

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
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Statement

of

**H.E. Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz
Permanent Representative to the United Nations**

before

**the 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**

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New York, 11th of January 2006

Mr. Chairman

We meet today to prepare for the review of progress achieved in implementation of the United Nations Program of action, agreed upon in 2001, to prevent combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The UN program of action laid down a clear framework to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, based on the primary responsibility of states and governments in implementing necessary measures nationally and regionally, and the responsibility of the international community in providing the necessary financial and technical assistance.

Indeed progress has been achieved, national measures have been carried out, legislations have been strengthened or instituted, regional initiatives, as appropriate to each regional context have been advanced. We successfully concluded an international instrument to enable states in marking and tracing illicit small arms and light weapons. Similarly the issue of illicit brokering will be addressed within the appropriate parameters. Yet much remains to be achieved, as we indicated in the report of the second biennial meeting of states held in 2005.

In view of that, making an accurate evaluation of the progress achieved so far becomes imperative to identify those elements of the POA whose implementation remains incomplete, hence gearing our collective efforts towards addressing the impediments faced by states in their efforts towards combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons including border controls, stockpile management and implementation of national measures.

In spite of the failure that encountered the international community's efforts in addressing the priorities of nuclear disarmament and non proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, we remain committed and determined to achieve the progress sought by all peoples and states in preventing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, through the full implementation of all the commitments we agreed to by consensus in 2001 .

The delegation of Egypt looks forward to a successful conclusion of our work in this meeting in preparation of the review of

progress achieved in national implementation as well as the progress achieved in assisting states in their efforts to prevent the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. In this respect, I would like to put forward some elements of importance to ensure a successful review process of the progress in implementation:-

1. The African continent represents by far the most pressing priority in our collective effort to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. This requires effective steps foremost among them strict compliance with arms embargos established in conflict areas in the continent, along with necessary measures to deal with other associated illicit activities such as exploitation of natural resources.

Coupled with such immediate steps, consolidated efforts have to be exerted in addressing the underlying causes of conflicts including poverty epidemics and dire economic condition that affects many states in Africa and the developing world.

Furthermore, the international community must shoulder its responsibility in exerting all necessary efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes within full respect of international law and the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, including the respect of sovereignty of states and the right of self defense as well as the right of people, in particular those under alien or foreign occupation, to self determination .

2. Cognizant of the fact that the illicit trade in SALW is but a symptom and not a cause of the conflicts ravaging several parts of Africa and other regions, we call upon the recently established peace building commission to initiate and exercise its role and functions, as soon as possible, within full respect of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations. We look forward to the commission's role in providing the needed assistance in post conflict situations including enhancing the capacity of states to combat the illicit trade in SALW through concrete measures, such as funding DDR programs. In this respect, there is a need to perform a continuous evaluation of the efforts of peacekeeping operations in implementing DDR programs as part of efforts to further strengthen peace and stability in the affected states.

3. While the developing countries have assumed their national responsibilities through continues efforts in implementation of the

POA, the international community – in particular developed countries and international financial institutions - have to fulfill their respective responsibility. That responsibility goes beyond offering short term assistance and requires integrated assistance to the developing countries toward achieving sustainable development. Thus we can progress collectively towards preventing the spread and recurrence of conflicts and in the process, achieve our common goal in eradicating the Illicit Trade in SALW.

While multilateral and bilateral assistance has been offered, the continued existence or recurrence of conflicts indicates clearly that it remains short of addressing the needs of developing countries in particular those suffering from conflicts. The developed countries and major small arms and light weapons producers and exporters have to fulfill their responsibilities stipulated in the UNPOA and based upon the common but differentiated responsibilities to which we agreed in 2001.

4. The responsibilities of developed states and major producers goes beyond the provision of technical and financial assistance and includes strengthening their national legislations and measures regulating the manufacture, possession, trade and brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons, hence preventing their spread through illicit trade into conflict areas.

Finally the delegation of Egypt stresses once again the importance of strengthening our collective efforts in order to ensure the successful conclusion of the review process through recommendations that enhances the capacity of states in implementing the POA, in an integrated manner that respects the principles upon which it was based in 2001 till we achieve our objectives in the years to come.