; to develop specific project proposals to that end
- To enhance the effectiveness of assistance frameworks by, inter alia, strengthening measurability, evaluation, and coordination.
- To encourage cross-sectoral approaches to PoA/ITI assistance and cooperation.
- To encourage the sharing of information on assistance projects, including lessons learnt and best practices.

**Technical and financial assistance, including trust fund modalities**

- To acknowledge the need for financial and technical assistance in support of PoA and ITI implementation, also in light of related SDG commitments.
- To consider the adequacy of existing structures:
  - The UN Trust Facility Supporting Conventional Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).
  - Region-specific trust funds of UN regional centres on peace and disarmament.
- Management of funds by other parts of the UN system that contribute to PoA implementation, including UNDP, OCHA, UNHCR, 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