



# PAKISTAN

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## Statement

by

**Mr. Akbar Zeb, Director General (Disarmament),  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad**

in

**the Preparatory Committee for the UN 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**

**Statement by Mr. Akbar Zeb, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan,  
at the General Debate of the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference to review  
progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and  
Light Weapons, - New York, 11 January 2006**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by extending our warm felicitations to you on your election as Chairman of this Preparatory Meeting. I assure you of our fullest cooperation. The Pakistan delegation shall actively participate in the proceedings of the Prepcom and looks forward to a successful Review Conference in July later this year.

**Mr. Chairman**

2. The General Assembly has given a clear mandate to the Prepcom and the Review Conference. It is to review the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). We shall work constructively with other delegations and sincerely hope that the Committee's work proceeds within this mandate.

3. The Programme of Action laid out a broad menu of actions to be taken by States at the national, regional and international levels. A review of implementation experience by States in the last past five years indicates progress as well as areas where more needs to be done. We share the view that implementation of the PoA is a long-term challenge.

**Mr. Chairman**

4. On the one hand, a number of significant steps have been taken. Twice since 2001, more than 100 National Reports were submitted by States. Over 130 points of contacts have been designated to coordinate activities related to SALW issues. A vast majority of States have reported progress in putting together various legislative and administrative frameworks; large numbers of weapons have been collected and destroyed; the security of stockpile management has been enhanced and record-keeping improved; controls over exports including end-user certificates strengthened. Above all, an enhanced level of public and government awareness has been achieved to address the multi-faceted and complex nature of SALW issues.

5. The conclusion and adoption of Marking and Tracing Instrument last year is an important progress indicator. The decision by the General Assembly for establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts to take up the issue of illicit brokering is also a step forward.

**Mr. Chairman**

6. There are a number of challenges as well, including in the areas where progress has been registered. One of the significant challenge areas is the continuing lack of adequate provision of financial and technical assistance, particularly to developing countries. Transfer of technology remains largely unattended. In the absence of an effective international assistance and cooperation framework, a large majority of States have found it difficult to accelerate the implementation of PoA. Accordingly, in many cases progress on putting

together legislation and administrative procedures is less than what is required; training of security, law enforcement and border control agencies has lagged behind and the larger issues of underdevelopment and poverty remain un-addressed.

7. Challenges also persist among States in the approach and modus operandi of combating the illicit trade in SALW. The entire debate and policy prescriptions by many continue to emanate from a supply perspective. Hence, calls for effective transfer controls, end-user certificates and common minimum standards. But the causes of war are even more important than the instruments of war. The demand for weapons will remain strong so long as the conflicts fester and solutions to their underlying causes are not addressed. In particular, it is essential to end foreign occupation and the denial of the legitimate right of peoples to self-determination.

**Mr. Chairman**

8. Therefore, a more focused effort is required to increase the effectiveness of implementation of the PoA. We propose that the Review Conference should discuss and agree on the following vital areas of PoA implementation:

One: To identify areas where States are facing implementation challenges and propose practical measures to address them;

Two: Discuss possibilities of a survey by UNIDIR to assess and quantify the scope and scale of the supply and demand problems of the SALW; and

Three: Draw up recommendations to address issues including modalities of financing, provision of financial and technical assistance required by States. Such measures can be recommended at all three levels identified in the PoA i.e. at the national, regional and global levels.

**Mr. Chairman**

9. My delegation has carefully examined the proposals to “strengthen” the Programme of Action including some of the elements which could not be agreed in 2001. It would be useful to recall that PoA was a consensus product and given the importance that all Member States attach to the issue of SALW, we believe that it is important to keep and proceed on the basis of consensus. We hope therefore that our proceedings in this Committee and indeed during the Review Conference would focus on consolidating the gains made so far rather than consolidating disagreements, albeit unintentionally. There is much work that States are required to do in fulfilling their commitments under the UN Firearms Protocol; under the PoA as well as those arising from the recently adopted Instrument on Marking and Tracing, before embarking upon further commitments and obligations.

10. On our part, we are committed to the full implementation of the PoA and are taking the necessary steps. We have submitted two National Reports outlining the actions taken or planned to be taken. We are also prepared to share our experiences and expertise with interested States.

11. There are of course areas where more could be done. But we must temper our idealism and ambitions with patience and prudence. The SALW issues are complex and require further deliberations to evolve common understanding and agreement. The PoA consensually worked out a delicate balance between humanitarian concerns and the legitimate security concerns of all States. It rightly focused on "illicit trade". This balance and focus should be sustained. We must not allow our ambitions to subject the SALW agenda to the deadlock being witnessed in the larger arms control framework.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman**

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