

TURKEY

NATIONAL REPORT

**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION
TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE
THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

APRIL 2008

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) pose a threat to global, regional and national peace and security as well as to social and economic development of many countries.

Turkey not only takes the necessary steps to combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW at national level but also encourages regional as well as global cooperation in this vein. Turkey has supported the work carried out within the framework of the UN, such as the recommendations of the 1997 Panel of Government Experts on small arms, the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the reports of the Secretary General. Turkey has also welcomed the adoption of the "Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects" of the UN Conference in 2001. Turkey believes that the implementation of the Programme of Action constitutes a concrete contribution to global peace and stability.

In the OSCE, in 1996, Turkey introduced a draft resolution for the establishment of an arms register to include categories of certain small arms. This was the first time the issue of SALW was brought to the OSCE agenda. In this context, Turkey actively contributed to the deliberations in the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) which resulted in the adoption of the OSCE Document on SALW in October 2000. This Document constitutes an important milestone in international control of SALW, by subjecting them to notification in various aspects for the first time. Turkey attaches great importance to the full implementation of the Document.

Turkey has suffered enormously from the accumulation of SALW in the hands of terrorist organizations. During the operations carried out against terrorist organizations in Turkey, 47.423 long-barrel weapons, 41.958 pistols, 79.810 bombs and explosives, 4.710.448 pieces of ammunition were seized between 1984 and 2007. The destruction of confiscated, seized or surplus SALW is one of the main aspects of Turkey's efforts.

Turkey is surrounded by countries where proliferation and accumulation of SALW has the potential risk to cause instability.

Current conflicts and ongoing weapons sales to the region have created a suitable ground for the spread of SALW. PKK KONGRA-GEL and other terrorist organizations are exploiting this instability for their own brutal aims.

Turkey gives great importance to maintaining stability in the region that will prevent uncontrolled spread of SALW.

II. NATIONAL COORDINATION AGENCY AND POINT OF CONTACT:

The national coordination agency for policy guidance and monitoring of efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW is:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey
Deputy Directorate General for Disarmament, Arms Control and the OSCE
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III. NATIONAL LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

1. National Procedures for the Control over Manufacture:

a) Licensing and authorizing bodies:

In Turkey, Law no. 5201 dated 3 July 2004 on "Control of Industrial Enterprises Producing Vehicles and Equipment of War and Arms, Ammunition and Explosive Material" draws the legal framework for granting production licenses for small arms and light weapons. According to Law no. 5201, the Ministry of National Defence has the authority to issue production licenses for the establishment of arms manufacturing firms including SALW. It also issues licenses to existing firms which will produce such weapons. Companies involved in the production of arms, ammunition and other war material have to be registered with the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Industry and Trade as well as the relevant trade and commerce chambers in accordance with national trade acts.

b) Issuance of licences and authorizations:

The Ministry of National Defence annually reviews the List of the Materials in "Arms, Munitions, War Material, Military Explosive Materials and Technologies" which also comprises the Wassenaar Arrangement munition list. The Control List is published in January of each year in the Official Gazette in accordance with Law no. 5201. In order to produce any equipment included in the Control List, licences to be issued Ministry of National Defense are required.

The above-mentioned Law obliges the producers of such weapons to submit, at the end of each fiscal year, numbers and types of weapons manufactured during that year to the Ministry of National Defence.

c) Licensing requirements and conditions:

The Ministry of Defense is the authorized body to approve, in consultation and coordination with Ministries of Health, Environment and Forestry, the requests submitted by private companies regarding the establishment of weapons production, stockpile and sales facilities. Only then could the companies in question be granted permission for these facilities to be built.

Production Permission Certificate is obligatory in order to produce SALW in a facility. The companies that wish to acquire production permission should put their request in place with a letter of application. On those applications that are deemed convenient for approval, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is consulted for any additional views. In case this second view of the Ministry of Industry and Trade is also positive, the production facilities are inspected by the Ministry of National Defense's inspection team. The facility has to meet the requirements of Facility Security Certificate granted by Law no. 5202, on "Defense Industry Security". The following are subject to the inspection in question:

- the equipment used in production lines and defined in capacity report as well as the machinery that have been placed in machinery park;
- whether the production is realized with license for research and development purposes;
- whether there exist any critical sub-systems during production in the facility;
- tracing of production over "production flow chart",
- any electronic products or software that have been developed in computer environment due to the technological developments.

