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**STATEMENT  
BY MR. VIKTOR KRYZHANIVSKYI  
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE UN PROGRAM OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE  
ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

*July 12, 2005*

Mr. Chairman,

May I start by congratulating you on your election as a Chairman of this Meeting. Let me assure you that the delegation of Ukraine will work constructively with other delegations to achieve the successful outcome of this important international forum.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union. We share the views expressed by EU concerning the implementation of the UN Program of Actions. To comply with your request I will limit my statement just to some points describing Ukraine's efforts and experience in implementation of UN Program of Actions.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no common civil use of SALW in Ukraine, except hunting and sports purposes. All stocks of SALW belong to governmental security forces and are under strict control.

Ukraine has enacted an adequate national legislation and has put in place appropriate governmental structures and procedures to exercise effective control over the small arms and light weapons. The production, marking, possession and destruction of SALW are licensed in Ukraine and are supervised in accordance with a number of regulations issued by the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior. Those regulations are in line with all recommendations of the Program of Action and provide for a strict marking system that enables the competent national authorities to identify and trace the relevant weapons at any time and in a reliable way. Ukrainian legislation provides for combating violations in the area of international arms transfers and imposes criminal, administrative, civil or financial penalties on the guilty parties.

Destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons, as well as of those which are unserviceable or have been seized in connection with illicit traffic, are carried out regularly and

information concerning the quantity of small arms and light weapons destroyed is transmitted to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

National document - "Plan of Action to implement the UN Program of Action and the OSCE Document on SALW" met the approval by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in November 2001. The Plan contains the list of obligations and measures to be taken and defines relevant ministries and other central state authorities (11 in totals) responsible for their fulfillment.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine firmly adheres to the provisions of both – the UN Program of Action and the OSCE SALW Document, as well as the decisions taken by the UN Security Council, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Wassenaar Arrangement concerning SALW. The UNSC resolutions, which impose sanctions regimes, are guidelines for the adoption of the relevant legislation and regulations in my country. In decision-making process we also take into account the provisions of a Moratorium by the Economic Community of West African States on import, export and manufacture of light weapons as well as the political principles of the European Union Code of Conduct on Conventional Arms Exports. We carry out responsible policy in the sphere of international arms transfers. Ukraine shares the opinion of a number of delegations that strict implementation of the above instruments as well as recently agreed international instrument on tracing illicit SALW on national level is the most important aspect of efforts to counter illegal trade in SALW.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to inform this forum that the decision on launching the NATO/Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Project to utilize in Ukraine 133 thousand tonnes of munitions, 1,5 million small arms and light weapons and 1 thousand man-portable air defence systems had been taken in Brussels on April 14 this year. The first phase of the project will last 3 years. The Implementing Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and NATO Maintenance and Supply Organization for disposal of man-portable air defence systems, small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition had been agreed recently - on July 4, 2005.

Thank you.