



KAZAKHSTAN

Please, check against delivery

STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kazykhanov,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations,
at the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations
Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation
of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit
Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**

**11 January 2006
New York**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere and warmest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action. My congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau. I am sure that your experience and expertise, determination and drive will contribute to successful and effective work of the Preparatory Committee.

Distinguished delegates,

The year 2005 marked a watershed in the global effort to better understand and address the problems created by the proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons. The entry into force of the UN Firearms Protocol and the UN Instrument for Timely and Reliable Identification and Tracing of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons should contribute to the efforts to ensure international peace and security.

Destabilizing accumulation and proliferation of weapons continue to be a key factor of security and stability in the world. Illicit arms trafficking is being actively used by criminal and terrorist groups and radical religious movements. The spread of weapons is directly linked to the activities of drug cartels and criminal networks involved in the production and illicit trafficking of drugs.

It is critically important to develop and implement agreed international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and to reduce their excessive and destabilizing accumulations throughout the world. We believe that the United Nations should play a leading role in this process.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan reaffirms its determination to fully implement all the provisions of the Instrument adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/463. At the same time, our delegation shares the concern of many countries that this Instrument will not be legally binding.

We believe that the international community does not pay due attention to the proliferation of ammunition and explosives. Member States should exert every effort to put in place controls over the illicit proliferation and use of ammunition and explosives, which could be eventually integrated into the Programme of Action.

The Government of Kazakhstan has submitted its detailed report on the implementation of the Programme of Action and continues its efforts to update it.

Kazakhstan supports the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms by providing information, on a regular basis, and considers the Register as the most important component of the export control system. It should be noted in this regard that for several years in a row now Kazakhstan has been submitting its account to the Register, showing zero export of small arms and light weapons. We are also in favour of another transparency measure taken by the United Nations - the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures - and cosponsor a draft resolution on this issue in the First Committee.

Kazakhstan supports the provisions of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. We express confidence that this document will make a considerable contribution to global efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

Kazakhstan considers it important to strengthen its national export control system. The Law on Export Control of the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes the framework for and the functioning of the export controls over armaments, military equipment and items. The Law was adopted in 1996 and is subject to review in accordance with the international nonproliferation regimes. We also believe that expanded cooperation between States to improve export control systems is a very effective way to counter international terrorism. Such cooperation can be especially meaningful at the regional level.

The circulation of small arms and light weapons in Kazakhstan is governed by the Rules of Circulation of Combat Small Arms and Ammunition for Them and Side Arms, adopted in 2002 by a Government decree. Efforts by state agencies to identify and eliminate sources of acquisition of arms and ammunition are especially important for the prevention and suppression of crimes involving their illicit trafficking. Because of these measures, registered crime involving illegal circulation of these arms is relatively insignificant and accounts for some 1,5 or 2 percent of all crimes in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Chairman,

During the upcoming thematic discussions, Member States will address main aspects of the implementation of the Programme of Action. In this context, our delegation believes that special attention should be paid to such issues as an enhanced international control over small arms and light weapons and brokering; an enhanced control over transfers of small arms and light weapons by exporters, including by limiting the number of brokers; unlicensed production of small arms and light weapons; broader subregional and international cooperation and donor activities; addressing the problems of post-conflict settlement; and the relationship between illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and drugs and organized crime and terrorism. As a follow-up, it is essential to establish a basis for the drafting and implementation of legally binding instruments related to small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me again express confidence that our meeting will be productive and will be able to elaborate its draft final document for the Review Conference, thus making an important contribution to the fight of the international community against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

I wish you successful and fruitful work.

Thank you for your attention.