After inspection and examination, Production Permission Certificate is granted to the investors who meet the requirements.

d) Suspension, review, renewal and revocation of licences and authorizations:

- If the manufacturer goes bankrupt or asks for liquidation,
- If the owner(s) or administration of the facility change,
- If the location and address of the main manufacturing facility change,
- If the name of the manufacturing firm changes,
- If personnel movements go beyond the limits set in the licence,
- If the producer has been banned or suspended temporarily from entering bids,
- If any change in the relation of the firm with its licensing institution takes place (if arms are produced under a licensing agreement with a foreign parent company),
- If any violation, on the part of the manufacturer in relation to its obligations, has been established during the periodic inspections by the relevant organs of the Ministry of National Defence,
- If the manufacturer cannot meet its obligations in one of the phases of production (In case of *force majeure* this clause is not applicable),
- If the Ministry of National Defence is convinced that the security system in the facility has lost its effectiveness, renewal or revocation of a licence is considered.

e) Control over compliance with existing requirements:

Records of firms which have received production licenses from the Ministry of National Defence are kept in the Ministry. These firms are controlled with or without prior notification at least twice a year in order to check whether they act in conformity with the licence requirements. Following the expiry of the dates of the licences, they are renewed if the necessary approval is granted after the required inspections.

f) Penalties for violations of SALW management procedures:

Individuals violating Law no. 5201 are subject to imprisonment from two months up to five years or fines according to the nature of the violation.

2. Marking, Record-keeping and Tracing of SALW:

According to Law no. 5201 on "the Control of Industrial Enterprises Producing Vehicles and Equipment of War and Arms, Ammunition and Explosive Material", marking of SALW is subject to the control of the Ministry of National Defence.

In order to implement the relevant provisions of the OSCE SALW Document, the Ministry of National Defence has prepared and circulated a regulation regarding the marking standards to relevant government agencies and national arms manufacturers. According to this regulation, in line with the OSCE Document, all SALW produced in Turkey after 30 June 2001 are marked at the point of manufacture to enable each SALW to be traced. The marking is placed on the small arm in such a way as to be seen easily on the bolt mechanism and frame or on the barrel, bolt mechanism and frame, depending on the type of the barrel. It includes "T" sign for Turkey, manufacturer's logo, which is provided by the Ministry of National Defence for each manufacturer, production year and serial number. All these marks are permanent. Furthermore, a production code is issued by the Ministry of National Defence for each manufacturer. Companies need to apply to the Ministry in order to obtain these production codes.

The last two digits of the production year are marked on the weapon. For example, "01" for 2001 and "04" for 2004 is used. Serial number is accorded by the producer for each SALW respectively. Different serial numbers are given for each type of weapon produced by the same company. Before numbers, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, R, S, T, U, V, Y, Z letters are used. Numbers start from 00001 and ends with 99999. After serial number A99999, B00001 is issued. Marking is made 0.2-0.3 mm in depth by using pantograph, press or laser print, to be seen easily.

In case of seized or confiscated but unmarked small arms, the government agency which carried out the seizure or confiscation will mark the weapons with its unique sign. Date of seizure or confiscation will be marked instead of manufacturing date.

The OSCE Document obliges the participating States to destroy any unmarked SALW discovered in their current stockpiles or to mark them if they will be used or exported. This measure is also carried out by the Ministry of National Defence. Procedures for the marking of unmarked arms are specified, in detail, in the "Directive on Confiscation of Personal Arms" based on Law no. 6136 on "Fire Arms, Knives and Other Equipment".

National legal procedures are in effect within the territory of Turkey. There is no SALW currently produced under license outside the national territory.

Information related to markings is kept on computer databases. Such data of firms which have SALW production licence in line with Law no. 5201 are periodically checked by the Ministry of National Defence.

3. National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security:

a) Characteristics of stockpile locations:

State institutions and enterprises, individual and legal persons producing SALW and related ammunition as well as confidential information, documents, projects, equipment and related technology on SALW are subject to Law no. 5202 dated 3 July 2004 on "Defence Industry Security".

According to Law no. 5202, Defence Industry National Security Authority is the Ministry of National Defence.

Every individual working in the above-mentioned institutions and enterprises needs to have a "Personnel Security Document" and every location/building should have a "Facility Security Document". These documents are issued by the Ministry of National Defence.

Institutions, enterprises, individuals and legal persons engaged in activities related to SALW should establish physical security measures of their facility in compliance with Law no. 5188 dated 2 July 2004 on "Private Security Services".

