

**THIRD BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES PARTY TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION AGAINST THE  
ILLCIT TRAFFICKING IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT  
WEAPONS  
(New York, 14 – 18 July 2008)**

Statement made by First Counselor Paolo Cuculi  
Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations

on

Stockpile management

Thank you Mister Chairman.

Mister Chairman,

while aligning fully with the statement made earlier by France on behalf of the European Union, I would like to thank the Facilitator, Ambassador Streuli, for the excellent discussion paper prepared and for his thorough introduction of the issue. I support in particular the idea to elaborate a new multilateral instrument on proper safety, security and management of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

It seems to me that the very interesting discussion we have been having this morning shows that raising awareness of competent national authorities on the need to enhance stockpile management procedures is crucial indeed.

In this framework, I would like to underline the importance of bilateral cooperation and assistance – an issue mentioned by several delegations – with an emphasis on the role of states supplying small arms and light weapons. As a matter of fact, we are all familiar with the idea that exporting countries may request to include in relevant contracts a “no re-export” clause for the relevant arms supplied (i.e. the importing country can not transfer those arms without the previous consent of the exporter).

In the same way, provisions requiring proper stockpile management procedures can be foreseen in contracts related to the supply of particularly dangerous small arms and light weapons.

Italy has a direct experience in this specific field: when purchasing stocks of MANPADS, for instance, competent Italian authorities undertook to manage them according to very strict standards of safety, security and accountability, including the possibility for the exporting country to visit relevant Italian depots to verify the implementation of such standards.

I would also like to mention, as a further example of positive bilateral cooperation in this field, the agreement reached between Italy and the United Nations for the safe and secure management and stockpiling of small arms in the UN base in Brindisi.

Thank you, Mister Chairman.