CO - CHAIRS' NOTES

Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Looking Towards the 2012 Review Conference

Bali, 5-6 March 2012

1. The regional meeting on "The Implementation of the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms in Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Looking Towards the 2012 Review Conference" was held on 5-6 March 2012 in Bali, Indonesia. Approximately 50 participants attended, representing 19 countries in the Asian region, including representatives of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), including its Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, ASEAN, ASEANAPOL, ICRC, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations.

2. The meeting was opened by H.E. Ambassador Hasan Kleib, Director-General for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; Mr. Daniël Prins, Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA); and Mr. Jan Willem Blankert, Special Advisor on ASEAN, Delegation of the European Union, Jakarta.

3. Representatives participated actively in all deliberations during the meeting.

4. This meeting forms a part of a series of meetings that is conducted by the UNODA in partnership with Member States in preparation of the 2012 Review Conference of the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in New York on 27 August to 7 September 2012. The purpose of this regional meeting was to provide a platform to consider and advance the implementation of the Program of Action (PoA) at the regional level and to feed into the broad-based consultation process of the Chair-Designate in preparation for the 2012 Review Conference.

5. Five main themes were discussed at the regional meeting, namely 1) the overview of the PoA and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI); 2) expectations with regard to the 2012 Review Conference; 3) the implementation of the PoA and the ITI at the (sub-) regional level (including regional cooperation); 4) explanation of the Program of Action - Implementation Support System (www.poa-iss.org) and its PoA reporting template; and 5) resources and initiatives supporting the implementation of the PoA and the ITI at the sub-regional and national levels.
6. The meeting recognized that the PoA is an important global instrument for addressing the serious threats to security and humanity posed by the illicit trade in SALW. It provides a framework for international cooperation and assistance in the areas of combating the illicit trade in SALW. Such global efforts require concerted efforts at national, as well as regional levels.

7. The meeting noted the increasingly cross-sectional nature of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and the impact that it has on inter alia the issues of crime, humanitarian assistance, international trade, public health and counter-terrorism, and recognized that UN Member States must determine how to address the potential duplication which may stem from discussing the topic in multiple forums.

8. Some key topics to be addressed at the upcoming Review Conference were identified. The meeting acknowledged that the construction of a regional view is a critical fulcrum in defining Asia's regional priorities. The meeting recognized that the provision of assistance and cooperation amongst Member States is essential in ensuring the successful implementation of the Program of Action.

9. The meeting noted that in the preparation of the upcoming Review Conference, the exercise of full ownership in national and regional meetings is vital.

10. Participants welcomed the presentations made by the Director of the UNRCPD and discussed the possible forms of cooperation between States of the region and the RCPD.

11. Furthermore, the meeting took note of the possible advantages of linking and harmonizing sub-regional priorities and processes regarding small arms with the global cycle of meetings, as well as to optimize available resources and initiatives that are available in the sub-regions, in order to strengthen sub-regional and national implementation of the PoA and ITI.

12. The meeting broke into two separate breakout sessions to gather the views of both ASEAN +3 and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) sub-regional groups. Summaries of both group discussions are attached. These summaries serve only as suggestions by the participating regional experts, and therefore, further discussion with regard to the content of the summaries need to be conducted in a more formal setting.

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