Taking into account the location, environment, climate, type of production, possible risks and technological aspect the Ministry of National Defence may decide on additional measures. Locations/buildings are regularly checked and necessary adjustments to security measures are made based on security assessments.

b) Physical security measures:

Security measures e.g. double-lock system, iron-fenced windows, high concrete columns supported by double-steel fences around stores and sealed doors in rooms are obligatory. Keys of a SALW storage location are kept only by one personnel. Stores are made of concrete with alarm and intruder detection systems and observation cameras. Furthermore, effective external lighting systems, utilization of guard patrols and dogs and other similar security measures are required.

Arms, ammunition, spare parts and explosives are separately stored.

c) Access control measures:

Only a limited number of personnel with appropriate security clearance are allowed access to sites related to SALW. Keys of such sites kept only by authorized staff. None of the staff is allowed to have access to the keys to both the SALW and related ammunition stores.

d) Inventory management and accounting control procedures:

Detailed records on SALW stores are kept on computer databases and they are periodically checked and updated. Events of loss or theft are immediately reported and necessary legal procedures are commenced.

According to Law no. 5202, sites related to SALW should be annually checked by the Ministry of National Defence together with Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Unannounced "spot checks" are also implemented.

e) Protection measures in emergency situations:

Necessary plans for emergency situations have been prepared. According to plans, periodic exercises are held. For emergency situations specially trained teams are established. Physical security measures are implemented to provide sufficient protection in emergency situations.

f) Procedures aimed at maximizing transport security:

According to the existing legislation, provider and recipient of SALW and related confidential information, documents or equipments, should take necessary physical security measures during transportation. Transportation plans need to be approved by the Ministry of National Defence.

For security reasons, SALW and related ammunition are separately transported.

g) Visits to production sites:

Turkish citizens and foreigners who wish to visit sites where SALW is manufactured or stored or locations where confidential information, documents, projects or equipment are kept should apply to the Ministry of National Defence 21 days prior to the envisaged visit. The visit can only take place upon Ministry's permission.

h) Security training for personnel regarding SALW stockpile locations/buildings:

Personnel, before being commissioned, receive training on regulations, behavior and procedures relating to security within SALW stockpile locations, inventory management and record-keeping. Personnel also receive training for emergency situations.

i) Penalties for violations of security obligations:

Non-implementation at the facility of the physical security precautions as defined by Law no. 5188 are subject to punishment as stated in the articles 19 and 20 of the above-mentioned Law.

According to Law no.5202, those persons who do not take necessary physical and security precautions during the preservation and transportation of classified information, as well those who cause an unauthorized visit, are sentenced to imprisonment from six months to one year, unless those acts do not constitute any other form of criminal act.

4. National Control of Brokering Activities:

a) Content of licensing requirements, licensing criteria and licensing procedure:

Although "arms brokering" is not specified as a separate activity in the Turkish legislation, "brokering" and "broker" are defined both in Turkish Law No.818 (Code of Obligations) and Law No.6762 (Commercial Code). Broker, according to Law No.6762, is the person who performs as an

intermediary between and without a tie-in with parties of a commercial act, composing and establishing commercial contracts in exchange for financial benefit. Furthermore, Law No.818 describes the brokerage as the act comprised of creating the necessary conditions for and composing and establishing of commercial contracts in exchange for financial benefit.

Currently, Turkey does not have a specific legislation concerning the control of arms brokering. "Law No.5201 on Control of Industrial Enterprises Producing Vehicles and Equipment of War and Arms, Ammunition and Explosive Materials" and the relevant bylaw regulates the production, import, export and domestic sale of weapons, ammunition and other equipment of war.

National and foreign companies and/or individuals that are within the jurisdiction of Turkey and are involved in the production, import, export and domestic sale of weapons, ammunition and other equipment of war conduct these activities in accordance with the provisions of the "Law no.5202 on Defense Industry Security". In this regard, any export of weapons, ammunition and other equipment of war passing through Turkish customs will be subject to pre-register, end-use/user assurances, licensing procedures and ultimately export licensing in accordance with relevant applicable Turkish legislation.

