



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

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24 January, 2012

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**

You will recall that during our informal consultations of 13 January 2012, we agreed, in broad terms, on the scope of the Review Conference (RevCon): that the substantive agenda should reflect the structures of the PoA and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

On 18 January, I had the honour of conducting my first informal consultations with our Geneva colleagues. I shared with them the views and issues raised during our four successive informal consultations in New York. I am particularly encouraged that our colleagues in Geneva demonstrated the same level of enthusiasm so evident in New York. It must be stated that this meeting provided ample opportunity for the articulation of views for achieving our objectives of the PrepCom.

Agenda for the Preparatory Committee

In my letter of 30 December 2011, I suggested, based on our open-ended consultations, a provisional agenda for the PrepCom. Our discussions and further consultations have led to some revisions. The provisional agenda may now read as follows:

Preparatory Committee

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee/President of the Review Conference.
3. Election of other officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Preparatory Committee.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee.
6. Organization of work.
7. General exchange of views:
 - a. Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
 - i. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the:
 - (1) national level;
 - (2) regional level;
 - (3) global level.
 - ii. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance.
 - iii. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
 - b. International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.
 - i. Marking;
 - ii. Record-keeping;
 - iii. Cooperation in tracing;
 - iv. Implementation;
 - v. Follow-up.

8. General exchange of views: Statements by participants other than States.
9. Adoption of the Provisional agenda of the Review Conference.
10. Adoption of the Provisional rules of procedure for the Review Conference.
11. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

Working papers

In my previous letter, I suggested that my team prepare short indicative working papers on the substantive topics of the provisional agenda. These, I wish to restate, would be circulated in advance of the PrepCom in order to streamline the discussions. I do not intend to provide more than an indicative listing of sub-headings under each topic.

Given the above-mentioned provisional agenda, the following working papers could be foreseen:

Indicative working paper I

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national level.

Indicative working paper II

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the regional level.

Indicative working paper III

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the global level.

Indicative working paper IV

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Implementation, international cooperation and assistance.

Indicative working paper V

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Indicative working paper VI

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

- i. Marking;
- ii. Record-keeping;
- iii. Cooperation in tracing;
- iv. Implementation;
- v. Follow-up.

Review Conference

The New York and Geneva consultations, I believe, have culminated in a rich collection of views on how best to utilise our time during the RevCon. Indeed, several delegations expressed the need for the most effective time management strategy as follows:

1. A general debate;
2. A thematic debate;
3. Discussion of all relevant issues;
4. Exploring new issues;
5. Avoiding parallel sessions;
6. Producing a meaningful outcome document;
7. Agreeing the outcome document by consensus.

At this early stage of consultations, such a wide array of requests are expected. However, the time is ripe to streamline these views with a focus on what is feasible in a 9-day conference (It must be noted that 3

September 2012 is an official UN holiday). Indeed, I would stress that time management becomes our shared responsibility.

I would, consequently, like to suggest the following approach in an attempt to incorporate the essence of all the 7 points itemised above:

A. The RevCon could start with a 2-day general debate, e.g. under the following proviso:

- 5-minute time limit per delegation (10 minutes for high-level participants);
- Encouragement to prepare statements on behalf of regional groups;
- Encouragement to circulate longer statements in writing;
- Confirmation that – in line with previous meetings under the Programme of Action – submitted national reports may also be viewed and considered as a contribution to the general debate, thus possibly further reducing the necessity for all delegations to take the floor in the general debate.

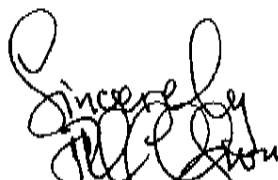
B. If the PrepCom would agree that indicative working papers could be elaborated further in the intersessional period (between March and August) as indicated in my letter of 30 December; these papers could, in those months, evolve towards draft chapters of a possible outcome document. However, this must be a fully transparent process in which all delegations are involved and are afforded ample time to consult with Capital at each stage. Regular informal consultations during the intersessional period will therefore, be essential.

If this were acceptable, the 'substantive' or 'thematic' debate during the RevCon would in practice take the form of text negotiations regarding the substantive draft outcome language which may have developed from each indicative working paper. Initially we may wish to set aside 6 days of the RevCon for negotiations on the substantive outcome document.

C. I can confirm that parallel sessions will not be possible at the RevCon (nor at the PrepCom), since only one meeting room – with full conference services – will be available.

To further discuss the preparations for the PrepCom and the RevCon, I intend to convene another Informal consultation on **Thursday 26 January 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 6 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.** In line with the standing practice, this informal meeting will be conducted in English.

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


U. Joy Ogwu

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

To All:
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
to the United Nations
New York.