



# **MISSIÓ PERMANENT DEL PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA A LES NACIONS UNIDES**

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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

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JULI MINOVES-TRIQUÉLL**  
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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA

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Mr. President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Andorra is a country without an army that has lived in peace with its neighbors for more than seven hundred years. We neither produce nor export armaments. We do not purchase weapons: no mines, missiles, or bombs. We do not attack anybody: we live in peace and let others live. Pete Seeger in 1962 wrote a song about my country, entitled "Andorra", which was well known in the US, said "I want to go to Andorra. It is a land that I adore. They spend four dollars and ninety cents on their defense and armament".

It is therefore normal that Andorra advocates with persistence disarmament and pacifism at international forums. The Andorran people believe in peaceful settlement of conflicts and in the firm respect of international law: these are basic principles that all states, small or large must respect.

In 2001, I had the honour of representing my country at the Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. I participated in the Conference after the fact that Andorra financed a UN project on the destruction of such weapons in Albania. Since then, we have acquired expertise in the field of disarmament. During the first semester of 2004, we assumed the Chairmanship of the Security and Cooperation Forum of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In collaboration with this Organization, we are contributing to the elimination of toxic residues from conventional arms used and then abandoned in the territory of Ukraine.

Furthermore, jointly with the UNICEF National Committee of Andorra, we have financed projects of education of children in post-conflict areas: the *Together* programme in Kosovo and the *Foundations of Democracy* programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Head of the Government of Andorra, Albert Pintat, decided at the beginning of this legislative period just a year ago, to create a ministerial portfolio on Cooperation, which has been entrusted to me, in order to better focus and direct Andorran solidarity in the field of development cooperation. One of the areas in development cooperation that Andorra prioritizes is the one linked to disarmament. In this regard I am pleased to announce to this Assembly that in order to implement and promote the scope of Security Council Resolution 1540, I have agreed with the USG for disarmament affairs, Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, on Andorra's participation to a programme of technical assistance for the monitoring of disarmament in Sub-Saharan Africa with a contribution of US\$ 50,000 per year for the period 2007-2008. We have also decided that Andorra will organize a UN training seminar on disarmament for the affected countries.

I can assure you that my country will be proud to host this type of UN seminar in favor of peace and disarmament. History and geography gave us peace during these centuries: hopefully we could share this blessing during these times of turmoil.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Five years after the 2001 Conference, just few months before the ill-fated 11 of September, we meet again to examine the 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.

The Programme of Action has enabled us to set the bases to regulate this serious issue which results in thousands of victims around the world and which represents an obstacle to the development and full implementation of world peace and security. We should not limit ourselves to its implementation.

The data is frightening: according to the experts there are currently some 600 million small arms and light weapons in circulation in the world, 100 million more than in 2001. The illicit trade in these weapons is a factor which aggravates the figures relating to the direct or indirect killing of hundreds of thousands of people, mostly civilians in areas of conflict. In its report on small arms of 2005, the Small Arms Survey indicated that between 60% and 90% of direct deaths in violent conflicts are caused by small arms, without counting deaths by indirect causes.

Besides these discouraging facts, we welcome the adoption during these five years of binding instruments such as the *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition*, which came into force on 3 July 2005, and the approval in December 2005 by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the

*International instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons.* It would be desirable for this declaration of a political nature to develop towards the adoption of a legal instrument of more substantial weight.

Andorra spared no effort in supporting the international community in its task for disarmament. In 1996 the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* came into force in Andorra, and in 1999 we adopted the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*. More recently, we have decided to ratify the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction*, and the *Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection*. Last week Andorra has submitted its national report in accordance to GA resolution 60/81 on the Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of 09/11 we live in an insecure world. Disarmament seems to lose its strength. Proliferation of small and light weapons persists. Weapons of mass destruction do not disappear and some states still pretend to acquire them. In this uncertainty, little can do a small peaceful state like Andorra. However, we can with no doubt remind that to

live without army and weapons is possible. A free-conflict past legitimates us to add our voice to this debate on disarmament today. And specially, within our means, we will prove our solidarity and cooperation to those initiatives established by the international community against weapons and in favor of peace.

I thank you Mr. President.