Furthermore, the importation into the country, fabrication, selling, purchasing, carrying, and owning of all firearms and their bullets and knives and all other special tools to be used solely for attack and defense purposes are subject to the articles of "Law No.6136 on Firearms, Knives and Other Equipment". According to Article 12 of Law No. 6136, whoever brings or tries to bring into the country the firearms and their bullets that fall within the scope of this Law, or act as a broker, or produces or transports the firearms that are brought into the country for this purpose or that are produced in the country from one place to another, or act as a broker deliberately during transportation, sell or broker to sell or own them shall be charged with the offense of smuggling of weapons and ammunition. In addition to firearms and ammunition, Law No.6136 covers other weapons and ammunition for military purposes such as artillery, mortars, rocket launchers, anti-aircrafts, anti-tanks, machine guns and submachine guns etc. The acts of smuggling and the penalties thereon are also stipulated by the "Law No.5607 on Combating Smuggling".

In accordance with the relevant article of Law No.5201, the Ministry of National Defense issues the annual "List of Vehicles and Equipment of War and Arms, Ammunition and Related Spare Parts and Explosive Materials and the Related Technologies Subject to Control", which is published in the Official Gazette. The companies involved in the foreign trade and export of the listed goods as the producers or brokers are subject to export control and licensing bylaws and procedures.

In general, brokering activity, to the extent that it involves export or re-export from Turkey, is controlled by export control laws, rules and regulations which are explained above.

b) Enforcement of Controls:

Law no. 6136 pertaining to fire arms criminalizes, inter alia, transfer, sale or arranging the sale of proscribed weapons and ammunition, if such action is undertaken in contradiction with the provisions of Law no. 5201, which provides for the control of items contained in relevant lists of export control regimes. According to this Law, persons who smuggle, attempt or assist to smuggle such arms and their ammunition into Turkey, manufacture them contrary to the provisions of the Law no.5201, transfer, send or sell these illegally brought/produced fire arms in Turkey and willingly assist those

who commit such crimes, and carry illegal fire arms, face severe prison sentences of up to 8 years, and in cases of organized violation, up to 12 years.

Law no. 5607, on "Fight against Smuggling" adopted on 21 March 2007, also contains provisions that foresee punishments as imprisonment of or fines for those who are engaged in trafficking activities of SALW.

The Turkish criminal justice system provides that national jurisdiction for the Turkish nationals extend beyond the national boundaries. There is not a specific legislation in Turkey that deals with arms brokering since "arms brokering" is not regulated as a specific practice. However, the scope of existing legislation provides the necessary legal basis for the regulation and control of arms brokering and the current legal framework allows for the implementation of an effective control and licensing system.

5. National Legislation and Export/Import Control Policies:

a) National export policy:

Turkey fully supports all efforts aimed at maintaining and strengthening peace and stability both at regional and global levels. Turkey's policy in arms exports in general is to observe the international norms set forth by the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as by a number of international treaties, agreements, regimes and arrangements. Turkey is party to the multilateral export control regimes.

b) Export licensing authority and procedure:

In Turkey, export procedures of SALW are governed by Law no. 5201 regarding "the Control of Industrial Enterprises Producing Vehicles and Equipment of War and Arms, Ammunition and Explosive Material". According to this Law, the Ministry of National Defence is authorized to issue export licences. Accordingly, without the licence of the Ministry of National Defence, such weapons cannot be exported.

The procedure for export license application is implemented by the Ministry of National Defence, which consults the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the political aspects of the intended sale and the General Staff on its technical aspects.

A directive on issuing preliminary licences for equipment subject to control as required by Law no. 5201 is put in effect. It indicates the procedure of the issuance of export licence for weapons, equipment and ammunition in the list published annually in the Official Gazette.

c) Requirements for export licence:

The companies that apply for SALW exportation has to be certified with the Production Permission in accordance with Law no. 5202 on "Defence Industry Security". These companies and/or enterprises have to submit to the Ministry of National Defence a letter of application that defines the type, quantity of material they will export and the identity and the location of the buyer.

The exporters have to submit to the Ministry of National Defence the original end-user certificate which guarantees that the material to be exported will be used in accordance with the aims

stated by the buyer and which was signed and sealed by the National Security Authority of the destination country. Along with the end-user certificate, other documents such as contract of sale, sale price, amount of stocks and transportation plan have also to be submitted.

The Ministry of National Defence, after a thorough examination of the export request, also consults the Turkish General Staff and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the specific subject matter. Following this inter-institutional evaluation, the Ministry of National Defence informs the relative company of its decision within one month.

In case that export of material concerned is found convenient, export license is granted to the company. After this stage, the relevant procedures are carried out by the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade in line with the principles of Export Regulation.

