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English only

**Preparatory Committee for the United Nations
Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, 9-20 January 2006**

Proposal to hold a thematic session on
“Best practices of SALW projects and demand factors”
in the Review Conference of PoA
(Submitted by Japan)

- Proposal: a session on "Best practices of the SALW projects and demand factors" be inserted during the Review Conference of PoA to be held in June-July next year.

1. Background of the proposal

(1) Best practices of SALW projects

Many SALW-related projects have been implemented in the affected countries by Member States, multilateral donors as well as by NGOs. As a result, valuable lessons have been learned about SALW projects. However, except for some important but rather limitedly diffused publications, these lessons have generally not been fully shared amongst the international SALW community. That is why the Review Conference provides a good opportunity to exchange and disseminate knowledge on best practices.

(2) Demand factors

The Program of Action stresses "the urgency of international efforts and cooperation aimed at combating this trade simultaneously from both a supply and demand perspective (I. Preamble paragraph 7. of PoA)." However, the international SALW community has not fully addressed this aspect of the problem until now in the UN fora, even though important research and workshops have been conducted to deepen understanding regarding these factors. Moreover, the international community has not clearly grasped what factors prompt people to possess small arms. In order to thoroughly implement the

PoA, the Review Conference provides a good opportunity to raise awareness of and kick off discussion on this aspect of the SALW issue.

(3) Their relationship

Demand factors and SALW projects are closely interlinked: experiences in the field will give us insight into the real reasons why people want to possess small arms. Conversely, small arms projects can then be better formulated if they effectively address the root causes of SALW possession.

2. Aims of the session

- Share best practices of SALW-related projects
- Deepen understanding on demand factors

3. Outline of discussion

(1) Duration: a half-day session

(2) Basic outline of proceedings:

I part:

--Presentation(s) by a donor, a SALW affected country, an NGO involved in projects in the field.

--Discussion on:

- i) What best practices can the international SALW community share?
- ii) What useful knowledge on demand factors can be extracted from experiences in the field?

II part:

--Presentation(s) by a SALW affected country, donor country an NGO involved in research on demand factor issues.

--discussion on:

- i) What knowledge on demand factors can the international SALW community share?
- ii) What steps are necessary to utilize more efficiently the knowledge on demand factors at the project formulation level?

4. Actors to be involved

- Member States
- Relevant international organizations (e. g. UNDP, OECD/DAC)
- Relevant NGOs involved in projects in the field and/or those involved in demand factor issue

5. Follow-up

Obviously, a session during the Review Conference will not be enough to obtain a thorough understanding of these issues. Therefore it is desirable that follow-up discussion should take place in relevant fora.
