Chair’s summary

Elements for the Second Review Conference

1. In their preparations for the 2012 Review Conference, Member States noted the considerable progress that has been made in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument since their adoption. Yet they also emphasized that much more needs to be done in order to achieve their full implementation. States stressed the importance of a Review Conference outcome – agreed by consensus – that would facilitate strengthened implementation.

2. States underlined the need to comprehensively review all aspects of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. States highlighted that governments bear the primary responsibility for tackling the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

3. States reiterated their right to manufacture, import and retain small arms and light weapons for their self-defence and security needs in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

4. In considering the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, States noted the linkages with related issues, such as terrorism, organized crime, kidnapping for ransom, piracy, armed violence and the illicit exploitation of natural resources. They also underscored the need to combat the illicit trade from both a supply and demand perspective.

5. States stressed the benefits of partnerships between all stakeholders, including civil society organizations and industry.

6. States underlined the continuing negative impact of the illicit small arms trade on civilians, including women, children and the elderly. They emphasized the need to integrate a gender perspective into relevant aspects of Programme of Action implementation.

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1 The Chair’s summary, prepared under her own responsibility, reflects her interpretation of the main points that were discussed during the meetings of the Committee. It does not represent a full record of all issues discussed during the Preparatory Committee nor should it be seen as reflecting the consensus view of States on any specific points covered in it.
I. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

A) National level

7. In their interventions, Member States noted that progress had been made in implementing the Programme of Action at the national level. Among other things, they mentioned the adoption, strengthening and enforcement of laws, regulations and administrative procedures relating to Programme of Action implementation and the development of national action plans. Member States also noted progress made in implementing a wide range of specific measures, including stockpile security, the collection and destruction of small arms and the establishment of national points of contact.

8. Member States mentioned, inter alia, the following as suggested themes for the Second Review Conference:

(a) Supporting the development and implementation of relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons and illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;

(b) Strengthening the end-user certification process, including verification;

(c) Ensuring adequate government authorization of international transfers of small arms and light weapons;

(d) Improving coordination among governmental agencies and between levels of government;

(e) Addressing illicit craft production;

(f) Combating the proliferation of MANPADS and their components;

(g) Improving stockpile management and stockpile safety and security, including the responsible disposal of surpluses;

(h) Ensuring the effective implementation of UN arms embargoes and DDR programmes conducted within a peacekeeping framework;

(i) Increasing the participation of women in small arms policy making;

(j) Sharing and updating information on national points of contact;

(k) Sharing experiences on the design and implementation of national action plans.
B) Regional level

9. In their interventions, Member States noted that progress had been made in implementing the Programme of Action at the regional level. Among other things, they mentioned the adoption and implementation of regional instruments and commitments, improved information exchange and coordination, as well as the establishment of small arms databases at the regional level.

10. Member States mentioned, inter alia, the following as suggested themes for the Second Review Conference:

   (a) Enhancing cooperation and synergies with relevant processes at the regional and subregional levels;
   (b) Reinforcing inter-agency cooperation to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders;
   (c) Harmonizing regional reporting requirements with those of the Programme of Action;
   (d) Strengthening regional border-control mechanisms;
   (e) Sharing of information and experiences between regions.

C) Global level

11. In their interventions, Member States noted that progress had been made in implementing the Programme of Action at the global level. Among other things, they mentioned the adoption and implementation of global instruments and commitments, as well as cooperation with relevant international organizations.

12. Member States mentioned, inter alia, the following as suggested themes for the Second Review Conference:

   (a) Enhancing cooperation and synergies with relevant international organizations;
   (b) Enabling peace operations to further contribute to the tracing, safe storage and disposal of illicit small arms;
   (c) Strengthening cooperation between sanctions monitoring groups and peace operations.
II. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

13. In their interventions, States noted that they had cooperated for purposes of Programme of Action implementation and had provided and received assistance in order to build national capacity in implementing the Programme of Action. Among other things, they mentioned the provision of equipment and related training, as well as the development of tools and mechanisms for implementation support and the matching of needs and resources (Group of Interested States, Programme of Action–Implementation Support System).

14. Member States mentioned, inter alia, the following as suggested themes for the Second Review Conference:
   
   (a) Improving the provision of information on available resources;
   
   (b) Strengthening capacity-building and the provision of technical expertise;
   
   (c) Developing indicators to determine whether assistance has been adequate;
   
   (d) Supporting trust funds on the implementation of the Programme of Action;
   
   (e) Enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation;
   
   (f) Facilitating the transfer of relevant technology;
   
   (g) Exploring means of ensuring the sustainability of assistance.

III. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

15. In their interventions, Member States noted that existing follow-up mechanisms include national reporting, biennial meetings of States, review conferences and the annual General Assembly resolution on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. They also noted that an Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts was convened in 2011. Member States recalled other features of Programme of Action follow-up, including a six-year meeting cycle, the early designation of meeting Chairs, the timely identification of meeting themes, biennial reporting timed to coincide with Programme of Action meetings, the voluntary use of a standardized reporting template, and simultaneous consideration of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

16. Member States mentioned, inter alia, the following as suggested themes for the Second Review Conference:
   
   (a) Improving coherence, continuity and complementarity in Programme of Action follow-up;
   
   (b) Distinguishing mandates of different types of meetings;
   
   (c) Identifying meeting themes and formats for the next six-year cycle;
(d) Facilitating participation at Programme of Action meetings, including through voluntary sponsorship funds;
(e) Developing an implementation plan for the Programme of Action;
(f) Developing appropriate tools to assess progress made in implementation;
(g) Identifying a process for the consideration of additional issues.

IV. **International Instrument to Enable States to Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons**

17. In their interventions, Member States noted that progress had been made in implementing the International Tracing Instrument. Among other things, they mentioned the adoption, strengthening and enforcement of laws, regulations and administrative procedures relating to the International Tracing Instrument. They stressed the interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature of marking, record-keeping and tracing. Member States noted progress made in implementing a wide range of specific measures, including the marking of weapons held by government armed and security forces, the computerization of small arms records, and the provision of tracing assistance, inter alia via the INTERPOL tracing system.

18. Member States mentioned, inter alia, the following as suggested themes for the Second Review Conference:
(a) Enhancing the exchange of information on national marking practices;
(b) Strengthening measures to recover erased or altered markings;
(c) Improving inter-agency coordination for tracing;
(d) Improving firearms identification and the establishment of accurate records;
(e) Enhancing measures to prevent diversion, including the exchange of tracing results;
(f) Enabling peace operations and sanctions monitoring groups to trace illicit small arms in conflict and post-conflict settings;
(g) Building capacity in national tracing systems;
(h) Identifying key capacity shortfalls and priorities for future assistance;
(i) Developing mechanisms, such as a technical committee, to enhance International Tracing Instrument implementation in light of new technical developments;
(j) Identifying specific themes for future International Tracing Instrument meetings;
(k) Enhancing linkages with the UN Firearms Protocol and other relevant processes;
(l) Enhancing cooperation with INTERPOL and WCO.