



# PHILIPPINES

## PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION

on

### Agenda Item 7

**Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels, including:**

*a) The establishment, where appropriate, of regional and sub-regional mechanisms with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders, including trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies*

by

**H.E. MR. LIBRAN N. CABACTULAN**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the Philippines  
to the United Nations

On the Occasion of the  
**4<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO CONSIDER THE NATIONAL,  
REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF  
ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT, AND ERADICATE, THE ILLICIT TRADE IN  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

14 June 2010  
UNHQ New York

**Agenda Item 7 – Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels, including:**

- a) *The establishment, where appropriate, of regional and sub-regional mechanisms with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders, including trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies*

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time the Philippines takes the floor, I wish to congratulate you, on behalf my delegation, on your election as Chairman of the fourth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the national, regional, and global implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects or BMS-4. My congratulations likewise go to the members of the Bureau on their well-deserved election. The Philippines also wishes to express its most sincere thanks and appreciation to all States for the trust and confidence they have reposed in my delegation, by making the Philippines a Vice-Chairperson of this meeting.

The Philippines would like to thank you and the facilitators for your commitment, diligence and hard work during the preparatory stages for this meeting. In turn, the Philippines assures you of its support and cooperation to help ensure the success of BMS-4.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Philippines views and considers the illicit transfer, manufacture, and circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) as a serious threat to international peace and security, since this type of weapon is easily and cheaply produced and manufactured, transferred and transported and kills and maims, if used in enough numbers, just as easily as Weapons of Mass Destruction. Illicit SALWs could cause, encourage, or prolong conflicts, which could stifle economic growth and development and could even lead to genocide. Also, illicit SALWs could cause, encourage and assist criminal elements to commit crimes against persons and property with impunity. The Philippines respectfully submits that the best way to solve the problems caused by illicit SALWs is through the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA), which is the main framework for addressing the illegal trade in these arms. The Philippines therefore is fully engaged on the national, bilateral, regional, and international levels in the effort to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in SALWs.

The Philippines recognizes the special responsibility of producer States and calls upon them to strictly apply the legal restrictions that prevent the illicit trade of SALWs and to supply only responsible Governments and their authorized entities.

On sub item a) of Agenda Item 7, the Philippines firmly believes in the importance of preventing the illicit trade in SALWs and views their movement across borders as a grave threat to peace and security and in fact contributes to destabilizing situations. Hence, the Philippines has stringent and tough import and export control laws. Specifically the Basic Firearms Law, Republic Act No. 1937 or the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, and other laws which prohibit the importation of firearms and weapons of war as well as their ammunition except when authorized by law. The Philippines uses authenticated end-user certificates and does not re-export or retransfer previously imported SALWs. The Philippines also has pending in Congress House Bill 6268 entitled "An Act Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by Regulating the Transfer of Strategic Goods," this bill contains provisions on the regulation of the flow of dual use goods, especially related to WMDs, and maybe used as parallel legislation to create even stronger import/export control system on SALWs.

Imported SALWs in the Philippines are inspected by the Bureau of Customs and the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) at the point of entry and are securely stored at the FED-PNP storage facility until licenses to possess firearms are processed and approved. This negates the possibility of SALWs being pilfered and transferred across Philippine borders.

On the export of SALWs, authorized arms manufacturers in the Philippines can only export their products to countries with which the Philippines has diplomatic relations and are prohibited if such export would have an adverse effect on Philippine foreign relations. In addition to stringent export laws, the government also regulates the volume of firearms being produced by manufacturers.

The Philippines strongly believes that military transfer of arms should be monitored more closely and it is imperative that States abide by arms embargoes established by the UN and prevent the transfer of arms to non-State actors that are engaged in terrorism, organized crime, and other illegal acts.

On a final note, the Philippines actively cooperates with the international community to help stem the flow of these weapons across borders and adheres to all relevant international agreements including UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions. I thank you Mr. Chairman.