



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA
AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DURING THE 71st SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 24 OCTOBER 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

2. Our delegation believes that initiatives undertaken to halt the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) must be conducted in a holistic manner, taking into account, arms control and disarmament, post-conflict peace-building, conflict prevention and socio-economic development.

3. As such, we would underscore the need to address the root causes of illicit transfer of SALW which includes, the supply of SALW to armed groups, whether by governments or through the black market, excessive accumulation and surplus of SALW in post-conflict situations and the growing demand by armed groups and non-state actors of possession of SALW.

4. We see in the value of capacity building, to meet the requirements and capacities of Member States, in contributing to the effective implementation of the UN PoA to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects, and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit SALW. In this connection, Malaysia welcomes France as the President-Designate of the 3rd Review Conference in 2018 and

commends Jamaica for the exemplary leadership demonstrated during BMS-6 earlier this year.

5. We welcome expanding the facilitation of technology transfer to requesting countries, on physical security and stockpile management, as well as, marking and tracing capacities. Towards this end, we call for Member States, with the expertise and experience to do so, to play a larger role in developing capacities to meet the aspirations of the UN PoA as the accepted guidelines and parameters on managing proliferation of SALW, as this would significantly boost implementation of the POA at the national level.

Mr Chairman,

6. Malaysia remains committed to the Arms Trade Treaty as an important instrument to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of conventional weapons. We believe that the ATT will facilitate strengthening of existing national policies on conventional weapons, while respecting the inalienable rights of States to possess conventional arms for national defence and security purposes

7. We recognise that the recently-held Second Conference of State Parties (CSP2) in August, in Geneva, was a step forward in continuing efforts to ensure effective control of the import and export of weapons, as well as the potential misuse of these weapons.

8. As Malaysia continues to undertake the necessary steps towards the ratification of the ATT, we underscore the need for the Treaty to be implemented in a consistent, objective and non-discriminatory manner.

9. Collectively, all of us have a part to play, in working together to close any gaps, remove any loopholes and bring implementation close to the ultimate goal – that is of an instrument with the highest possible common international standards in regulating the international trade in conventional arms.

10. Malaysia stands ready to support international endeavours aimed at averting the misuse of arms. We are committed to continue working with our fellow Member States in achieving this.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Malaysia remains supportive of the primary objective of the Convention on Prohibitions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW). We believe that the instrument is an important contribution towards ensuring protection of civilians and combatants suffering the infliction and effects of conventional weapons, in a manner that exceeds what is necessary, for the attainment of a legitimate military objective.

12. As we work towards acceding to the Convention, we continue to participate in the Meetings of the State Parties and have contributed to the work of the GGE in this regard.

With this, I thank you.