Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nicaragua to the United Nations

Statement by the delegation of Nicaragua during the Second Review of the Programme of Action of the United Nations to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects.
Delivered by the Major Commissioner: Mr. Gregorio Aburto.

Madame President,

The Delegation of Nicaragua is pleased to congratulate you on your election, and we also commend the members of the board.

We express our support and cooperation so that we achieve the best results in the strengthening of the PoA at this Conference.

Our delegation associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Madame President,

At the outset of this statement, I welcome the realization of this important meeting, whose main objective is to review our progress in reducing and combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, evil that has brought so much damage to our countries, especially to the economic development, social, cultural, peace and tranquility of our people.

Nicaragua, aware of its commitments to peace with its people and of the commitments made in combating and preventing the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, since 2004 incorporated into the Parliament the Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument of arms (ITI) through the Special Law for the Regulation and Control of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, Act 510. Thus beginning a new phase that includes a rigorous control and registration of firearms in the hands of civilians and confiscating weapons of war (automatic rifles).
Madame President,

Let me share with you the most important elements of the Act 510; This Act is considered one of the most modern, and is even a model for the modernization of other legislations.

1. The creation of the national coordinating body, called Multidisciplinary National Commission, which among its main functions is the establishment or the formulation of public policy for the prevention of violence generated by the use of firearms.

2. The Development of an Operative Plan of Seizure of weapons, thus beginning a new phase that includes a rigorous registration of firearms in civilian hands and the confiscation of weapons of war (automatic rifles), which has resulted in the seizure of 20,994 weapons, of which in the 2008 we destroyed 12,994, and the remaining 8,000 weapons are ready for destruction, and in order to make it effective financial assistance is required.

3. The Development of a process to strengthen the culture of peace, through projects and awareness campaigns throughout the society; on this point we want to thank the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP), for financing the Project of Prevention of Gun Violence and Support of Arms Control in Nicaragua, which has allowed us to create departmental commissions for the control of small arms and light weapons, and create network multipliers of culture of peace in the whole country, with highly satisfactory results.

4. It does enhance the efforts of Civil Society Organizations in the prevention of violence generated by the use of weapons; these are organized into a network of human security, which are represented in the Multidisciplinary National Commission.

These elements have allowed us to strengthen security levels in our country, obtaining high positive results, managing to maintain the highest levels of security in the Central American sub region, in the struggle against organized crime and drug trafficking.

Madame President,

Regionally, we have contributed to the initiatives and efforts being made through the System of Central American Integration (SICA), through the Central American Programme on small arms and light weapons control (CASAC), and the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP), in combating illicit trafficking in SALW, strengthening the national committees and strengthening border controls.

Madame President,

Nicaragua calls for major arms producing countries to reduce their production, possession and trade in conventional weapons, with the aim of achieving greater contribution to peace and international security, also to ensure that the transfer of SALW are exclusively made to States or entities authorized by the Government, and implement legal prohibitions to prevent illicit trafficking in SALW.
Madame President,

Nicaragua reaffirms its commitment to further deepen the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) for the control of small arms and light weapons, that despite the many advances made, we are aware that not all is done; on the contrary, there is a long way to walk, thus Nicaragua continues to make every effort to deactivate and seize weapons stockpiles, and combat in this way, operations connected with the smuggling of weapons and actions of groups related to drug trafficking and organized crime.

That's why we reiterate, that for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, the international cooperation and assistance are prerequisites.

Nicaragua in that sense wants to highlight the following needs and required assistance in implementing the Programme of Action, requirements reflected in all the reports that we ordinarily have delivered since the start of the PoA:

1. In the legislation, technical assistance and funding to conduct studies on the effectiveness of the law 510 in the control of small arms and light weapons, and violence generated by the use of arms.

2. Financial assistance for the continuation of the Project of Prevention of Gun Violence and Support of Arms Control in Nicaragua, in the subsequent stages, within which is designed the creation of capacity for the collection and destruction of the 8,000 pending weapons.

3. Modern marking equipment, registration and tracing small arms and light weapons.


Finally, we call on the entire international community, to take and make the future of the Programme of Action (PoA) their very own, and we call on every country and region to take the necessary initiatives for its implementation, with the aim that this does not wind up as a botched agreement.

Thank you.