

**FOURTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES ON THE PROGRAMME
OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT
TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

STATEMENT BY

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**AGENDA ITEM 6 (B): CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN ALL ASPECTS AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND
GLOBAL LEVELS: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

New York, June 15, 2010

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and today by the Representative of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM and to the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Guyana is a developing country that is neither a manufacturer nor large importer of small arms and light weapons. However, in recent times we have suffered increased levels of crime and violence linked to the illicit trafficking in these arms. Such trafficking is intimately interwoven with the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, and with trans-national organised crime. In considering the adverse effects of these challenges on the security and socio economic development of my country, Guyana views the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons as a vital multilateral instrument in addressing global challenges through a cohesive and coordinated approach and we are fully committed to its implementation. As stipulated in the POA, we believe it important that States cooperate so as to ensure coordination at all levels and between relevant stakeholders.

We therefore hope that our deliberations this week will contribute substantively to international efforts to further strengthen the implementation of the POA. We welcome the working paper presented. Of particular importance are

points related to assistance for strengthening of national capacities, including the training of national authorities in the prevention and combating of the illicit trade in SALW and the strengthened cooperation among law enforcement and training entities.

Mr. Chairman,

Guyana believes that for countries to fully implement their commitments under the POA at the national, regional and global level, cooperation and assistance will be required across a broad spectrum of issues and among a wide range of stakeholders. Cognizant of our limited resources, we believe that by cooperation among the relevant stakeholders such as law enforcement, customs and border controls at the bilateral and regional levels, states can assist each other in their implementation of the POA. Support to and through regional implementation mechanisms could be an important complement to cooperation provided to national authorities.

As a member of CARICOM, Guyana contributes to and participates in all activities carried out by the implementation agency for crime and security, IMPACS, the region's contact point for the POA and will contribute to the proposed regional database that is expected to track the progress of SALW activities of CARICOM member states, and to update on initiatives towards the implementation of the POA. Moreover, Guyana has signed the E-Trace MOU between the US's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and CARICOM states.

Within the region, Guyana has signed the Nickerie Declaration of 2008 with Suriname which specifically lists trafficking in arms and ammunition as one of the many criminal activities against which the legal, judicial and law enforcement agencies of the two countries will be given full policy support by their respective Governments. Additionally cooperation exists between Guyana, Brazil, Venezuela and Suriname for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW.

As a member of the OAS, Guyana has ratified the Inter American convention against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, explosives and other related materials (CIFTA) and is working towards becoming fully compliant. Further, my country has acceded to the UN Protocol against illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition as well as the UN protocol on small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Guyana has made serious efforts in the implementation of the POA and against gun related crime but we face continuing challenges in the implementation of the POA, not least being the burden on our socio economic development which the diversion of resources from our healthcare, education or welfare budgets to address challenges from illicit SALW entails. We therefore call for the provision of increased international financial and technical assistance and support to developing countries so as to assist in training, enforcement and capacity building.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, Guyana joins with CARICOM in its call for the reopening of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Barbados. In this regard we recall General Assembly Resolution 63/34 in which the General Assembly stressed the urgent need for the reopening of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Barbados so as to reinforce the efforts of the states in the region in their struggle against the interrelated scourges of drugs, violent crime and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

I thank you