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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects

Intervention by

H.E. Mr. Adrian Neritani
Permanent Representative

New York, July 15th, 2008

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

First of all congratulations on your election to this position, for your hard work and leadership you have shown.

Albania aligns itself with the statement of France on behalf of the EU. I will make some brief comments in my national capacity.

My delegation salutes this unique approach and lively interaction of this meeting. This fits well with the subject matter and purpose to be achieved.

Albania shares the opinion that illegal transfer of SALW has a real potential and negative impact on development, peace, security and full enjoyment of human rights in a regional and global scale.

Albania is doing its part towards satisfactorily fulfilling its obligations under the UN Plan of Action. My country has given full support to all initiatives, plans, goals and obligations under international law. Albania has made its commitments to various international and regional information exchange systems, such as UN Program of Action, OSCE and INTERPOL mechanisms. Accordingly, Albania on a continuous basis has submitted required information exchange material to the OSCE and reports to the UN Register on Conventional Arms as well as on the implementation of the UN PoA to UNDDA.

With the aim to further strengthening the SALW transfer control system and in particular the licensing process, on April 5, 2007 Albania has adopted a new export-import law for arms and military goods. It is important to mention that this law includes the list of dual use goods tailored on the basis of EU list for dual use.

Albania has completely and transparently disclosed the existence of stockpile and then quickly moved towards their complete destruction. Regarding stockpile management, we have continued to work intensively and in a cooperative way during the years. Much has been done and the specialized personnel has received good training in acquiring NATO compatible stockpile management standards along with other international support.

Destruction has been an ongoing process since 2000. It has been coordinated with the donors, be these governments or international organizations. Throughout these years, Albania has gained expertise through training and support, however various technical challenges still remain. We thank the donors and continue to appreciate further support and expertise in order to fully demilitarize remaining surplus SALW and ammunition without incidents. We are eager to continue to work in a cooperative spirit until the full completion of this obligation.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Albanian government has expressed its willingness and readiness to fully cooperate with the international community and make the necessary national adjustments in order to reach the most advanced standards in this area.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.