



# PHILIPPINES

**STATEMENT OF  
MR. PATRICK A. CHUASOTO  
PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE**

**CLUSTER V (COMMUNICATIONS)  
OF THEMATIC DEBATE**

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UN CONFERENCE TO REVIEW  
PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

17 January 2006

My delegation wishes to thank the Chair and the moderators for organizing these thematic debates on small arms which we hope will significantly contribute to the outcome of this PrepCom and eventually to the Review Conference in July.

In the view of my delegation, the problem of small arms and light weapons is a global one requiring a comprehensive, coordinated and multidisciplinary response by all relevant stakeholders at the national, sub-regional and international levels. The problem goes beyond the military and disarmament domains; it has humanitarian as well as socio-economic consequences. There is also, therefore, the need for the international attention to address these aspects as well.

My delegation is pleased that a thematic discussion was organized to deal with these other aspects. The subject matter of cluster 5 is apropos for this. We in particular would like to highlight two issues: fostering a culture of peace and civil society participation in the implementation of the programme of action on SALW.

We accord great importance to the rationale behind paragraph 41 of the POA which calls for the promotion of dialogue and a culture of peace involving all sectors of society. The success of implementing the POA will not be judged simply by the amount of weapons destroyed or by number of regulations passed but moreso by widespread inculcation of a proprietary sense among the general population on the problems of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons but also on the culture of violence associated with it.

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

556 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10036 • TEL. (212) 764-1300 • FAX (212) 840-8602

Following the mandate of the World Leaders to foster a culture of peace including the different initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations, including the dialogue on interfaith cooperation, as enunciated in paragraph 144 of the World Summit Outcome Document, we can aid in the implementation of the POA by intensifying efforts in advocating the a mental framework for the control of the illicit spread of small arms and light weapons. Further operationalization of this “battle for the hearts and minds” through more education and public awareness projects and other related activities should be taken up by the Review Conference.

The promotion of a culture of peace can be aided by civil society. The role of civil society itself had been recognised in several provisions of the POA itself. We should continue to engage the assistance and cooperation of civil society, whose members look at this issue through the prism of humanitarian considerations. They can provide impetus for Governments to move forward and avoid unnecessary delay. My delegation’s supports giving civil society significant roles in upholding the provisions of the Programme of Action which encourages non-governmental organizations and civil society to engage, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, sub-regional and national efforts to implement the Programme. This is also another matter which the Review Conference should consider.

The Philippines, therefore recommends the inclusion in the Final Document to be endorsed to the Review Conference on the issue of dialogue and culture of peace that faith communities be encouraged to advocate to their respective followers their steadfast cooperation leading to the elimination of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It is also recommended that interfaith dialogue be encouraged so that the different faith communities would adopt a coherent and unified stand to this modern day scourge to humanity.

Our second and final recommendation is the appropriate involvement of civil society in both the planning or policy-making and the review of the implementation of policies or legislations dealing with illegal trade in small arms and light weapons. The humanitarian perspective they will bring to these processes will aid in our work and strengthen the implementation of the POA.

Thank you.