

**Statement by the Chinese Delegation at the BMS4
On Combating Illicit Trade in SALW across Borders
(New York, 14 June 2010)**

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the meeting. I am convinced that with your wisdom and rich diplomatic experience, you will surely guide this meeting to a success. The Chinese Delegation will fully cooperate with you.

Combating illicit trade in SALW across borders is an integral part of international cooperation on combating SALW illicit trade. China upholds that the illicit trade across borders refers not only to the transfer of the illicit weapons among different countries, but also to the transnational flows of personnel involved in illicit trade in SALW.

To resolve this issue, the POA developed measures at global, regional and national levels. It is how to implement these measures that we should pay more attention to. We may need to take actions from the following aspects:

First, regulating from origin by improving national legislation and export control systems. It is also necessary to enhance training of Customs officials and border control officials.

Second, strictly administrating brokers and brokering activities so as to cut off the chains of the illicit trade of SALW. The international community has already conducted thought-provoking discussions on this issue. It is realized that cooperation and communication should be further strengthened based on

existing agreement and joint efforts.

Third, strengthening international cooperation on information exchange and law enforcement. Such cooperation should be conducted voluntarily under the POA framework and governments should play primary roles. It is common understanding that the legitimate right of each country to produce, possess and transfer SALW and its legal commercial interests shall not be undermined.

Mr. Chairman,

China firmly opposes illicit production and transfer of SALW, and takes a cautious and responsible approach towards the production and transfer of all conventional weapons including SALW. China has developed a clear policy on arms export, constantly improved relevant laws and administrative regulations, and strictly administered import and export of SALW according to law.

In China, all arms export activities are carried out exclusively by specific companies authorized by the State. Currently, the Chinese Government only authorizes 12 companies to engage in arms export activities, and only 4 of them are in the position to export firearms. For any other entity or individual, it is illegal to take part in the afore-mentioned activities. Arms brokering is also prohibited. The Customs authorities of China strictly inspect every shipment of arms-export on the basis of the export license issued by China's competent authorities. Violations of laws and regulations will be punished either by administrative measures or being prosecuted according to the criminal law. China's relevant authorities has taken effective control on borders, and reinforced law enforcement to prevent and combat illicit trade of SALW across borders.

Mr. Chairman,

China has always actively participated in and promoted the international process of combating illicit trade in SALW. China stands ready to full cooperation with other countries, with a view to jointly advancing international efforts in combating illicit trade in SALW across borders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.