

**Statement by Mr. Tracy A. Hall,  
Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Delegation of the United States of America  
71st United Nations General Assembly First Committee**

**Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons**

**October 20, 2016**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin with the United Nations (UN) Register of Conventional Arms (UNRoCA). This year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the UNRoCA, and it is worth reflecting for a moment on what it has accomplished. By any measure, the Register has been a resounding success, establishing a global norm of transparency and accountability in military matters and reinforcing civilian control of the military. To date, some 170 countries have reported to the UNRoCA, and it is estimated that its reporting captures more than 90% of the international trade in conventional arms. Groups of Governmental Experts (GGEs) are convened every three years to discuss the Register's relevance and its continuing operation. The 2016 GGE made significant progress, making the first substantive changes to the Register since 2003. It changed the definition of combat aircraft to include armed unmanned combat aerial vehicles explicitly. More importantly, it concluded 16 years of discussion in the GGEs on small arms and light weapons (SA/LW) by agreeing on a trial basis to include reporting transfers of these weapons alongside transfers of the traditional seven categories of the UNRoCA. This means that the Register now includes the weapons that States around the world regard as being threatening and destabilizing in excessive quantities. We look forward to discussion in future GGEs about how the addition of SA/LW reinforces the UNRoCA's role as a global confidence-building measure promoting international peace and stability. The United States urges all States to support the UNRoCA by reporting.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held its Second Conference of States Parties (CSP2) from August 22-26 in Geneva, Switzerland, and it built on the success of the First CSP by agreeing to establish subsidiary bodies on implementation, transparency and reporting, and universalization. It also selected the first Head of Secretariat, Dumisani Dladla of South Africa, established the Voluntary Trust Fund to fund capacity building for and assistance with implementing the Treaty,

and selected Finnish Ambassador Klark Korhonen as the President of CSP3. My country looks forward to working with Ambassador Korhonen and with others in ensuring that the ATT meets the needs of States Parties and Signatories alike.

Mr. Chairman, the United States is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and all of its Protocols. We view the CCW as an important instrument that has been responsible for bringing together States with diverse national security concerns. In 2016, the High Contracting Parties continued important discussions on improvised explosive devices and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. We look forward to continuing these discussions at the Fifth CCW Review Conference in December.

Mr. Chairman, the United States continues to urge all Member States to implement fully the UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in SA/LW and the International Tracing Instrument. We must continue to focus on the technical implementation challenges of existing commitments if the international community is to be successful in combating the illicit SA/LW trade. We look forward to working with Member States as we prepare for the 2018 Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman, the global threat posed by Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) remains significant. Due to continued instability in the Middle East and Africa, terrorists have gained unprecedented access to shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, which pose a serious threat to civil and military aviation around the world. The United States is cooperating with partners around the globe to secure these missiles, prevent their smuggling by extremists, and protect the targets that terrorists seek to attack. The United States also established, many years ago, strict export controls over the transfer of all MANPADS. Additionally, since 2003, the United States has cooperated with countries around the globe to destroy more than 34,000 excess, loosely secured, or illicitly held at-risk MANPADS missiles, and thousands more launchers, in more than 40 countries.

And to conclude, Mr. Chairman, the United States has been the world's single largest financial supporter of humanitarian mine action and remains committed to eliminating loosely secured or otherwise at-risk conventional weapons and munitions. Since 1993, we have provided more than \$2.6 billion to more than 95 countries for conventional weapons destruction, including clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnance; the disposal of excess SA/LW and munitions; and improved security for conventional weapons storage.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.