Furthermore, the information regarding the exports realized by the company has to be forwarded to the Ministry of National Defence every three months.

Records on the company that has been granted export license are kept by the Ministry of National Defence. The company is obliged to inform the Ministry of National Defence of any changes regarding the quantity of the material and/or to provide information about the buyers within a month after such changes occur.

According to Turkish export control rules and regulations, companies have to obtain individual licences for each export of listed items, including arms, ammunition and other war material. There is no block licensing system. All applications are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the information provided in the required documentation as listed above and with due consideration given to the following political and military factors:

- whether the recipient country is subject to any UN-imposed restrictions or embargoes;
- whether export control arrangements to which Turkey is a party would allow the export transaction;
- the overall implications of the export transaction on regional or global security and stability.

Export of a weapon and related material, which was previously approved, can be suspended by the Council of Ministers.

d) Supervision:

In line with the above-mentioned Law, a list covering all defence items whose export is subject to the permission of the Ministry of National Defense, is reviewed and published once a year in the Official Gazette. Under this legislation, the export of such materials is strictly supervised by five Government agencies, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, the General Staff, the Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade and the Undersecretariat for Customs.

The Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade through Exporters' Unions is responsible for registering all export applications. If any defence item, which is included in the list published by the Ministry of National Defence is discovered by the Exporters' Unions, in the course of registration process, applications are directed to the Ministry of National Defence to obtain export licence.

As for the role of the Undersecretariat for Customs in export controls, in accordance with the Customs Law no. 4458, the Customs Automation System has been completed in October 2002 within the context of the project on the modernization of the customs administration. In this system, a structure that selectively directs the goods towards physical customs controls has been established. In connection with this structure, studies on risk analysis have been initiated by the Undersecretariat for Customs. By using the techniques of risk analysis and targeting, customs controls have been more effective and faster because the controls have been directed to the transactions/items that involve high risks. The goods with high risks are transmitted to the "red line" where they undergo a physical check. The goods with less risk are sent to the "yellow line" for a thorough document examination. In this framework, in the export of conventional weapons, the physical checks are not carried out only on the permission for the goods or the authority that has provided such permission but rather they are determined in accordance with the results of the risk analysis. Naturally, the customs administration reserves its rights emanating from the relevant legislation to execute a physical check of the goods during the export. Furthermore, in case the laws on foreign trade, customs and combating trafficking are violated during customs transactions related to exports, the Undersecretariat for Customs applies the relevant penalty provisions and sanctions stipulated in the said legislation.

Export records are kept both in digital and printed files. According to the relevant directive on filing, documents of licences are kept for five years.

e) End-user certificate:

For the export of SALW, an "end-user certificate" is required. This requirement is applicable also for the transfer of exported SALW to third parties. The end-user certificates also include the commitments of the (the exporting company) consignee, the end-user and the government.

f) Procedure in the event of violations:

In case of illegal export practices, the perpetrators of these acts are punished under Law no. 5201 by imprisonment or fines.

g) Import licensing authority and procedure:

The import of arms, ammunition and related equipment that are stipulated in the Control List could only be realized by the Ministry of National Defence or a company or an institution that has been authorized by the Ministry of National Defence.

6. National procedures for the destruction of SALW:

In accordance with "Directive on Confiscation of Personal Arms", "crushing" method is applied in the destruction of SALW. Crushed parts are classified according to their raw materials and melted in the foundry. Bakelite and wooden parts are destroyed as they cannot be re-used.

Records on destroyed SALW are kept in the military plant, where destruction was carried out.

Crushing method is also applied in the destruction of seized weapons, as explained above. In 2007, 864 long-barrel rifles, 120 revolvers, 1334 bombs and explosives and 79.324 pieces of ammunition have been seized.

There is no designated surplus SALW in Turkey. Destruction of small parts of SALW is carried out also as mentioned above. Destruction of SALW is not performed in public.

Until now, Turkey has not requested or received any technical assistance in the destruction of SALW.

IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

1. OSCE:

In the OSCE, in 1996, Turkey introduced a draft resolution for the establishment of an arms register to include categories of certain small arms. This was the first time the issue of SALW was brought to the OSCE agenda. Turkey was pleased to observe at the 1999 Istanbul Summit of the OSCE the consensus amongst the member states regarding the need to take urgent concerted action to address the problem of SALW. Turkey actively contributed to the negotiations in the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) which resulted in the adoption of the OSCE Document on SALW in October 2000.

