

**Statement by H. E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of
Bangladesh to the United Nations at the Fourth Biennial Meetings of
States held in New York, June 14-18, 2010.**

Mr. Chairman

I congratulate you for your election as the Chairman of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States. I also congratulate your Bureau. At the outset, let me assure you and your Bureau my delegation's full cooperation to produce a successful outcome of this meeting by the end of this week. While I endorse the statement made by delegation of Indonesia on behalf of NAM, I would like to highlight some of the pertinent issues from my national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh is committed to the full implementation of the Program of Action. Bangladesh has put in place a number of statutory legislations and executive orders to regulate lawful possession, manufacture, conversion, sale, export, import and transport of Small Arms and Light Weapons or SALWs. These national laws and mechanisms also regulate the civilian ownership, possession, record-keeping, collection, destruction and disposal of SALWs under strict supervision of authorized national law enforcement authorities. Strict procedures are followed in the management of stockpiles including storage, physical security, control of access, inventory management and accounting control. Confiscated illegal small arms and light weapons are routinely and publicly destroyed under our National Stockpile Management Program.

Bangladesh manufactures and imports from legitimate sources, a small amount of SALWs for use by our security and defense agencies solely for the legitimate purpose of national defense and security and also for UN peacekeeping operations. We are one of the top peacekeeping contributing countries. Bangladesh has been reporting to the UN Register of Conventional Arms and to the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures without fail. I am proud to report that with a view to fulfill our obligations as per Ottawa Convention we have already eliminated our stockpile of anti-personnel landmines.

We believe that trade in arms, as much in all other goods and services, should be brought under an agreed international regulatory framework, and we shall support conclusion of a Conventional Arms Trade Treaty under the UN auspices.

Bangladesh believes that the Program of Action of 2001 is a carefully crafted document that has been the cornerstone of our efforts in building norms and setting standards in regulating the SALW related issues. Bangladesh would like to draw special attention and commitment of the global community for enhanced international cooperation particularly in the field of capacity building. To raise public awareness about the human, social and economic cost and loss owing to illicit trade and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Bangladesh observes 9th July each year as "Small Arms Destruction Day" throughout the country.

We also believe that the participation of civil society, including NGOs and the parliamentarians, in the implementation of the Program of Action, particularly through raising public awareness, is of critical

importance. Bangladesh Government remains fully engaged in the goal of eliminating illicit small arms and light weapons trade, and fulfilling its obligations under the Program of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

In the national report submitted by Bangladesh, we identified following thematic areas where international cooperation and assistance are required:

- Border controls (technical assistance for capacity building for checkpoints and immigration)
- Marking, tracing and recordkeeping (modern technology and equipment plus training)
- Information sharing and
- Public awareness

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my country is more concerned about the proliferation of illicit trade of small arms and light weapons vis-à-vis the nuclear weapons which are considered as deterrent. My delegation would like to make a proposal for the good of mankind. The international community should make it mandatory to imprint the manufacturers' particulars on small and light weapons and particularly on their ammunitions without fail to keep track record of killer weapons. It must be the responsibility of the country government to enforce such regulations and provision of heavy penalty maybe imposed for non-enforcement. Reason is simple. As per estimates, majority people are being killed across nations by these small and illegal weapons. Secondly, my delegation would like to appeal the media, the law enforcement agencies and the civil societies across nations the following. While reporting the death of an individual, you routinely publish his or her name or age. I would like you to add one more sentence and it is; while reporting, please publish the name and particulars of the manufacturer of the killer weapons. Such will help the global community to be aware of the manufacturer of killer weapon or weapons. Under the circumstances, it would be easier to tract down the illegal weapon trade.

Mr. Chairman. This would be a small step for you and for your Bureau but a giant step for humanity, a giant step for those that are losing their dear and near ones, their lives and hopes, everyday and everywhere. May I request my fellow delegates to come forward to stop their cry and their hopelessness? My friends, let us give them a hope. Thank you very much.