

## **Third Biennial Meeting of States**

### **Intervention on International Cooperation, Assistance and Capacity Building**

**As delivered by Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Counsellor (Disarmament), Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva.**

**Date: 14/07/08**

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, let me take this opportunity to felicitate you on your election as the President of the third BMS. You have worked tirelessly to make this meeting a success. Let me assure of the fullest cooperation of our delegation in your effort.

India associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned movement delivered today on its behalf by Indonesia.

India recognizes that close international co-operation is required to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW and we have taken a number of initiatives to put in place arrangements that would help combat the illicit trade in SALW. India has a very strict export policy on SALW including on export authorization, end-user certificate and effective implementation of UN arms embargoes. India has also supported the efforts of international organizations and the initiatives taken under UN auspices to prevent combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW. Illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons is closely linked to terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, money laundering and other trans-national organized crimes. Being a victim of terrorism for over two decades, India unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and strongly believes that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any act of terrorism. The international community must have a policy of zero tolerance on terrorism and make further concerted efforts to fight this scourge. We must ensure that the issue is not obfuscated by efforts of some to veer the discussion towards so called "root causes of terrorism". Under the UNPOA the primary responsibility of controlling illicit trade in SALW rests with States. Transfer control, especially transfer to terrorists and non-state-actors

must be addressed by UNPOA.

India is party to all the thirteen UN Conventions on terrorism. India is fully committed to fulfilling its obligations under the various Security Council resolutions on counter terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373. The Government of India has submitted five national reports to UNSC's Counter Terrorism Committee in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

We have also made efforts to combat illicit trade in SALW at the regional level. India, along with other member states of BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, has established a Joint Working Group to coordinate efforts in areas such as intelligence sharing and capacity building as well as to strengthen joint efforts on counter terrorism and trans-national crime. The Joint Working Group has had three meetings so far with the last meeting having been held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in January 2007. Similarly, India has a Joint Working Group arrangement with European Union.

We have entered into bilateral agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation in combating organized crime and international terrorism. They provide for exchange of documentation, information and experience on the activities of persons involved in organized crime and terrorism, including, inter-alia, illicit trade in arms, and funding of international terrorism. Most recently, in February 2007, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Italy on Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Crime. India has so far entered into agreement with 25 countries to set-up Joint Working Groups on combating terrorism and transnational crime.

India has been actively associated with various workshops and seminars that have been organized either under UN auspices or by other interested parties to further effective international cooperation on this important subject.

**Mr. Chairman**

India believes that International Cooperation and Assistance is necessary for implementation of POA but as UNIDIR in its presentation earlier today said that this shouldn't be seen as a North-South issue

because cooperation is required among all states. In this regard caution must be exercised in linking armed violence and development. India believes that armed violence, conflict prevention and development plans are distinct and separate activities. Development plans and assistance shouldn't be linked with law and order issues. Conflict prevention involves both internal and external, i.e., inter-state and intra-state conflicts and therefore it cannot be part of national development plans.

**Mr. Chairman**

India appreciates the discussion paper on the issue prepared by Columbia, which looks into resource implications for implementation of UNPOA and ITI and identifies areas of cooperation. We also welcome the efforts of CASA and UNODA and UNIDIR in this regard. India attaches high priority to the implementation of POA and is ready to work with states, regional and international organization for furthering international cooperation, capacity building and assistance in this area.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.