

National Report
on the Implementation of the
United Nations Programme of Action
to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the
Illicit Trade in
Small Arms and Light Weapons
in All its Aspects

Submitted by
the Republic of Korea

Seoul

June 2, 2006

With reference to the letter of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs dated February 27, 2006-DDA/18-2006/TSA-, the Republic of Korea hereby submits its National Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

I. National Level

1. National Coordination Agency

The Republic of Korea does not have a single national coordination agency or body that is responsible for policy, research and monitoring of its implementation of the UN PoA. However, the Republic of Korea activates inter-agency policy coordination networks comprising three main national institutions that are responsible for addressing issues related to small arms and light weapons:

- i) The Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA), in cooperation with the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea, is responsible for the following missions aimed at controlling small arms and light weapons:
 - ✓ Regulating all activities related to small arms and light weapons for military use such as manufacturing, trade, transfer, possession, storing, transportation, brokering and destruction.
 - ✓ Conducting the procurement procedures related to all defense articles & equipments including small arms and light weapons for military use.
- ii) The Korean National Police Agency regulates all issues related to small arms and light weapons for non-military use, such as production, possession, trade, stockpiling, transfer, transportation and destruction.
- iii) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade fulfills the task of coordinating foreign policy aspects of small arms and light weapons including the following functions:
 - ✓ Serving as national point of contact;
 - ✓ Negotiating new initiatives or instruments related to small arms and

light weapons in coordination with the above domestic agencies.

- ✓ Guiding the above agencies to full implementation of commitments in all existing agreements concerning the prevention of illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

2. National point of contact

The following person is appointed national point of contact:

- i) Name and job title: Kyoo-ho Lee, Second Secretary
- ii) Division: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Division, Bureau of Policy Planning and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- iii) Postal address: 95-1 Doryum-dong, Jongro-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea (Zip code: 110-787)
- iv) Phone and Fax Numbers: 82-2-2100-7252, Fax) 82-2-2100-7933
- v) E-mail:
 - ✓ Division E-mail : disarmament@mofat.go.kr
 - ✓ Personal E-mail: khlee00@mofat.go.kr
- vi) Job description: performing the following tasks related to small arms and light weapons issues:
 - ✓ Liaising between the above domestic agencies, international organizations and other states on the implementation of the UN PoA and other instruments regarding small arms and light weapons;
 - ✓ Representing and establishing the official Korean position on small arms and light weapons issues in various international meetings in collaboration with the relevant domestic agencies set out above;
 - ✓ Conducting foreign policy coordination activities related to small arms and light weapons.

3. Legislation, regulations, administrative procedures

- i) What national laws, regulations and administrative procedures exist to exercise effective control over SALW in the following areas?*

The Republic of Korea regulates all activities related to small arms and light weapons in accordance with the following legal codes. Small arms and light weapons are classified into two categories: military-use and non-military-use small arms and light weapons.

The following Acts and their Presidential Decrees and Execution Regulations establish strict and comprehensive licensing and authorization control systems on all activities related to small arms and light weapons such as production, export, import, transfer, transportation, possession, and stockpiling:

- i) The Act on Defense Acquisition, its Presidential Decree and its Execution Regulation
 - ✓ The Act on Defense Acquisition was adopted on January 2, 2006.
 - ✓ The Act on Defense Acquisition is a revised legal code of the Act on Special Measures for the Defense Industry.
 - ✓ This Act covers all issues related to small arms and light weapons to be used for military purposes.
 - ✓ The Execution Regulation establishes detailed procedures and documentation requirements for the licensing of export, manufacturing, brokering, etc.

- ii) The Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. and its Presidential Decree and its Execution Regulation
 - ✓ The Act was adopted on December 13, 1961.
 - ✓ This Act covers all issues related to small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes.
 - ✓ The National Police Agency is currently attempting to amend this Act.

- iii) The Foreign Trade Act, its Presidential Decree and its Integrated Public Notice on the Export and Import of Strategic Items and Technology
 - ✓ This Act was adopted on December 31, 1986.
 - ✓ This Act, in conjunction with the Defense Acquisition Act, regulates the export and import control of small arms and light weapons.
 - ✓ The Integrated Public Notice was adopted on December 27, 2005 and is a revised and integrated legal code of the Public Notice on the Export and Import of Strategic Items and the Public Notice on the Export of

Strategic Technology.

