

**Statement by the Chinese Delegation at the BMS4  
on Implementation of the International Tracing Instrument  
(New York, 17 June 2010)**

Mr. Chairman,

Five years ago, the international community adopted the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, which served as one of the important follow-up actions of the United Nations Programme of Action. Now, the ITI has become an important guiding document in the efforts to combat the illicit trade in SALW.

Over the past five years, the international community has fully recognized the importance of marking and tracing illegal SALW for the combat against the illicit trade in SALW. Parties have taken active measures to strengthen domestic legislation, law enforcement and institution building, to improve the marking system and to enhance international tracing cooperation. All these efforts have promoted the implementation of the ITI in a comprehensive and effective manner. International, regional and sub-regional organizations also carried out constructive efforts in strengthening cooperation among national governments on the implementation of the ITI.

At present, the illicit trade in SALW is still severe. Parties should further implement the ITI and enhance international efforts in combating illicit trade in SALW. To that end, China upholds that the international community should take actions from following four aspects:

First, States should ensure manufacturers apply and reliable marking to each piece of SALW during its production process. As far as identifying and tracing illicit SALW is concerned, the purpose of marking is to identify the country of manufacture and consequently

the national authorities of that country can identify and trace each weapon. Although the contents and forms of marking may vary from country to country due to the difference in national conditions and systems of production, operation and management, it is imperative to make sure each piece of SALW can be identified and traced.

Second, States should establish and complete the record-keeping systems on each stage of SALW's circulation. Record-keeping plays an indispensable role in identifying and tracing SALW. Governments should establish complete and accurate records on the manufacturing, use, possession and transfer of SALW and maintain these records, according to its national condition, as long as possible. This is crucial for countries to strengthen administration over SALW and enhance the capacity of tracing. Without complete and accurate record, it is hard to trace and find the origin of illicit SALW.

Third, States should establish national point of contact for both the POA and ITI. The establishment of national point of contact is conducive to promoting the effective implementation of POA and ITI, and facilitates the timely exchange of experience and information and tracing cooperation among countries. National point of contact also plays an important role in publicizing the POA and ITI, raising public awareness and promoting public efforts in combating illicit trade in SALW.

Fourth, developed countries should provide assistance to developing ones in the fields of institution building and personnel training, and provide technical and financial supports on marking, record-keeping and stockpile management, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce China's practice in this regard.

In China, in line with the POA and ITI, each piece of SALW is required to be stamped with a unique marking that provides information on country code, code of small arms, manufacturer's code and a manufacturing serial number. SALW manufacturers and arms-trading companies are asked to establish record-keeping systems for retaining complete and detailed information of SALW they manufacture or export, and these records are kept for a long time. Most of China's enterprises have established special

information systems to monitor SALW manufacturing and movement. At present, China is working on the improvement of marking system to make SALW manufactured in China easier to be identified and traced.

Over years, China's police have provide assistance to other countries in tracing firearms through the Interpol, and China's public security, Customs and other competent agencies have maintained constant exchange with their foreign counterparts. China is willing to continue such cooperation and exchange.

We should clearly bear in mind that the implementation of ITI will be a long-term process, which needs further political commitment and consensus. China will, proceeding from its national conditions, faithfully implement the POA and ITI and continue to promote the global efforts in combating illicit trade in SALW.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.