



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY
DATO' HAMZAH MD. RUS
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA

AT
THE SECOND 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

NEW YORK

TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2005

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your assumption to the Chairmanship of this important Meeting. We also congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election. My delegation is fully confident that given your diplomatic skills and vast experience, you will be able to steer this Meeting to a successful outcome. At the outset my delegation associates itself with the ASEAN statement that was delivered by Myanmar.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Malaysia remains deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. Malaysia affirms that there is a need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms and to prevent the sales of such arms to non-State actors. Malaysia calls upon all States to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons be limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorised by Governments and to implement legal restrictions on the unrestricted trade in and ownership of small arms and light weapons. These questions are directly related to the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons faced by many States.

3. The proliferation and illicit flow of small arms and light weapons pose a serious threat to national, regional and international peace and security. These problems also create serious impediments to economic and social development. They also undermine rule of law and the promotion of human rights. The damaging consequences generated by these problems on the lives of many people and communities in many countries and regions have been well documented by the United Nations. We are all too familiar with the origins and the consequences generated by these problems. We are well aware of the measures that we, Member States, could employ and implement to address and overcome these problems, including through the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Indeed, the Programme of Action provides us with a valuable framework for concrete action in combating and addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons at the national, regional and global levels. The framework is outlined through a realistic, achievable and comprehensive approach.

4. Malaysia remains convinced that the full implementation of the Programme of Action would greatly contribute towards ongoing efforts in the maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, Malaysia emphasizes the importance of early and full implementation of the Programme of Action. Malaysia would like to see further efforts being made by the international community to mobilize resources and expertise to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and to provide assistance to States relating to its implementation. Malaysia remains fully committed in preventing, reducing and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels. Malaysia has taken further steps and measures in its continuing efforts to implement the Programme of Action. These are contained in the Report that Malaysia has submitted concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action for the year 2004.

5. The Ministry of Internal Security of Malaysia, the Royal Malaysian Police and the Royal Customs Department of Malaysia remain at the forefront in taking the necessary steps and measures in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. All these are done in accordance with existing domestic laws and regulations. Malaysia has strict laws and regulations relating to all aspects of firearms control including

ownership and possession, licensing, transferring, manufacturing, stockpiling, brokering, import and export, as well as marking, record-keeping and tracing. These laws and regulations are enumerated in the abovementioned Report. In addition, Malaysia has established in 2004 its own national coast guards, known as the Maritime Enforcement Agency whose responsibility includes enforcing measures to counter arms smuggling into the country. The Agency would be fully operational in November 2005.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is closely linked with terrorist activities. Aside from continuous monitoring and necessary action by the authorities in countering and combating such activities, the Government of Malaysia has established the South-East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur on 1 July 2003. The Centre's primary focus is to provide training and capacity building to officials from countries within and beyond the Southeast Asian region in many areas of counter-terrorism. These include anti-money laundering, anti-terrorist financing, border control and security as well as maintaining a database of terrorist activities.

7. At the regional level, Malaysia continues to focus its efforts through various initiatives by ASEAN. These include the ASEAN Plan of Action, ASEANAPOL and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. At the global and multilateral level, Malaysia continues to extend cooperation to the INTERPOL and EUROPOL as well as other organizations. In terms of the relevant multilateral treaties, Malaysia has acceded in September 2003 to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. Malaysia has also ratified in September 2004 the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. These are in addition to the four legally binding instruments that Malaysia has signed or ratified as reflected in its Report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the year 2003. Malaysia is currently studying the other relevant legally binding instruments with a view to ratification or accession in due course.

Mr. Chairman,

8. During the Millennium Summit in 2000, our leaders resolved "to take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons". The forthcoming High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2005 would indeed provide a timely opportunity for the leaders to review the progress made in our efforts and commitment in the field of small arms and light weapons, while recognizing the interconnectedness of the threats and challenges to peace and security, economic and social development, and rule of law and human rights and that these threats and challenges should be addressed in an integrated and comprehensive manner. In this connection, it would be pertinent for our leaders to consider the serious impact of the proliferation of and illicit trade and trafficking in small arms and light weapons on the efforts of many States to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.