- vii) The Customs Act, its Presidential Decree and its Execution Regulation
 - ✓ This Act was adopted on September 23, 1949.
 - ✓ This Act regulates the process of loading, off-loading, export, import, transit and transshipment taking place in the customs areas of airports and ports that are open to foreign aircraft and vessels.
 - ✓ In particular, the Public Notice on Entry, Exit, Loading and Off-loading of Bonded Goods regulates specified administrative procedures for entry and exit of bonded goods into airports and ports as well as loading and off-loading of goods from and into airplanes and vessels at airports and ports.

First, controlling small arms and light weapons to be used for **military purposes** is governed by the Defense Acquisition Act and its Presidential Decree and Execution Regulation in conjunction with the Foreign Trade Act and the Public Notice. Article 53 of the Defense Acquisition Act, Article 66 of the Act's Presidential Decree and Article 40 of the Act's Execution Regulation provide that all activities related to military-use small arms and light weapons, such as production, import, export, transfer, possession, use, stockpiling, transportation and destruction, are subject to authorization and supervision by the Commissioner of the Defense Acquisition Program Administration.

Second, small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes are regulated by the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. its Presidential Decree and its Execution Regulation in conjunction with the Foreign Trade Act. Articles 4, 6, 9 10, 11, 19, and 21 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. control the possession, sale, production, import, export, transfer and transportation of small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes. In principle, the legislation prohibits civilians from possessing, selling and carrying small arms and light weapons with limited authorized exceptions such as sporting shooters certified by the Korea Shooting Federation and qualified hunters. Also, it is forbidden for civilians to possess weapons designed for military use such as revolvers, pistols, automatic and semi-automatic rifles and machine guns with no exceptions.

Manufacture:

1) Military purposes

- ✓ Article 53 of the Act on Defense Acquisition authorizes the Commissioner of the Defense Acquisition Program Administration to permit the manufacture of small arms and light weapons. Article 66 (2) of the Act's Presidential Decree entitles the Ministry of National Defense to elaborate requirements and standards for manufacturing small arms and light weapons for military purposes in the form of a Ministerial Decree.
- ✓ Articles 40, 41, 42, and 43 of the Act's Execution Regulation stipulate detailed requirements for the authorization of manufacturing of small arms and light weapons for military purposes and standards for the management and safety of manufacturing facilities.
- ✓ At present, Daewoo Precision Industries Co. Ltd is Korea's only authorized manufacturer of small arms and light weapons.

2) Non-military purposes

- ✓ Article 4 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. provides that the Commissioner General of the National Police Agency has the right to authorize manufacturing, remodeling and repairing of small arms and light weapons in accordance with criteria specified in Articles 8 and 9 of the Act's Presidential Decree. In particular, Article 6 of the Act's Execution Regulation specifies detailed administrative procedures of application for permission on remodeling and repairing of small arms and light weapons.
- ✓ Article 5 of the Act provides criteria for disqualification for manufacturing.

Possession & retransfer:

- ✓ Article 10 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. stipulates a general ban on possession by citizens of small arms and light weapons with limited exceptions such as authorized manufacturers, sellers, importers and exporters and those who are permitted to possess small arms for their officially-designated usages such as sporting

shooting and hunting.

- ✓ Article 12 of the Act provides that possession of small arms and light weapons by civilians must be authorized by commissioners of provincial/metropolitan police agencies in accordance with Article 14 of the Act's Presidential Decree that specifies qualifications for possession of each type of small arms and light weapons on the basis of age, health condition, criminal record, and justification of need.
- ✓ Article 16 of the Act requires legally authorized possessors to renew their permits every five years.
- ✓ Article 13 of the Act requires the law enforcement agencies to grant permission for possession of small arms and light weapons in accordance with criteria on disqualification for possession specified in the article.
- ✓ Article 17 of the Act prohibits possessors from carrying, transporting, or using their authorized small arms and light weapons for unauthorized usages.
- ✓ Article 21 of the Act puts limitations on transfers of small arms and light weapons. According to this article, transfers of small arms and light weapons must be reported to and authorized by metropolitan/provincial police agency commissioners.

