

Statement from UNIDIR

Thank you Mr Chairman.

UNIDIR congratulates Ambassador Rowe on his appointment as Chair of this meeting.

UNIDIR would like to recognise and thank Member States for their careful reflection on the growing body of research on the impacts of SALW that has been presented in the past few years by institutes like ours.

We commend Member States for their increasing attention to the negative developmental impacts of prolific SALW and the connections between small arms control and DDR and other violence reduction strategies; and we commend Member States' commitment to combat the humanitarian impact effects of SALW and their ammunition in their implementation of the PoA. We hope increased attention will be paid to the demand side of the problem in the build-up to the Review Conference.

We are particularly pleased to note that Member States are also committing themselves to acknowledging that special attention should be given not only to “women, children and the elderly” but to the largest group of perpetrators and victims of small arms violence – men, especially young men who are dispossessed of positive economic, cultural and social capital. Unless the special needs of this group receive appropriate attention, it will remain difficult to implement the goals of the PoA. We would like to express our hope that this point will be taken up in Cluster 1 of the interactive thematic debate that follows tomorrow [Friday], and remain a focus of attention in the months ahead.

Thank you.