

Strengthening of the follow-up mechanism on preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and preparations for the 2011 Experts Group meeting and the 2012 Review Conference.

Per your instructions I will not congratulate you on your election but will wish you every success in your role. Ireland fully supports the statement of the EU and the proposals made there. Ireland thanks the Mexican delegation for their work in preparing an excellent paper and Daniel Avila's work on consultations on this topic. Daniel Prince's points, made at the start of this debate, were also very helpful.

There is clearly a need to devote time to considerations of the UNPoA follow-up mechanisms. We all have a responsibility to ensure that the UNPoA meets its objectives. Ireland has and will continue to do all that it can to ensure this. States, regional and sub-regional organisations, and civil society all have roles to play in ensuring the best possible outcomes from the UNPoA.

As it is in the interest of us all to ensure the greatest possible participation in the meetings of the UNPoA, we would support the proposal to examine the possibility of establishing a voluntary sponsorship programme for the UNPoA.

Turning to national reports, these can and should be used and analysed more extensively. The document prepared by UNODA on matching needs and resources, drawing on the national reports submitted in 2010, is an example of the useful information which can already be drawn from the reports. Sarah Parker's excellent presentation on Monday also showed the reports can yield important information on needs, activities and trends but also suggested that much more might be possible with clearer and more comparable information from the widest possible range of states.

The work of UNODA is very important in this regard and the new on-line reporting tool is a very positive step to assist states in preparing their reports. Consideration should be given as to how we can extract, on an ongoing basis, the maximum value from the information received through regular analysis and assessment.

Sarah de Zoeten's paper on international cooperation and assistance, which we discussed at some length yesterday and which Ireland fully supports, emphasised the need to do more to match those needing assistance with those in a position to provide it. Her proposal for an extended role for UNODA in this regard is of great interest, including the suggestion of regular informal meetings of interested parties, international organisations and civil society in order to identify possible matches. Thought could also be given to holding a specific session at a BMS for such an activity. This could be discussed at the Experts meeting in 2011.

The paper prepared by the Mexican delegation on this item provides a very good basis for moving forward in our preparations for the Experts meeting and Revcon. The proposal to have a resource person tasked with the preparation of a progress report on the status of implementation is a very useful suggestion. This could perhaps be supplemented by asking the current Chairman's Friends to assist in this process in their various areas of responsibility. Such a report, incorporating information from national reports and statements to UNPoA meetings as well as potentially from other relevant sources, could be an important input into the Review Conference. It could then be updated on a regular basis and become a standard reference for the PoA.

This proposal highlights the need for ongoing implementation support for the PoA and this issue needs to be considered carefully in the run-up to the 2012 Review Conference. The POA-ISS is a very useful tool but may not be sufficient in itself.

Finally, we would support the holding of a Prepcom earlier in 2012 to ensure that the Review conference is properly prepared and is able to get down to substantive discussion as quickly as possible.