Export & import:

1) Military purposes

- ✓ Articles 53 and 57 of the Act on Defense Acquisition authorize the Commissioner of the Defense Acquisition Program Administration to permit and monitor the export and import of small arms and light weapons.
- ✓ Article 68 of the Act's Presidential Decree and Articles 56 and 57 of the Act's Execution Regulation specify detailed regulative and administrative procedures for the export of major defense industry items that include small arms and light weapons.
- ✓ The Act requires exporters and importers to obtain a written authorization to act as exporters and importers. This requirement is a precondition for licenses for individual transactions of export and import.

2) Non-military purposes

- ✓ Pursuant to Article 9 (1) of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords and Explosives, etc., the Commissioner of the National Police Agency is entitled to permit the export and import of small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes.
- ✓ Article 9 (3) of the Act stipulates that only authorized manufacturers and sellers of small arms and light weapons are permitted to export and import such armed goods.
- ✓ Article 17 of the Act's Execution Regulation outlines specified administrative procedures of application for a permit for export of small arms and light weapons.

Transit & transshipment

- ✓ Articles 135 and 136 of the Customs Act regulate administrative procedures for exit from and entry into airports and ports of aircrafts and vessels. These articles require aircrafts and vessels entering and exiting airports and ports to submit the list of loaded goods and passengers as well as documents containing information on departure airports/ports and final destination to customs officers.
- ✓ Article 141 of the Customs Act and Article 162 of the Act's Presidential Decree provide that transshipment must be reported to customs officers.

ii) What national measures exist to prevent the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession of unmarked or inadequately marked SALW? How have these been implemented?

First, according to Article 42 (1) of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. and Article 50 of the Act's Presidential Decree, unmarked and inadequately marked small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes are prohibited from being circulated. Authorized manufacturer and importer are permitted to manufacture and import only small arms and light weapons samples of which have successfully passed safety checks conducted by the Gun & Explosives Safety Technology Association (GESTA). One of the major criteria for the checks is compliance with regulations regarding marking. Small arms and light weapons that fail to comply with marking regulations are not permitted to be manufactured and imported. In a nutshell, the circulation of

unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes is prevented at the point of manufacturing and importing. In addition, according to Article 16 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. and Article 28 of its Execution Regulation, all those who are authorized to possess small arms and light weapons must pass the aforementioned safety tests to renew their permission every five years. According to Article 42 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc., all small arms and light weapons are subject to annual investigation by provincial/metropolitan police agencies on whether to be illegally altered.

Second, according to Article 53 of the Act on Defense Acquisition, the DAPA is responsible for permitting the manufacturing and importing of small arms and light weapons to be used for military purposes. The Ministry conducts monitoring of whether small arms and light weapons are produced by authorized manufacturers in accordance with regulations regarding marking in the Internal Rules of the Ministry of National Defense on Management of Weaponry. The DAPA conducts safety checks for samples of small arms and light weapons to be imported for military purposes at the stage of launching bilateral consultations on contracts. According to internal rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force, all small arms and light weapons are subject to daily safety checks by arms officers, a weekly inventory by officers in command and inventory conducted without advance notice by safety teams under the command of brigade or division commanders.

iii) Please describe how national laws, regulations and procedures that impact on the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects are made public.

All Acts, their Presidential Decrees and their Execution Regulations are published in the Official Notices that are posted on the bulletin board of the Ministry of Justice as well as the website of the Ministry of Government Legislation at the time of adoption and revision. Websites of the Police Agency, Ministry of National Defense, and Defense Acquisition Program Administration contain detailed explanatory information on legal regulations regarding the possession, export, import, manufacturing, transfer, transportation and stockpiling of small arms and light weapons.

Pursuant to Article 22 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc., all those who intend to possess small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes must undergo a one-hour education program on the Act and its related regulations before applying for authorization of possession.

The National Police Agency annually conducts a one-month-long campaign to promote voluntary reporting on the illegal possession of small arms and light weapons. This campaign is advertised through press releases by the Commissioner of the National Police Agency, TV commercials and County Notices.

4. Law enforcement/criminalization

i) What national legislative or other measures exist to make the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of SALW criminal offences under domestic law? How have these measures been implemented?

ii) Have those groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit SALW been identified, where applicable? What action has been taken under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals?

First, pursuant to Article 70 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc., illicit possessors, manufacturers, sellers, exporters and importers are subject to imprisonment of less than ten years or a fine of less than 20,000,000 won (20,000 USD).

Second, according to Article 71 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. those engaging in illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons are subject to imprisonment of less than five years or a 10,000,000 won (10,000 USD) fine.

