Full and Effective Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Enhancing International Cooperation and Assistance

Working Paper submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement:

1. Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) are deeply concerned over the illicit trade, transfer, and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world with its wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences as well as the close link between terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in drugs and precious minerals and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

2. The Movement stresses in this regard, the urgent need to intensify efforts to promote international cooperation and assistance aimed at combating this illicit trade.

3. In this context, NAM reaffirms the total validity and vital importance and the need for full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA), as the main international framework to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW.

4. NAM reaffirms the need for all States to respect international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, the peaceful resolution of international disputes, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the inherent right of any State to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. NAM emphasizes that States bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and, accordingly, should intensify their efforts to identify the problems associated with such illicit trade and find ways of resolving them. In this context, the Movement stresses in particular the urgency and importance of international efforts and cooperation aimed at combating this illicit trade simultaneously from both a supply and demand perspective.

6. The Movement recognizes the need for all States to take all necessary measures, including to establish and maintain, where they do not exist, national controls over small arms and light weapons in order to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

7. NAM also underlines the need for the full and effective implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, the purpose of which, inter alia, is to promote and facilitate
international cooperation and assistance in marking and tracing and to enhance the effectiveness of, and complement, existing bilateral, regional and international agreements to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

8. The Movement reaffirms the vital importance of the Programme of Action as a robust international document which is essential in mobilizing the political will at the international level to address the multi-faceted challenges of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Against this background, the Movement stresses that international assistance and cooperation is essential for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and encourages all initiatives by States to mobilize resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the PoA. Accordingly, NAM underlines the importance of rendering actual and continued unconditional and non-discriminatory assistance to developing countries, upon their request, to promote their capacity to fully and effectively implement the provisions of the Programme of Action.

9. The Movement is of the view that the availability of international assistance to support the implementation of the Programme of Action is still not sufficient and does not commensurate with the needs of the affected countries, taking into account the growing magnitude of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and the danger it continues to pose. The adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of such international assistance should be ensured.

10. The Movement underlines the importance of international cooperation and adequate assistance to developing countries, including financial and technical assistance, upon their request, by States in a position to do so, and regional and international organizations, including INTERPOL and the World Customs Organizations. Such assistance should not be made conditional on being part of, or detracting from, the recipient States’ Official Development Assistance.

11. Underline the importance of finalizing a comprehensive study on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology and equipment to developing countries since 2001, for the full implementation of the PoA, as decided by the Review Conference.

12. The Non-Aligned Movement would like to propose the following recommendations for consideration and incorporation in the outcome document of this Sixth Biennial Meeting of States:

   a. Recommends to the General Assembly to mandate the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to establish a Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and
Light Weapons for developing countries, to train relevant officials nominated by their respective governments in areas related to the implementation of the PoA;

b. Developed countries as well as international and regional organizations should render cooperation and assistance, particularly technical and financial assistance, upon request of the developing countries, without conditionalities, in the areas relating to the implementation of the PoA;

c. Major arms exporting countries and States in a position to do so are urged to facilitate sustainable transfer to developing countries, upon request, of related technology and equipment, on a preferential and concessional basis, as well as to increase related training and capacity building, for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

d. Developed countries should increase the channeling to developing countries, upon request, of critical equipment, such as mobile X-ray gates, body scanners and advanced radar systems for border control;

e. Calls for the establishment of a United Nations trust fund, serving as a pool for all voluntary contributions, for the mobilization of reliable assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of the PoA and the ITI, in accordance with the principles and priorities set out in the outcomes of the PoA Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States;

f. Calls on all States and international organizations, in a position to do so, to provide developing countries with the requisite training and capacity building to improve, (Cuba) inter-alia, marking, tracing, record-keeping and destruction of small arms and light weapons and the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

g. The UN, in its activities in support of the implementation of the PoA, should rely further on the expertise available in developing countries.

h. To collaborate with relevant research and training institutions from developing countries on activities regarding SALW and to establish a comprehensive database of experts, researchers and training and research institutions with expertise on SALW, including those provided by developing countries; and to establish and periodically update a web portal containing studies, reports, books, periodicals and other electronic resources related to the PoA and ITI;
i. Invites the Third Review Conference (Cuba) to consider issues related to transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity building, in particular, training within the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

j. Reaffirms its call on all States, in particular major arms producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments;

k. Reiterates that all activities in support of the implementation of the United Nations PoA, including in research and training, should strictly conform to the agreed outcomes of the PoA Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States, and that voluntary funding should not alter the implementation of these agreed priorities. In addition, activities in the field of international cooperation and assistance in support of the implementation of the PoA should take into account the national priorities of recipient States.