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PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Milorad Šćepanović

Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations  
at the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the  
Programme of Action to Prevent,  
Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects  
15 June 2010

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my honor to address you on behalf of Montenegro. At the outset I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you Mr. Chairman on your election and express my personal conviction that under your skillful steering we will successfully conclude the Conference. Montenegro fully aligns itself with the EU statement. In addition to this please allow me to stress certain points which are of particular interest for my country.

In the years that have followed the restoration of our independence Montenegrin governmental institutions were fully engaged in establishing and improving legal and institutional frameworks for the most of public policies with the aim of reaching highest international standards. Having in mind the volume of the work that was needed not just for carrying out reforms but also for framing previously nonexistent institutions, it's understandable that certain achievements were not duly promoted and reported. One of the areas where significant progress was achieved and which should have been brought to the attention of the international community is combating illicit trafficking of weapons and ammunition.

In Montenegro control of manufacturing, proper marking of small arms, coupled with accurate, sustained record-keeping are regulated by the Law on Weapons. Over time

certain challenges in the implementation were identified and these provisions will be altered in the near future.

Effective criteria governing the export of small arms, including brokering, provisions covering export documentation, procedures and penalties are envisaged in the 2008 Law on Foreign Trade of Armaments, Military Equipment and Dual-Use Goods. It should be noted that this Law and pertaining bylaws are in full accordance with the relevant EU legislation known by its comprehensive solutions and high standards.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to mention that Montenegro supports the ongoing negotiations for the conclusion of Arms Trade Treaty, convinced that an international legally binding instrument that would set common standards for the export of weapons and ammunition would significantly contribute to the reduction of illicit trafficking of SALW and reduction of arms violence.

The area that needs our further attention and for which projects are already drafted by the UNDP and OSCE presence in Montenegro in cooperation with the Ministry for Interior Affairs is the collection and destruction of surplus of SALW, revitalization of the National Commission, review, update and implementation of the existing National SALW Strategy and Action Plan. Furthermore, Montenegro is fully committed to further strengthen the international cooperation and assistance which is at the core of international efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its Aspects and is critical to effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Significance of this Conference lays down also in the fact that it contributes to the goal of preserving the focus of the international community on the threat that accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW pose to security. It also represents impetus for other activities concerning conventional weapons and trade of arms.

It must be stressed that the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms are elements which can impede both peace-building and social and economic development. They may contribute to a breakdown in order, fuel terrorism and criminal violence or lead to a resumption of conflict.

I would like to conclude by reiterating our commitment to the implementation of UN PoA on SALW and all other documents which have in their scope the issue small arms and armed violence prevention.

Thank you!