



MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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**Statement by
Mr. Ricardo Morote
from the Mission of Peru to the United Nations
at the 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, 27 June 2006

Mr. President,

Allow me to express my sincere congratulations for your designation as President of this Review Conference. I am sure that with your experience and great talent, you will guide this Conference with success. The Peruvian delegation looks forward to fully cooperate with you and other delegations.

The President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize, Mr. Oscar Arias, used to say that the end of the cold war did not mean the beginning of an era of peace and prosperity. We are living a historic time in which the concept of peace has been re-defined. Peace, traditionally conceived in function of national security demands, should not be referred only to disarmament but, fundamentally, to humanity wellbeing.

In that sense, the Foreign Minister of Peru, Ambassador Oscar Maúrtua, in the open debate of the Security Council on the small weapons issue, held on March 20, mentioned that from our perspective, the gravity of the illicit traffic of small weapons is related not only with citizenship safety, but with the consolidation of the democratic institution, the rule of law, the defense of human rights, the fundamental freedom and the social and economic development. That situation is still more critical when it is linked to problems such as drug trafficking, illegal exploitation of natural resources, organized crime and terrorism.

The illicit traffic of light and small weapons, its accumulation and proliferation contribute to the destabilization of countries, increase the intensity and duration of armed conflicts; undermine the efforts of peace and its process of consolidation; frustrate the efforts oriented to the prevention of the armed conflicts and hinder considerably the provision of humanitarian aid. In 47 of the world's 49 current armed conflicts, small arms and light weapons play an important role. Annually, more than half a million of human lives are lost due to small arms.

Mr. President,

The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, approved by all members of the United Nations in 2001, marked a milestone in the international fight against the illicit traffic of this kind of weapons. The States established a series of agreements and we set a follow-up process of the Programme of Action, encouraging ourselves to exchange information on the progresses reached in its implementation. Now, five years later, we meet to examine the advancement reached with those agreements and to adopt additional measures against the harmful implications brought by of the illicit traffic of light and small weapons.

The strong will of Peru to advance in the implementation of that Programme of Action and the support of the Regional Center of the United Nations for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean –UNLiREC- for its preparation, have

permitted to conclude the National Report on Implementation of the Programme of Action pertaining to 2005, the same one presented to the Department of Disarmament Affairs and circulated among the participating delegations in this event.

We will work actively in order to assure the success of this Review Conference, with the legitimate aspiration that it means a substantive advancement in the aspects in which the 2001 Programme of Action has opened ways. The Vice-Presidency, occupied by Peru, in representation of the Latin-American and the Caribbean region, is an indication of our commitment.

Mr. President,

Through the subscription of international instruments, Peru has obliged itself in the application of dispositions linked with the struggle of this scourge, having incorporated in its internal legislation the conceptual aspects of the "Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials", as well as of the "United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition", which constitute important referrals of our action on this issue.

Likewise, Peru has intensified its contacts with the sub-regional organizations like the Andean Community, particularly after June 2003 with the subscription of Decision 552, Andean Plan for the Prevention, Fight and Eradication of Illicit Traffic of Light and Small Weapons in All its Aspects, in order to cooperate, to implement and to support an integral strategy for the prevention of this problem, to the Andean level. Likewise, Peru participates, in its capacity of Associated State, in the meetings of the Working Group on Firearms and Ammunition of the MERCOSUR and Associated States, mechanism that has permitted an important degree of coordination and agreement to advance in the establishment of a joint position presented by the distinguished President of the Delegation of Argentina in his speech, that Peru fully endorses. Peru endorses, as well, the Antigua Declaration of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Guatemala on May 2006.

Mr. President,

Looking to encourage the citizenship to deliver weapons under legal or irregular possession, to the control organ and judicial, military and police authorities, the Law of Amnesty and Regularization has been promulgated, in force until August of this year. Likewise, with the cooperation of the UNLiREC, the project "Challenge of Lima 2006", that includes events of destruction of collected or confiscated firearms; the organization of seminars and campaigns of diffusion directed to political, judicial and administrative authorities of the country; the improvement in the management of warehouses; and

In order to coordinate the actions and to centralize the national efforts in application of the international instruments in matter of light and small weapons, the establishment, in the short term, of a National Commission is being promoted. Its creation will permit the

multi-sector focus toward the adoption of national measures on aspects linked to this problematic and will serve of focal point for the technical and financial cooperation.

Mr. President,

The Programme of Action has advanced in its implementation, but there is still a lot to do. It is of particular interest of Peru to strength the international cooperation, including the technical and financial aid that permit improving the national capacity at the time of creating conscience on this scourge. In this sense, my country would support the establishment of a Fiduciary Fund that, under the sponsorship of the United Nations, would be able to provide cooperation and technical and financial aid to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

In the same way, Peru would support every initiative oriented to the “International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons” to have a legally-binding nature.

In the same line, my country wishes to continue working to achieve a legally-binding instrument that includes the subject of Ammunition and to adopt an instrument on illicit mediation of light and small weapons. In this respect, Law No. 28627 of 2005, typifies like crime in the Penal Code, the transfer, the mediation, the transportation, the concealment and illicit carrying of firearms, Ammunition and explosive, according to the concepts established in the international instruments on the matter.

Our delegation will support the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, adopted at the Geneva Summit on June 7, which includes practical commitments aimed at reducing the negative impact of armed violence on sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The delegation of Peru wishes to join the call of the delegations that emphasize the need to establish a mechanism of monitoring the Programme of Action, including the convening a Review Conference for not later than 2011, as well as the biannual meetings to measure the progresses reached.

Thank you.