



Statement by
Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili,
First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations
at

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
New York, 11 January 2006

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express my delegation's congratulations on your appointment as the chairman of the Preparatory Committee. We look forward to work closely with you to ensure the significant outcome of the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to reiterate the importance of the Programme of Action, which represents the universal instrument to address the serious challenges to security and development, affected by the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

As we are discussing the issues of proliferation of illicit arms, I would like to draw your attention to so-called "white spots", as to major threat to international peace and security. The existence of criminal regimes in secessionist regions of Georgia – namely, Abkhazia and the former Autonomous Region of South Ossetia, provides a fruitful ground for illegal trade of arms. What is the most dangerous here - this gives an opportunity to acquire arms and ammunition to terrorist groups. We would like to once again underline, that the process of uncontrolled spread of armaments in the lawless territories represents a major threat to the stability. Regretfully, these "white spots" are beyond the national and international control mechanisms. In this regard, I would like to reaffirm my country's full readiness to elaborate special mechanisms aimed at dealing with territories and regimes, which are out of state's control.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking an opportunity, I would like to express Georgia's commitment to support the Transfer Control Initiative made by the United Kingdom. We believe, that the review Conference should agree on further developing of the common international standards for small arms and light weapons transfer control.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me, in conclusion, express my delegation's confidence, that the forthcoming Review Conference should address promptly and in a comprehensive manner to the threats of international security caused by illicit trade of small arms and light weapons on the territories of unlawful, separatist regions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.