Third, according to Article 72 of the Firearms Control Act, authorized possessors' non-compliance with safety checks regulated in Article 42 of the Act is subject to imprisonment of less than three-years or a 7,000,000 won (7,000USD) fine.

Fourth, according to Article 73 of the Firearms Control Act, if those who find

abandoned or inadequately stored small arms and light weapons fail to report them to provincial/metropolitan police agencies, they are subject to imprisonment of less than two years or a fine of 5,000,000won (5,000USD).

Fifth, according to Article 73 of the Firearms Control Act, illicit remodeling and unauthorized usage of small arms and light weapons are subject to imprisonment of less than two years or a fine of 5,000,000 won (5,000USD).

Sixth, according to Article 62 of the Defense Acquisition Act, the illicit manufacture, import, export, transfer, possession, stockpiling and destruction of small arms and light weapons are subject to imprisonment of less than ten years or a fine of 50,000,000 won (50,000USD).

iii) What national measures have been taken, including legal or administrative means, against activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations?

Exports of small arms and light weapons that violate a United States Security Council arms embargo constitute illicit exports under Article 70 of the Firearms Control Act and Article 62 of the Defense Acquisition Act. Hence, those engaging in such exports are subject to imprisonment of less than ten years or a fine of less than 20,000,000 won (20,000 USD) in cases involving non-military purposes and imprisonment of less than ten years or a fine of 50,000,000won (50,000USD) in cases involving military purposes.

5. Stockpiling management and security

i) What national standards and procedures exist for the management and security of SALW stocks held by armed forces, police or other authorized bodies?

The Army, Navy, Air Force and Police Agency have their respective internal regulations on the management and security of small arms and light weapons. For example, Army Regulation 136 regulates the management and security of small arms and light weapons held by the Army.

Article 148 of the Regulation requires all companies, battalions, brigades and

divisions to establish and execute plans of control to secure stocks of small arms and light weapons. Article 51 of Army Regulation 136 regulates detailed and regulatory procedures on the hand-over and turn-in of small arms and light weapons.

- a) The hand-over and turn-in of small arms and light weapons are conducted by their authorized owners once they have presented their IDs in the presence of responsible officers.
- b) All handing over and turning in of such armed goods must be registered, with the completion of a signed Registration Form.

Articles 51 (5) and 52 of the Army Regulations specify procedures on the safety of arsenals of small arms and light weapons.

- a) Dual locks are required for arsenals.
- b) A cabin containing keys of arsenals should be locked with two keys and secured separately from other keys.
- c) Only military personnel who obtain an access permit to arsenals can enter the facility.

ii) How often are stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies reviewed?

The Army, Air Force, Navy and Police have their own internal regulations regarding the safety and management of small arms and light weapons. In general, their regulations cover the frequency of the conduct of safety checks.

According to Article 52 (2) of Army Regulations, all small arms and light weapons held by the Army are subject to daily safety checks by arms officers, a weekly inventory by officers in command and inventory conducted without advance notice by safety teams under the command of brigade or division commanders. All commanders must conduct their daily review of the status of stocks of small arms and light weapons held by their commanding military organizations.

iii) How are those stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies that are surplus to requirements identified?

The Army has been running its integrated system on information regarding the status of management of munitions since September 11, 2001. This system covers transactions of small arms and light weapons to be used for military purposes and the status of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by the Army. In particular, serial numbers, units, dates of distribution and facility of storage are input into the system. Through this system, the stocks of small arms and light weapons held by the Army can be easily identified.

6. Collection and disposal

i) Please give details of any national programmes that have been established and implemented for the responsible disposal of surplus stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies.

Due to the tight management of stocks of small arms and light weapons held by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Police, there is rarely a surplus of stocks of such armed goods. Any surplus of stocks of such armed goods is destroyed with the approval of the Minister of National Defense.

ii) Is destruction the means used to dispose of such stocks? Please give details, including information on any other forms of disposal used.

v) What methods has your country used to destroy surplus stocks of SALW designated for destruction?

Pursuant to “De-militarization” criteria regulated in their respective regulations, the Army, Navy, and Air Force dispose of surplus stocks of small arms and light weapons using destruction methods such as cutting, melting in a furnace, and shredding.

iii) What national measures exist to safeguard such stocks prior to their disposal?

