Madame President,

My delegation congratulates you on your election as President of this Review Conference. This Review Conference comes at a critical time for the overall multilateral disarmament system. Success has been far and few in between, while failures seem to be multiplied and aggravated. It is thus up to all member states, with your guidance, leadership qualities, vast experience and diplomatic skills to bring us to an outcome that will meet our interests, concerns, and expectations. This is a challenging task, but we are confident of your ability to get us there. In this regard, pleased be assured of the fullest co-operation of the Malaysian delegation in your efforts.

2. My delegation takes this opportunity to associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Alligned Movement.

Madame President,

3. It has been six years since the last Review Conference. Times may have changed, but the problems posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons have not. The trade and brokering in SALW, and their ammunition, continues to rise. Their marking and tracing continues to be limited and difficult, particularly in conflict or post-conflict environments. Stockpiles continue to rise, and their use and misuse continue to exact a heavy toll on the lives of innocents, particularly women, children, and the ageing.

4. Clearly, the illicit trade in SALW poses a serious threat to international peace and security. A practical approach to deal with it is needed at all levels. Malaysia believes that addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons must be taken through a holistic perspective of arms control and disarmament, post-conflict peace-building, conflict prevention and socio-economic development.
5. Member states, through the United Nations system, need to play a larger role in checking the proliferation of SALW. Although the Programme of Action is not legally-binding, it does provide the international community with the guidelines and parameters in dealing with the issue. Its strength is that its general approach allow states to implement it as best as is possible for them, be it at the national level, or through collaboration and cooperation at the regional or global levels. This strength has also been a weakness as implementation of the PoA has been varied and uneven.

6. Malaysia sees it as thus being important that this Review Conference provides the PoA with renewed vigour. The PoA exists, and the Conference can provide: strengthened political will and commitment from states; reinforce the importance of the PoA in preventing, combatting and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW; and ensure that the International Tracing Instrument receives a new breath of life to make it more implementable and relevant. These outcomes would not need new mandates, or lengthy negotiations on new instruments. But these are the logical and rational outcomes to match what all member states had called for when the PoA was formulated and accepted. These outcomes are a reflection of our initial ambitions, and we need to be mindful of this – to move the PoA forward, not to move it back.

Madame President,

7. Malaysia undertakes several initiatives to enhance collaboration with INTERPOL and the WCO in building-capacity for marking, record-keeping and tracing at the national, regional and global levels. We are also studying the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the UNTOC, with a view to becoming a state party in the future.

8. Beyond Governments and intergovernmental arrangements, civil society plays an important role. It is encouraging that there is increasing involvement on their part, particularly in mobilizing additional resources for states. Awareness of the dangers and problems posed by the proliferation of SALW is known. It is effective action with is limited, and in this regard, the collaboration between governments and civil society in implementing the PoA is more positive.

9. The PoA is an important document. Malaysia supports it. Despite the failure of the Arms Trade Treaty last month, and particularly the divergent views on the issues of small arms and light weapons, and ammunition, that process is separate from this one. The PoA has the strength to stand on its own. It is up to states to proceed with the PoA without injecting the remains of other processes into it.

10. My delegation believes that the outcome of this Review Conference will contribute towards enhancing our consolidated efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

I thank you Madame President.