

Progress and Problems in Papua New Guinea

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving us the opportunity.

Progress

Papua New Guinea like other Pacific Islands has experienced devastating effects of illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. However, I am proud to say that our Government has taken steps to Prevent Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) by creating Focal Point and have made legislative changes. Our statements in the High Level Exchanges highlighted the progress Papua New Guinea has made to date.

As I do not wish to spend time repeating the statement I will however state that our Government has formulated and developed the Proceeds of Crime Act, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act and the New Extradition Act that have come into operation on 1st March 2006. These acts are relevant as far as international cooperation is needed on SALW issues such as gun smuggling, drugs for guns trade, and so forth.

Another issue we would like to follow other speakers before us is to include gender issues in the final document of the conference.

Problems

Papua New Guinea has the further potential to conform to the PoA to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. However, what our country needs is capacity enhancement rather than just capacity building in achieving the goals of PoA.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.