



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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IN

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
12 July 2005

Statement by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations
at the General Debate of 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, 12 July 2005

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation warmly congratulates you on your well deserved election as Chairman of the Second Biennial Meeting. I assure you of our fullest cooperation and support for a successful meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Pakistan attaches great importance to the fight against the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons(SALW) and is committed to the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action(PoA). An effective implementation of PoA requires concerted action by all States at national, regional and international levels. At the same time, it is also essential to recognize and address the SALW problem in all its dimensions including human security, development, law-enforcement, de-weaponization and arms control.

3. The foreign occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 led to the influx of more than 3 million refugees to Pakistan. Apart from the huge social, economic and environmental costs of these refugees to our country, out of the millions of small arms and light weapons, which were dumped in Afghanistan, a substantial chunk found its way to Pakistan. The anarchy in Afghanistan gave rise to narcotics and arms trafficking, which in turn produced a nexus between forces of terrorism and violent crimes that was frequently sponsored from abroad. Since 2001, Pakistan is pursuing a proactive policy to combat, prevent and eradicate illegal trade in small arms and light weapons including through collection and destruction of illicit weapons and public awareness campaigns.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Pakistan has submitted its National Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons , in particular since 2003. I would like to highlight some of the important steps taken by Pakistan with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

First: Effective legislative framework as well as administrative regulations and procedures both at the Federal and Provincial levels continue to remain under constant review.

Second: Production and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons is undertaken entirely by the public sector. Penal provisions exist and are applied after due process of law on account of unlawful possession and production of these weapons.

Third: All small arms and light weapons produced, manufactured and sold in Pakistan, are uniquely marked to maintain distinction for civilian, law enforcement and armed forces use. Record for all weapons under use or possession by law enforcement agencies and armed forces is kept on permanent basis.

Fourth: Record of all types of arms manufactured by the public sector ordnance factories or imported in Pakistan is kept. Private arms dealers can only sell a few

specified categories of arms under a license issued by the government. A strict licensing regime to regulate and monitor the lawful private possession of small arms has been further improved since March 2001.

Fifth: Pakistan observes strict export control regime for small arms and light weapons. Export of all such weapons is regulated by the Ministry of Defence with the concurrence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Exports of small arms and light weapons are subject to receipt of a No Objection Certificate, End-user Certificate and consultations between the Defence Production Division and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure conformity with government policy and to comply with UN arms embargoes.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Apart from the measures outlined above, I would like to briefly share the results of a multi-pronged strategy adopted by Pakistan since June 2001 to address the issue of illicit SALW:

- Until April 2003, around 250,000 illicit small arms and light weapons of different categories and types have been recovered/confiscated in addition to large quantities of ammunitions. From May 2003 to 31 May 2005, another 103600 SALW of various categories were confiscated. During the same period, 2,078,300 rounds of ammunition were also recovered.
- Since July 2001, a total of 129980 persons were challaned for possessing illegal SALW; out of these 80748 were arrested; 32562 were convicted by the courts to various terms of imprisonment; 4073 were acquitted while 12671 cases are sub-judice in various courts of the country.
- For effective law enforcement in combating the proliferation and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, reforms in the organizational structure, responsibilities, equipment and facilities of the Police Force have been introduced under the new Police Act 2001.
- Use and firing of small arms during cultural festivities has been banned.
- Technical surveillance is underway to control arms trafficking from across the borders. Security forces have also been deployed in the tribal areas to stem the flow of illicit arms. In addition, intelligence and search operations are conducted to locate, collect and destroy hidden caches of arms.
- Public awareness campaign through Seminars and Symposia is underway. More such activities are planned. The Ministry of Interior is working closely with relevant non-governmental organizations to encourage collection and destruction of illegal small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

6. As a frontline state in the global fight against terrorism, Pakistan has established a number of joint counter-terrorism working groups at the regional level including with the Russian Federation and China. Pakistan has also proposed similar arrangements with other countries in the region. A Tripartite Commission between Pakistan, Afghanistan and the U.S. has been established since 2003 to promote cooperation, among other issues, in tackling the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons.

7. Pakistan has also been actively engaged in international endeavours to curb organized crime, eradicate narcotics trade and combat terrorism. Pakistan is fully complying with the provisions of all the relevant UN resolutions including resolution 1373 on terrorism and resolution 1267 against Al-Qaeda and has extended full cooperation to relevant Committees established under these resolutions.

8. The recent conclusion of the Marking and Tracing Instrument was an important step forward in furthering the objectives of UNPoA. Pakistan actively participated in the negotiations and the concerned departments in Pakistan are in the process of implementation of the Instrument. Pakistan has always extended all possible assistance to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in its endeavours to control weapons and explosives. Pakistan supports the efforts to further strengthen the effectiveness of INTERPOL International Weapons and Explosive Tracking System as well as measures envisaged in the Instrument on Marking and Tracing of SALW.

Mr. Chairman,

9. As we assess the progress achieved on the implementation of UNPoA so far and prepare for the Review Conference next year, my delegation would like to underscore the following elements:

- The developed countries should make available more necessary financial resources to developing countries and foster partnerships for capacity building including assistance, equipment and training to relevant personnel and institutions.
- Political commitment and action is equally essential to resolve the underlying causes of conflicts and disputes in various parts of the world. The causes of war which drive demand for weapons are even more important than the instruments of war.
- Sound planning and effective implementation strategies are also vital to secure de-weaponization and reintegration of combatants as part of peace-keeping and peace-building operations.
- Our review should appropriately reflect the progress made on three elements contained in the Programme of Action: peaceful resolution of disputes, the right of self-defence, and the right of self-determination.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman
