Algeria supported and voted for General Assembly resolution 53/77 E, entitled "Small arms". It therefore supports its aims and is in favour of convening and holding, in 2000, an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects, as decided in paragraph 1 of the resolution.

In this connection, Algeria considers it essential that the objectives of such a conference be discussed in advance, within the framework of preparatory meetings. Moreover, Algeria believes that the conference should reiterate and reaffirm the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, the right of self-defence and the right of each State to develop its defence system in order to protect its national security.

The disarmament process will be complete only when it addresses an issue which is particularly important and sensitive for a large number of States, namely, the proliferation and illicit transfer of conventional weapons which contribute to and exacerbate new, violent and transboundary phenomena such as terrorism, trafficking in narcotic drugs and organized crime. The objectives of the conference should not be limited to adopting moratoriums and codes of conduct proposed and drafted by arms-producing countries. The conference should also, and above all, look at ways and means of neutralizing and dismantling all the uncontrolled networks that supply terrorists, criminals and drug traffickers with weapons.

In this context, Algeria, which devotes only a very small part of its gross domestic product to arms spending, recognizes that the
international community must look into the question of the proliferation of and the illicit trade in small arms, like that in other kinds of weapons, and reiterates its readiness to consider any constructive initiative or action to this end.