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ممثلة جمهورية العراق الدائمة  
لدى الامم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**كلمة وفد جمهورية العراق**  
**Statement**  
**of**  
**The Republic of Iraq**  
**At the General Debate of the Third Biennial Meeting**  
**Of (SALW)**  
**By**  
**Permanent Representative**  
**Ambassador Dr. T. Hamid Al-Bayati**

يلقيها  
الممثل الدائم  
السفير الدكتور حامد البياتي  
أمام  
المؤتمر الاستعراضي الثالث بشأن برنامج الامم المتحدة حول الاسلحة الصغيرة  
والاسلحة الخفيفة

**New York**  
**14-18/July/2008**

Mr.Chairman,

Allow me to seize this opportunity to congratulate you for chairing the 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, and wishing you success in this task. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Indonesian delegation on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr.Chairman,

Since the fall of the former Iraqi regime, the new government has been diligently working to take measures in fulfilling the Programme of Action, to put an end to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and to stop terrorist activities against our people, including children, women and the elderly. The Iraqi government has also been attempting to control the stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and to organize their ownership by individuals to decrease the suffering of thousands of innocent people.

Mr.Chairman,

Iraq increased its participation and cooperation in regional and international activities to Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. It is supporting regional and international endeavors aimed at eradicating this phenomenon. The Government of Iraq calls upon its neighboring states to provide assistance in fulfilling this task through the control of their borders with Iraq and to prevent the smuggling of these weapons.

My country, through a focal point, continuously submits its periodic reports with the questionnaires and evaluations for the situation of trade and stockpiling of small arms and light weapons in Iraq to the United Nations. It is important to highlight the fact that Iraq requires specific elements of assistance to eliminate this phenomenon and thereby to secure Iraqi as well as regional and international interests. The elements of assistance include:

1. Exchange of experience in the field of small arms and light weapons between states, regionally and internationally.
2. Capacity building and training for individuals responsible for preventing the use of small arms and light weapons.
3. Financial support and specific training courses for individuals responsible for fulfilling programs to combat the illicit trade of small arms.
4. Coordinating with international organizations and civil societies in creating a future strategy to increase awareness and to combat the illicit trade of small arms.

5. The Iraqi government calls upon the United Nations Agencies in Iraq to coordinate their activities related to combating the illicit trade of small arms with the relevant Iraqi authorities.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, we reaffirm that my government supports the efforts of the United Nations, all concerned international organizations, as well as international and regional initiatives to implement the Programme of Action, in addition to the positive cooperation with neighboring states to put an end to this phenomenon.

Thank you.