Meeting of Governmental Experts

Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance by Germany

Mr. Chairman,

Germany offers international assistance in various forms and fields. Besides our active participation and cooperation in activities of the EU and the OSCE as reported yesterday we are also very active on the bilateral level.

In the field of marking, record keeping and tracing there is a special focus on capacity building which in itself can have very different forms, be it the support to NGO’s or UN institutions for the development of publications, e.g. on marking technologies as presented by Small Arms Survey at the side event in the German Mission on Monday or the UNIDIR study on challenges to the PoA on Tuesday.

Expertise can also be provided via our experts from the Verification Center of the German Federal Armed Forces be it for assessments, project planning or training as layed out in the MSAG leaflet which was distributed at the working reception on Wednesday.

Capacity building could also happen in the form of seminars in Germany, as organized for the Focal Points of the League of Arab States in recent years, providing them with concrete insights into how certain aspects of SALW control are organized and practically implemented in Germany. I was glad to hear from the representative of Algeria yesterday that they could make good use of these experiences for their national implementation, however it was also useful for us to hear how SALW control is organized in the Arab World. In addition I’d like to add that these seminars have also proved very useful for our national coordination and understanding of the different aspects of SALW control in Germany as we regularly brought colleagues from very different fields, institutions and ministries together.

On the other hand we are also giving support to concrete activities on the ground be it via our experts from the Verification Center, specialists from NGO’s or implementing agencies like the German GIZ, my thanks to the representative of RECSA who yesterday mentioned the multiyear cooperation of GIZ and the EU with the EAC to improve SALW control in close cooperation with RECSA and the respective national Focal Points of the region.

Lastly but certainly not the least important instrument for capacity building I’d like to mention the PoA-ISS which we helped to set up and which according to the request of last years consensus resolution on practical disarmament measures - which we introduced - should be maintained and further developed.

In this resolution the Group of Interested States which regularly meets in the German Mission, co-chaired by Germany and UNODA, was encouraged to continue its activities for matching needs and resources. And we have done so by actively promoting among potential donors the compilation of project proposals which were presented by UNODA at the BMS4 for the first time.
Daniel Prins talked about that in more detail yesterday. However I'm happy to note that these activities are having its effects, as we heard from the representatives of Kenya or the DRC where we just signed a contract for the implementation of a project in cooperation with UNDP, the Mines Advisory Group and the National Small Arms Commission of the DRC on Tuesday.

In conclusion and as a general remark I'd like to underline that we attach high importance on national ownership as demanded by the representative of CARRICOM yesterday. And I would like to add that this national ownership goes certainly beyond the self identification of needs as mentioned by Daniel Prins in his introduction which however is an indispensable first step.

National ownership in our view includes also making available national resources for the implementation of a project, be it financial or human resources and also giving political support for its implementation. This seems to us are indispensable prerequisites for a successful project implementation and we are giving high attention to these criteria when deciding which projects to support within our limited resources.

Thank you