Stocks of small arms and light weapons to be destroyed are secured like normal arms in accordance with Articles 50 and 51 of the Army Regulation.

iv) Subject to the exceptions set out in Paragraph II. 6 of the UN Programme of Action, are all confiscated, seized or collected SALW destroyed? Please give details, including information concerning any exceptions to destruction.

In accordance with its internal police directive, the National Police Agency has been destroying the entire stocks of confiscated, seized or collected small arms and light weapons, employing cutting and melting in a furnace as the means of destruction.

vi) Please give details of any information on SALW confiscated or destroyed within your jurisdiction that is submitted to relevant regional and international organizations.

The Republic of Korea has not been requested by any regional or international organizations to submit information on SALW confiscated or destroyed in its territory. Hence, it has not submitted such information to regional and international organizations.

7. Export controls

i) Please describe the system of export and import licensing or authorization, as well as measures on international transit, used by your country for transfer of all SALW.

ii) Please describe the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures used by your country to ensure effective control over the export and transit of SALW. How are these measures implemented?

iii) Does your country use authenticated end-user certificates for this purpose?

1) Military purposes

According to Article 57 of the Defense Acquisition Act, Article 68 of the Act's Presidential Decree and Article 56 of the Act's Execution Regulation, only

authorized exporters of small arms and light weapons to be used for military purposes are permitted to export such armed goods.

Prior to engaging in bilateral or international negotiations on the export of such armed goods, all exporters must obtain a preliminary permit issued by the Commissioner of the Defense Acquisition Program Administration to participate in bilateral negotiations or international bidding. Pursuant to Article 57 of the Defense Acquisition Act's Execution Regulation, to obtain the preliminary permit, exporters must submit the following documents: 1) a copy of authorization certificate for exporter; 2) a purchasing request form issued by the government of the importing state; 3) an end-user certificate issued by the government of the importing state; 4) a form of guarantee of non-re-export to third countries issued by the government of the importing state; 5) a consular confirmation by the Korean Ambassador in the importing state on 3) and 4); 6) a form of guarantee for supply of goods issued by the manufacturer.

According to Article 68 (6) of the Defense Acquisition Act's Presidential Decree, the Commissioner of the Defense Acquisition Program Administration restricts the export of small arms and light weapons to be used for military purposes in consideration of the following factors: 1) maintenance of international peace and security and protection of national security; 2) high possibility of causing diplomatic friction due to the export; 3) compliance with treaties regarding export controls on strategic goods; 4) prevention of over-heated competition among domestic manufacturers; and 5) unqualified goods.

The Defense Acquisition Program Administration has established a specific internal procedure to review the aforementioned factors. This review procedure in particular requires the DAPA to accord careful attention to exports of small arms and light weapons. As sub-factors of the first consideration, "maintenance of international peace and security," the procedure stipulates that the DAPA should restrict the export of major defense industry items that include small arms and light weapons to countries that are subject to a UNSG arms embargo, violate international norms regarding the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and prevention of terrorism and drug trafficking, and are highly likely to contribute to the proliferation and development of WMD.

2) Non-military purposes

Article 9 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords, Explosives, etc. provides that those who intend to export and import small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes must obtain permission from the Commissioner General of the National Police Agency. Article 17 of the Act's Execution Regulation outlines detailed procedures of application for the permission to export and import.

Pursuant to its internal regulations, the National Police Agency requires exporters to submit an application form for export permission, documentation for the permission to import issued by the government of the importing state, and a form of guarantee for prevention of re-export to third countries confirmed by the government of the importing state.

According to Article 9 (4) and 47 of the Firearms Control Act, the Commissioner General can restrict the export of such armed goods in the interests of the "maintenance of public security." In addition, the National Police applies Articles 5 and 21 of the Foreign Trade Act, Article 39 of the Presidential Decree of the Foreign Trade Act and the Public Notice on the Export and Import of Strategic Items and Technology to cases of export and import of small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes.

Article 5 of the Foreign Trade Act permits restrictions on trade for the purpose of protection of human life, health and safety as well as international peace and security. Article 16 of the Public Notice sets out the fundamental principle of export control of "strategic goods" that permission of exporting and importing such goods should be issued only in the case that the peaceful usage of the goods is guaranteed.

8. Brokering

i) What national legislation or administrative procedures exist to regulate the activities of those who engage in SALW brokering within national jurisdiction and control?

Article 57 of the Defense Acquisition Act requires brokers of small arms and light weapons to register at the DAPA. Only registered brokers are authorized to conduct activities of brokering in trade of small arms and light weapons.

