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**REMARKS OF THE  
BMS6 CHAIR AT HE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE  
FIRST COMMITTEE**

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Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to brief the First Committee in my capacity as Chair of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States 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.

The Sixth Biennial Meeting, or 'BMS6', which took place in June this year, had a mandate to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument. It provided an important opportunity to strengthen the global framework on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the lead-up to the third Review Conference, which will take place here in New York in 2018.

In the run up to BMS6, I held eight informal consultations, one of which was in Geneva. During these consultations we developed an agreed agenda, and worked on early versions of a possible draft outcome for BMS6. This early work ensured that a more mature draft outcome document was able to be presented on the first day of BMS6, which informed and advanced our deliberations during the meeting. Our informals also contributed to a successful final result of the meeting, which is reflected by the fact that its outcome document was adopted by consensus.

Mr. Chair,

Whereas the outcome document encompasses a wide range of dimensions relevant to the implementation of the PoA and its ITI, I would like to highlight seven of the most significant outputs of BMS6:

- Firstly, BMS6 acknowledged the link between the PoA and its ITI, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; in particular SDG 16 and its related target 16.4. In addition, States noted that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons also has implications for the realization of several other Goals.

In this context, the outcome document encourages States to take advantage of their reporting on implementation under the PoA and its ITI, when reporting on other instruments. This includes progress made in implementing relevant SDG goals and targets. As such, national reports submitted under the PoA and its ITI can now serve as a source for reporting progress on the SDGs.

In this context, the BMS6 outcome document also encourages all States and the UN centers for disarmament to provide assistance to build sustainable capacity to report on small arms and light weapons issues.

With its adoption in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda formally linked security to development and at BMS6 Member States acknowledged this new important alignment.

- Secondly, BMS6 considered recommendations from the second Meeting of Governmental Experts held in 2015, where States agreed that recent developments in small arms and light weapons technologies have the potential to both positively and negatively impact the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

States noted that there was a technological divide between countries, and that new developments in small arms and light weapons technology affect States differently.

There was general agreement on the need to ensure that the international community remains well-prepared to address emerging challenges related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

As such, the BMS6 outcome document stresses the need to consider the implications of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design for the PoA and its ITI and its respective implications on adequate assistance. To this end, BMS6 recommended that those themes are to be included for consideration at the third Review Conference in 2018.

- Thirdly, BMS6 emphasized the role of sub-regional and regional organizations and organized an informal panel to hear views from regional organizations on their work in the regions. Areas of

particular interest included: regional focal points; synergies with other instruments; the provision of assistance related to the development of national action plans; and the alignment of regional meetings with the global cycle. In addition, the meeting solicited their ideas on issues relevant for consideration at the Third Review Conference. BMS6 also urged States to enhance their financial contributions to the UN's regional centers.

- Fourthly, States agreed at BMS6 on stronger gender-related paragraphs. This included a call to take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys; the promotion of meaningful participation of women in related policy-making, planning and implementation; the encouragement of sex-disaggregated data collection; and serious consideration of increasing funding of gender-sensitive programs.
- Fifthly, States emphasized once again the important role of international cooperation and of continued and sustainable assistance for the full and effective implementation of the PoA and ITI. Consequently, the outcome document urges States in a position to do so to provide capacity building, as well as equipment and financial and technical assistance.
- Sixthly, States considered new dimensions which are impacting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The BMS6 outcome document includes provisions on the illegal reactivation of

deactivated weapons, as well as challenges posed by the illicit online trade of small arms and light weapons.

- The seventh and final point I wish to highlight concerns the divergence that prevailed between Member States over the inclusion of a direct reference to ammunition, or to the Arms Trade Treaty in the outcome document. There is no question that negotiations were, at times, hard fought. Nevertheless, we were able to achieve consensus language, which was and included in the outcome document:
  - In regards to ammunition, paragraph 9 acknowledges that some States apply relevant provisions of the PoA to material additional to that mentioned in the ITI definition of small arms and light weapons, while recognizing that other States are of the view that such material is outside the scope of the PoA;
  - On the ATT, paragraph 36 encourages States to take into account complementarities with other instruments, including those that are legally binding.

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I have attempted to capture the main outcomes of BMS6 as I see them.

It is crucial that the provisions we have negotiated and agreed this year are considered and implemented. If we wish to make tangible progress in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons we, as States, must take the necessary steps in this direction. The BMS6 outcome document provides us with a blueprint for moving forward.

On the international level, it is now up to Member States to use the outcome of BMS6 to feed into the Third Review Conference. If States want this Review Conference to be progressive and meaningful, preparations must start now.

Before I conclude my briefing today, let me add a final point. I wish to highlight the positive contributions made by civil society during BMS6. Bringing ideas and on-the-ground experiences to the PoA process is vital for its success. It serves as a reminder to us all, of the humanitarian and developmental impacts that are caused by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

The UN Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument together remain an important global framework at our disposal to tackle the complex issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Let us continue to put our utmost effort into taking concrete steps towards their implementation.

I thank you.