



# ARMENIA

---

June 15, 2010

Check against delivery

**Fourth 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**

New York, 14-18 June 2010

Statement by H.E. Mr. Garen NAZARIAN Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to extend to you our congratulations on your assumption of this very important post and to also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. I can assure you that you have my Delegation's full support and cooperation for the success of this meeting.

Armenia attaches great importance to the problem of proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and actively supports the efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations aimed at stopping the spread of SALW and, in particular, the strengthening of the existing disarmament instruments as well as international verification mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

As it is commonly recognized now, the SALW problem is not merely an arms control and disarmament issue. It is a multi-dimensional threat. The proliferation and misuse of SALW exacerbates violence, prolongs conflicts, undermines the internal security of States, increases the activities of transnational organized crime, promotes terrorism and interferes with peace building.

It also affects all levels of society, economically and socially, causing a great degree of human suffering, as is vividly demonstrated by the direct link between the spread of SALW and the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

I would like to note, however, that while SALW play a significant role in exacerbating conflicts, the roots of those conflicts lie in political, economic, ethnic and cultural differences and disparities. These are often aggravated by governance-related deficiencies, lack of or weak democratic institutions, non-observance and disrespect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as disregard of the right of peoples to self-determination. We should be aware of the fact that the complex nature of conflicts requires a comprehensive approach and that the problem of SALW is only an element of a conflict.

Because the SALW problem is so multifaceted, we must have a comprehensive approach to effectively address it. Armenia believes that the problem must be tackled in parallel on all fronts, namely national, regional and international.

On the national level, the Government of Armenia has established strict control over the small arms and light weapons in its territory and regularly provides updated information to the UN Registry on Conventional Arms.

Armenia also advocates the need for promoting regional cooperation in the field of SALW, which we believe is a vital element in achieving sustainable results and respecting our obligations. Armenia has launched effective cooperation with its international partners in preventing illicit trafficking of SALW in accordance with Armenia's legislation in-effect regarding arms control.

In particular, Armenia has been working closely with the OSCE in this field. According to the OSCE Document the organization's participating states, including Armenia, share, in accordance with their national laws and through established channels such as INTERPOL, police forces or and customs agencies, information in the many areas related to the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

This type of exchange of information can be carried out within sub-regional frameworks as well. Such initiative may work in parallel with the conflict resolution efforts in regions like ours by preventing further arms race and serving as a significant confidence-building measure.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia remains committed to effective and full implementation of the SALW Program of Action. The adoption of the Program of Action in 2001 was an important milestone. It reflects the shared understanding of the common responsibility to stop the proliferation of SALW that has become a fueling agent in many conflicts throughout the world.

The PoA is an indispensable guide for comprehensive efforts to address the SALW problem. In particular, we believe that the PoA can serve as an effective support mechanism for national demilitarization efforts in the region and improvement of the national and international processes of weapons registration management. It can have its undeniably positive role in reducing regional threats and instability.

In the context of the PoA implementation, we would like to note the importance of consolidating our national and collective efforts and the need to have mechanisms to monitor progress and share lessons learned and best practices. We also would like to acknowledge the important contributions made by the civil society towards the implementation of the PoA, and encourage cooperation with and broader participation of the civil society in this process.

Mr. Chairman,

Like many other delegations, we have great expectations from this meeting. We hope that the spirit of cooperation and readiness to fight this scourge will prevail and will bring us new results.

We remain fully committed to our international obligations on arms control and disarmament and believe in viability and efficiency of the United Nations instruments in enhancing trust, building confidence and promoting regional dialogue and cooperation. Such an approach becomes even more appropriate with the perspective of the 2012 Review Conference.

Thank you