9. Marking, record keeping and tracing

i) Does your country require licensed manufacturers of SALW to apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each weapon as an integral part of the production process?

iv) How long are records kept on the manufacture, holding and transfer of SALW under your jurisdiction?

vi) What national measures exist for tracing SALW held and issued by the State?

1) Military purposes

Pursuant to Article 53 of the Defense Acquisition Act, the DAPA requires an authorized manufacturer to produce small arms and light weapons in accordance with the Directives of the Ministry of National Defense. The directives stipulate that marking comprises the caliber, model, serial number and country of manufacture. Marking should be done at the point of manufacture. All information on domestically manufactured small arms and light weapons are input into the integrated system of information regarding the status of the management of munitions. This system is utilized for tracing small arms and light weapons to be used for military purposes.

2) Non-military purposes

Article 2 (4) of the Execution Regulation of the Firearms Control Act provides that manufacturer, model and caliber should be marked on the left side of the receiver and initials of manufacturer, year of manufacture and six-digit serial number on the right side of the receiver. The Article adds that the initials of the manufacturer, year of manufacture and six-digit serial number should be marked on the trigger.

Manufacturer and importer are permitted to manufacture and import only small arms and light weapons for which samples have successfully passed safety checks conducted by the Gun & Explosives Safety Technology Association (GESTA). One of the major criteria for such checks is compliance with the aforementioned regulations regarding marking. Small arms and light weapons that fail to comply with marking regulations are not permitted to be manufactured and imported.

All authorized possessors should submit full information regarding their authorized small arms and light weapons such as country of manufacture, serial number, model, caliber, manufacturer, authorization number, authorized function, personal data of possessor, storage, etc. The information is input into the electronic system for management and safety of arms of GESTA. This system is used to trace small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes.

11. Awareness-raising

i) Please describe any public awareness and confidence building programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed and implemented (including the public destruction of surplus weapons and the voluntary surrender of SALW.)

ii) Please describe any education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has encouraged.

Pursuant to Article 22 of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Swords and Explosives, etc., all those who intend to possess small arms and light weapons to be used for non-military purposes must complete a one-hour education program on the Act and its related regulations before applying for authorization of possession.

The National Police Agency annually conducts a one-month campaign to promote voluntary reporting on the illegal possession of small arms and light weapons. This campaign is advertised through press releases by the Commissioner (Commissioner-General?) of the National Police Agency, TV commercials and County Notices.

II. Regional Level and Global Level

The Republic of Korea has been committed to combating the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and supported the efforts by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) established pursuant to Resolution 58/241 of December 2003 of the General Assembly to negotiate an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons.

With regard to regional cooperation, on the occasion of the ASEAN Regional Forum Experts Group Meeting on Transnational Crime as well as in the APEC Counter Terrorism Task Force, the Republic of Korea has played an active part in promoting the harmonization of regional practices and capacity-building in national export control systems. In October 2000 the Republic of Korea made a presentation on the national report regarding preventive measures against the illicit trade of SALW at the ARF Experts Group Meeting on Transnational Crime co-hosted by Korea and Malaysia. In April 2001 Korea initiated discussions on the ARF's contributions to the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade of SALW as a Chair of the Subcommittee on Small Arms and Light Weapons at the ARF Experts Group Meeting on Transnational Crime. In May 2006, Korea presented a briefing on the status of its national legislation on the prevention of the illicit trade of SALW at the UN Regional Workshop on SALW held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Korean National Police Agency has been strengthening cooperation with Japan and China in the area of safety management of firearms and exchange of information on the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons by holding its annual bilateral working-level meetings with its respective counterparts in Japan and China.

The Republic of Korea has also cooperated with other countries through Interpol or the National Point of Contact to identify and trace those groups and individuals involved in the illicit trade of SALW. In October 2003, at the request of Japanese Interpol, the Korean National Police Agency arrested and extradited Japanese fugitives suspected of smuggling small arms and light weapons into Japan.

In addition, in order to explore areas of cooperation where the ROK's practices and experience relating to SALW may be of assistance to the African region, the ROK government invited Ambassador Carlos Dos Santos, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to visit Korea on 18-22 May, 2005. The ROK government made use of the valuable opportunity this visit presented to raise awareness amongst the public of the devastation and debilitation resulting from the illicit trade in SALW.