

УКРАЇНА



UKRAINE

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STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. ANDRIY VESELOVSKIY

**Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,
Head of the Delegation of Ukraine to 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**

28 June 2006
New York

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the delegation of Ukraine on your election to this responsible post and wish you every success in leading the Conference. We believe that under your competent guidance our deliberations will result in substantial progress on various topics under consideration. Let me assure you of the full support of the Ukrainian delegation in your endeavors.

Mr. President,

Delegation of Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement made by the Presidency of the European Union. I would like to touch upon some additional issues which are of considerable importance for my country.

The UN 2001 Programme of Action constitutes the comprehensive framework for dealing with the illicit trade in small arms. It is the first and significant step forward to achieve the goal of controlling this scourge. We hope that the today's follow up process will find ways for strengthening and further developing measures contained in the Programme.

Ukraine shares the view that efforts to combat the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons are largely hampered by an inadequate capacity at the national, regional and global levels to trace the sources and lines of supply of illicit arms. An effective control over brokering activities and SALW transfers are the areas where international community should take more active steps. States should make their best efforts to ensure that the production, export, import, stockpiling, marking, record-keeping and transfer of small arms and light weapons are all carried out in strict adherence to international as well as national laws and regulations.

Our discussion for the last two days showed the increasing attention to the problem of ammunition and its linkages to the illicit trade in small arms. We stress the importance of restriction on the supply of ammunition to areas of instability and the destruction of the excessive old ammunition and SALW stockpiles. Ukraine believes that the effective destruction process may become an important contribution to fight against illicit small arms and light weapons. Allow me to elaborate more on this point taking as the example the Ukraine's efforts.

Substantial amount of SALW Ukraine inherited after collapse of the former Soviet Union. Large quantities of SALW and ammunition represent not only a huge oversize in terms of Ukraine's armed forces needs, but also constitute unserviceable and simply hazardous materials. Ukraine has some two million tons of conventional ammunition on its territory, among which 15 thousands tons of old and decommissioned stockpiles have to be destroyed in the next 3 years. We often experience tragic effects of explosions of those old ammunition and SALW.

Therefore, it is our strong desire to get rid of them for the sake of people's lives as well as for lessening the proliferation risks.

We greatly appreciate the EU and NATO member states involvement into process of destruction of surplus SALW and ammunition in Ukraine. Recently the first phase of the NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project to utilize 133 thousand tons of conventional ammunition, 1.5 million surplus SALW and one thousand man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) has been launched. The implementation of this project started just this month and the first stockpile of MANPADS had been already utilized. Ukraine is grateful to those states that have made their contributions to the Trust Fund. We are inspired by the recent decision of the European Union and OSCE to start new projects in Ukraine on the utilization of SALW and conventional ammunition.

Mr. President,

Ukraine conducts responsible policy in the field of conventional arms control. Ukrainian legislation envisages strict measures to prevent illegal manufacturing, possession and trafficking of all types of armaments, including small arms and light weapons. We acceded to all existing international export control regimes. National export control system provides for effective procedures of export/import licensing. Recently new measures have been taken to improve national legislation including the implementation of the UN 2001 Programme of Action and the OSCE 2000 Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Concerning the export control mechanisms we underline the importance of adoption more clear and functional end user certificate systems in the recipient states. States bare main responsibilities in preventing illicit circulation of SALW.

Mr. President,

Ukraine commends your efforts in drafting the outcome document of the Conference. We consider it as a good basis for further substantive discussion. Let me assure you that Ukraine will continue to take an active part in these elaborations and in the international efforts to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons as well as to restrain their uncontrolled proliferation.

Thank you.