Statement by Uganda during the meeting on the Implementation of the United Nations Program of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.
Mr. Chairman,
I congratulate you on your election as chair of this session to consider this very important subject.

Chairman,
The first decade of the 21st century has witnessed complex and profound changes in the international security landscape with both challenge and opportunities to deal with security threats. The lack of effective control mechanisms coupled with excessive crave for profits from arms trades by some states, manufacturers of arms and dealers are to blame for the menace.

In this regard, we consider the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons as a useful tool/ Mechanism in the efforts to eradicate the menace.

Mr. Chairman,
Uganda calls upon all stakeholders including State authorities, arms manufacturers, and arms dealers to cooperate with the global efforts in the implementation of initiatives directed at combating illicit trafficking and proliferations of Conventional Arms. Uganda also recognizes the significant role the civil society and Non Governmental Organizations play in combating illicit trafficking, proliferation and control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Mr. Chairman,
Uganda attaches importance to this program because the Small Arms and Light Weapons continue to cause untold suffering in our region. This explains why Uganda set up the National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NFP) as a coordinating Agency on all matters related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). Uganda supports the full Implementation of the UNPoA and other Regional and International Instruments.

Mr. Chairman,
Uganda has embarked on a marking programme starting with state owned stockpiles. The exercise has started by marking firearms under jurisdiction of the Uganda Police (includes Police, Private Security Organization and civilian firearms) and Uganda Peoples Defense Forces.

In carrying out the marking programme Uganda has also relied on the regional efforts including RECSA and EAC SALW programme and we continue to use standards provided
under the Nairobi Protocol. We remain convinced that such regional efforts will help to ensure Cooperation in Tracing.

The biggest challenge to this programme however, remains the financial requirements to support the marking teams in the field. There is also need for financial resources to complete the review of legislation and the capacity to engage and implement cross border interventions to support tracing mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, there is need to create a global fund to help countries to acquire the requisite financial resources to create the necessary Capacity to help these countries to fully comply. It is therefore our hope that the current meeting will review the opportunities and challenges and come up with concrete proposals on how to fully implement the UN program on Small Arms and the International Tracing instrument.