

**Norway's statement to the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on
Implementation of the Program of Action – New York 15 June 2010.**

International Cooperation and Assistance

- Mr Chair, Norway would like to congratulate you with the election as chair of this meeting and thanks to the chair friends who have provided valuable inputs for discussions.
- Every day, armed violence kills more than 2000 people. The majority of these deaths are caused by small arms and light weapons. Many more people are injured physically and mentally, and their loved ones and dependants are left devastated.
- Countering this unacceptable situation is the reason why we are here this week, to address various issues concerning the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- For Norway, our efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a central aspect of our commitments towards the reduction and prevention of armed violence and forms part of our humanitarian disarmament agenda. We see disarmament not only as a security issue, but also as a humanitarian and developmental imperative, and we are motivated from the unacceptable harm to civilians caused by the use of these weapons.
- Today's topic is international cooperation and assistance. Obligations to implement the PoA rest with each member state, but international cooperation and assistance is an essential tool to enhance the effective implementation of the PoA. Norway contributes in various ways to national and regional efforts, and to research and analysis projects designed to contribute to enhanced implementation. Commitment and ownership is needed at all levels in countries affected by illicit trade in SALW, and donors should respond to the assessed needs and priorities of affected countries. Norway believes that the only way to combat the uncontrolled flows of small arms and light weapons is to build partnerships between governments, civil society, and relevant field organisations. Such cooperation is essential to effectively raise awareness of the

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real issues on the ground and contribute its expertise and experience to the discussions.

- The multi-faceted nature of the problem must be recognised by affected countries, donors, international and regional organisations and other development actors, and must influence the way programmes are designed and poverty reduction strategies are developed.
- The Secretary General has stated that Armed Violence, exacerbated by the use of Small Arms and Light Weapons, undermines development and constitutes an impediment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Determined to promote this issue, more than 60 states endorsed the Oslo Commitments in May thus agreeing to achieve measurable reductions in armed violence by including armed violence in the review of the Millennium Development Goals, measuring and monitoring the incidence and impact of armed violence, recognising the rights of victims, including armed violence in national strategies and plans, and strengthen international cooperation and assistance to develop capacities for armed violence prevention and reduction.
- The humanitarian and developmental problems that illicit SALW cause, remains the basis of Norway's continued assistance to affected countries. The multifaceted nature of SALW and the facts that are faced in the field, guide our cooperation and assistance, as well as clear priorities made by the affected countries themselves.

Thank you.