Within the framework of the OSCE Document, Turkey shares information with the OSCE participating States on its legislation and practices related to SALW as well as SALW exports and imports. In this context, the latest information on the number and the models of seized and destroyed SALW was provided to the OSCE in 2007.

Turkey actively supports the work undertaken within the OSCE aiming at implementation of the OSCE SALW Document to the greatest extent possible and in order to keep the Organization's agenda up-to-date with that of the international community. In this vein, Turkey took part in the preparation of the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Turkey also co-sponsored the initiative that led to the adoption of the 2003 OSCE Document for Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in the context of which the latest event took place on February 2008, in Vienna, under the heading "FSC Workshop on Technical, Managerial and Financial Implications of Existing and Planned Projects on SALW and SCA".

2. Wassenaar Arrangement:

Turkey is a founding member of and an active participant in the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) regarding export controls on conventional weapons and dual-use materials and technology. Turkey supports efforts towards making SALW a new reporting category in the WA.

3. NATO:

Turkey actively participates in the work of the NATO/EAPC (Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council) Ad Hoc Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action and other NATO/PfP (Partnership for Peace) activities related to SALW. In this framework, Turkey had provided financial assistance to the Joint Working Group on Defence Reform regarding the safe destruction of large quantities of ammunition and SALW in Ukraine.

4. SECI:

Turkey also supports the activities of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime in Bucharest, which is, among other issues, aimed at preventing the smuggling of small arms, light weapons and explosives. Turkey has commissioned two experts at the Center. The Turkish National Contact Point to SECI is the Directorate General for Customs Prevention in the Undersecretariat of Customs.

V. CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN SALW ISSUES:

In Turkey, there are NGOs which are engaged in activities related to SALW. The most active NGO registered in Turkey is "Umut Foundation" (www.umut.org.tr).

VI. TURKEY'S VIEWS ON FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION:

In order to ensure an effective control over illicit trade in SALW, definition of the term "SALW" must be agreed upon by consensus in the UN. Turkey believes that such a definition should include ammunition, explosives and hand grenades.

For more effective international control, Turkey promotes transparency in conventional arms transfers. Turkey welcomes the expansion of the information exchange within the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to include SALW. Turkey also supports similar initiatives within the framework of the OSCE and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

In this framework, Turkey also supports the mandatory information exchange on the transfer of SALW. Furthermore, denial of export licenses could also be one of the reporting categories in such an information exchange. At the national level, customs officials and security forces assume an important role in implementing the Programme of Action. In order to establish an effective control mechanism, regional cooperation on SALW issues among the customs authorities and the security forces should be promoted through institutional information exchange and training schemes. Records of SALW transactions should be kept as long as possible and be shared through official channels, if requested by another UN Member State.

Monitoring and controlling the activities of the producers, exporters, brokers, transporters, importers and end-users of SALW are essential in eradicating illicit trade in SALW.

Some individuals and companies exploit the loopholes in the international control regimes and diversities in national legislation. An international and regional harmonization of legislation regarding SALW will certainly be an important step forward in preventing the abuse of legal gaps between states by smugglers. In this framework, Turkey believes that a study on the feasibility of developing an end-user certificate system at the regional and global levels, as well as an information exchange and verification mechanism, could be useful.

Moreover, Turkey has always believed that introduction of an internationally accepted method of marking SALW should be seriously considered. In this context, Turkey welcomes the Report of the

International and regional cooperation should be fostered in assisting countries in need of ensuring effective management and physical security of their SALW stockpiles. SALW seized or in surplus must be destroyed in accordance with the internationally accepted standards and with the technical and financial assistance of the donor countries, international organizations and NGOs.

Cooperation schemes and exchange of information on combating trafficking in SALW should be included in the framework of regional and bilateral confidence and security building measures.

VII. CONCLUSION:

In view of the close interrelationship between the illicit trade in SALW and terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking as well as the negative impact of SALW proliferation on social and economic development, the international community should constantly be seized of the matter and not to refrain from producing innovative strategies to cope with the problem. These strategies should be comprehensive and cover all the aspects of illicit trade and proliferation, from the initial production stage to the destruction of surpluses.

Turkey will continue to actively contribute to all efforts within the UN and other fora to foster international cooperation and, when necessary, the adoption and implementation of additional norms and rules, which may be legally or politically binding, to combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.