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**STATEMENT**

**by**

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**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**at**

**the 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**

**New York**  
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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

At the onset, let me join other delegations in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Conference.

First of all I would like to emphasize that Bosnia and Herzegovina fully associates itself with the statement made by Austria on behalf of the European Union.

We are deeply convinced that this conference represents a good opportunity to recognize the progress already achieved and to identify the main areas of common interests to achieve pragmatic goals.

It is a pleasure to inform you about the progress made in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of SALW control. Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken a series of measures to implement the United Nations Program on Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects.

In line with the conclusions of the UN PoA and the Regional Implementation Plan to Combat the Proliferation of SALW, approved by the Stability Pact for SEE in 2001, Bosnia and Herzegovina has established the National Coordination Board for the Control of SALW.

The Coordination Board with the experts from all relevant ministries involved in SALW control unofficially existed for two years, was finally endorsed by the Council of Ministers of BiH in October 2005. Since then, the Board has been performing in its full capacities and has finalized the National Strategy and Action Plan on SALW Control in BiH officially approved by the Council of Ministers of BiH on May 11, 2006. The National Strategy represents the basic document for the conduct of all SALW aspects, such as the SALW and ammunition collection and destruction actions, and related legislation.

The Coordination Board and the Council of Ministers endorsed the UNDP Small Arms Control program in October 2005. The Small Arms Control program has been implemented in line with the National Strategy aims.

BiH has undergone rapid defense reform including the development of new defense legislation. The state defense law came into force as of January 1, 2006.

The law includes the formation of the State Ministry of Defense and the roadmap for the restructuring of armed forces of BiH.

In 2004, the Ministry of Defense introduced the Moratorium on sale and exports of surplus military SALW and ammunition. The Moratorium entered into force on July 31 2005.

In May 2006, MoD of BiH established an expert team to identify surplus of armaments and ammunition after the undergoing reorganization of AFBiH is completed. The task of the team is to present proposal on methods how to deal with the surplus armaments (selling, donation, destruction – delaboration, melting, etc.)

I will present you now the activities regarding the disposal and collection of SALW as well as results achieved to date:

- UNDP has completed the disposal of 50 tons of the chemical ammunition components that were stored in one of the storage sites in BiH. The chemicals have been nitriled and shipped to Austria for final disposal.
- Through operations called “Harvest”, EUFOR and local authorities had collected and destroyed over 2,500 SALW through the UNDP program.
- MoD and UNDP have identified over 88 tones of unstable ammunition to be destroyed. Regarding the ammunition disposal, UNDP has ordered a mobile incinerator that is being assembled for the destruction of small arms ammunition.
- From October 2005 until April 2006, MoD BiH destroyed over 92,000 surplus military SALW through the UNDP project.
- As well the demilitarization of 200 tones of stable surplus ammunition is under way, while additional 510 tons are being prepared for demilitarization through UNDP at the local facilities.

With the UNDP assistance, we intend to develop our national capacities for destruction, collection and demilitarization of SALW and ammunition.

The complexity of the SALW problem has prompted the countries of the region of Southern-East Europe to take an integrated approach. Forms of cooperation have been put in place, resulting in the establishment of the following institutions:

1. The South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), May 2002, Belgrade;
2. The Regional Centre for Control, Verification, and Implementation of SALW (RACVIAC), 2000, Zagreb;
3. The SECI Anti-Terrorism Task Force Sub-group on SALW Smuggling, December 2001, based in Bucharest.

Regional cooperation also takes place through the South Eastern Europe Stability Pact, where Regional Steering Group (RSG) provides a forum for regional representatives.

Mr. Chairman,

BiH will remain committed to the full implementation of UN PoA and further improvement of SALW control. We recognize the importance of the adoption and implementation of minimum common standards that would be applied for any transfer of SALW.

BiH believes that effective follow-up measures are needed to improve the implementation of the PoA and allow States to continue discussions on UN process on SALW.

I would like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of BiH's full support for your endeavors for a successful outcome of this conference.

THANK YOU