



*Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Nigeria to the United Nations*

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30 November, 2011

Your Excellency. / *Dear Colleague,*

**REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT
AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.**

I write in my capacity as Chair-designate of the Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, to be held from 27 August to 7 September 2012.

It was satisfying to see so many Member States represented at the first informal consultations held on this topic last month at the United Nations Headquarters. Those present held a good exchange of views regarding the mandate, possible agenda, and other substantive and organizational aspects of the Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee of 19-23 March 2012. Following on from those consultations, it is my intention to hold further informal consultations – both in New York and in Geneva – prior to the Preparatory Committee meeting.

I propose to hold these consultations on **Thursday 8 December at 3pm in Conference Room 6 of the United Nations Headquarters in New York.** In line with standing practice, this informal meeting will be conducted in English. Consultations are foreseen in Geneva in January 2012.

With the benefit of the first informal consultations, my subsequent discussions with you and your interventions on the topic of small arms during the First Committee of the General Assembly, I have elicited the

following suggestions to guide our formulation of the agenda for the Review Conference (RevCon):

- The RevCon should cover several thematic areas. Such themes should include the discussions of the review period 2006-2012, during which the 008 3rd Biennial Meeting of States (BMS3), the 2010 4th Biennial Meeting of States (BMS4) and the 2011 Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE) were held;
- We should continue the practice of beginning the thematic debate immediately following the opening of the conference;
- The RevCon would benefit from a special focus on regional implementation of the Programme of Action. During the review period, regional implementation has seen impressive progress, and significant lessons have been learnt, while further cooperation and coordination remains a matter of priority;
- NGO participation could be organized in a manner similar to that at past UN meetings on the Programme of Action; and
- The timely appointment of facilitators on specific topics could be beneficial for the preparation process.

Drawing upon these points of guidance, please find below a preliminary list of suggested themes for the RevCon agenda. All but the sixth item have featured on previous Programme of Action meeting agendas. These themes are put forward as a possible substantive agenda for the 2012 Review Conference.

1. **Marking, record-keeping and cooperation in tracing** (BMS3, BMS4, MGE);
2. **Illicit brokering** in small arms and light weapons (BMS3);
3. **Stockpile management and surplus disposal** (BMS3);
4. Establishment, where appropriate, of sub-regional or regional mechanisms, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the **illicit cross-border trade** in small arms and light weapons, including trans-border customs cooperation and information sharing networks among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies (BMS4);

5. **International assistance and capacity building** (BMS3, BMS4, MGE);
6. **Regional implementation of the Programme of Action**
7. Strengthening the follow-up mechanism of the Programme of Action (BMS4);
8. **Other issues** (BMS3, BMS4)

Please note that the eighth theme would allow Member States, in preparation for and during the RevCon, to share their views on any other theme which may not have secured consensus.

I would be grateful if you would give due consideration to my proposal, consult your capital as appropriate and contribute your views and suggestions at the 8 December 2011 informal consultations, in readiness for our Preparatory Committee meeting.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME:

On a related note, allow me to draw your attention to the outcome document of BMS4, adopted by consensus, which states in paragraph 43: *"In order to increase the engagement of States in the Programme of Action process, States were encouraged to consider the timely establishment of a voluntary sponsorship fund through which financial assistance could be provided, upon request, to States otherwise unable to participate in Programme of Action meetings."*

Historically, UNDP managed sponsorship programmes for Programme of Action-related UN meetings, including most recently, for the 2011 Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE).

Therefore, I would in particular encourage States in a position to do so, to announce at the upcoming consultations their possible intentions to contribute to a sponsorship programme for the upcoming RevCon.

Please accept, your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours very Sincerely



U. Joy Ogwu

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

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