Madam President,

My delegation would like to thank you, the facilitators and the Secretariat for your great patience and hard work over these past two weeks. You have ably guided our discussions with transparency and determination. We commend you and your team for leading us all to a successful result.

Madam President,

In 2001 Israel disassociated itself from the problematic linkage made in paragraph 11 of the Programme of Action between self-determination and the separate and distinct issue of prevention, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. We continue to maintain this view today for the reasons specified in our statement of 20 July 2001, circulated as document A/CONF.192/14. Israel would, therefore, wish to register on record, once again, its disassociation from a similar reference made in the Declaration adopted today as part of the outcome document.

Madam President,

As my delegation mentioned earlier, Israel attaches great importance to the Programme of Action and views its effective implementation as critical for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons at the national, regional and global levels. Please be assured that Israel will continue to support and cooperate in the implementation process that will follow this Review Conference in the months and years to come.

Finally, at the approach of the Jewish New Year, let me take this opportunity to wish you, the Secretariat, Member States and their delegates here present, a Happy New Year, full of peace, health, prosperity and joy.

Thank you, Madam President.