

**Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, June 14-18, 2010, New York**

**Statement by Germany on  
"International Cooperation and Assistance"**

Mr. Chairman,

we fully associate ourselves with the statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU but would like to add the following observations.

Germany has a broad experience in cooperation and assistance. We are active in various fields ranging from armed violence reduction to stockpile management projects and are also supporting related research.

We work in bilateral cooperation projects as well as within EU, OSCE, NATO or the UN. Details can be found in our national reports at the UN-POA website.

Sarah de Zoeten has rightly pointed out the various aspects of international cooperation and assistance in her draft conceptual working paper which gives an excellent overview on the current situation.

We fully share the notion that besides of the priority issues already identified at the BMS 3, but still valid, we should concentrate on further streamlining the process to foster implementation of the PoA.

One key element to further this aim seems to be increased transparency, for instance about countries in need, not only in general terms but much more concrete, indentifying the key areas where support is needed in order to give the national implementation endeavors the decisive boost.

The new "checklist for matching needs and resources" developed by UNIDIR could be an excellent reference guide to identify those areas.

In addition the revised template for national reporting on the PoA developed by UNODA seems to be a good instrument to help states identify bottlenecks in their implementation efforts and make them visible.

We highly commend UNODA for analysing the 2010 national reports, screening them for such indications or demands for international cooperation and assistance, clarifying needs in contact with national focal points, elaborating assistance proposals and putting them together in the compilation titled "matching needs and resources" presented to us yesterday but also available on the PoA-ISS. We would very much welcome if this could be continued on a permanent basis.

The PoA-ISS is a key tool to increase transparency, give states access to information they need and a platform to present their needs.

But it is also a key tool for potential donors to get this information and present areas where they could offer cooperation and assistance.

We therefore fully support its further development so that in future it can even better fulfill its task as a clearing house for international cooperation and assistance.

However, and Sarah de Zoeten has clearly identified that point, the PoA-ISS is not actively promoting the match-making of needs and resources and is not documenting the follow up on these proposals.

With respect to the match-making we need brokers on various levels such as the UNODA and its regional branches which have an overview over developments in the regions but also on the global level, regional institutions like the EU, the OSCE, NATO, RECSA, etc. which have a good knowledge of the region, its needs and priorities and above all the necessary implementation capacities and of course states with expertise in certain areas.

It's not an easy task to guarantee the necessary information flow between all these various players to make sure that high priority areas are tackled first and duplication is avoided.

But this is also an area where the Group of Interested States in New York should play its part and can be of valuable assistance. As in the past Germany stands ready to continue its support to the GIS also in the future.

But the issue of how to better organise the match making process and its appropriate documentation might also be an issue for the Meeting of Governmental Experts in January next year. The same is true for the further development of criteria of measurability as mentioned by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs in his introductory statement.

You can count on our full and active support in this process.

Thank you Chairman