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**STATEMENT** by  
**TURKEY**

on

**International Cooperation and Assistance**

at the

**Fifth Biennial Meeting of States on the  
UN Programme of Action  
to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade  
in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects**

**18 June 2014, New York**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Since this is the first time our delegation is taking the floor, we would like to congratulate you on your appointment. We would like to express our appreciation for the manner in which you have conducted the preparations for this meeting. As we have stated during informal meetings, we have full confidence in your skills and experience, to lead us to a successful outcome.

Illicit trade and use of the small arms and light weapons pose a significant threat to global, regional and national peace and security, as well as to the social and economic development of many countries. Additionally, there is a close linkage between the illicit trade in SALWs and terrorism, organized crime, drugs and human trafficking.

The illicit trade in SALW is an international phenomenon, therefore “preventing, combating and eradicating” can only be achieved through international cooperation. Turkey’s strong support to develop such cooperation is not only limited to efforts within the UN, but also extend to those within other fora.

Of all such efforts, the UN Programme of Action (UNPOA) plays a crucial role, as it constitutes a comprehensive starting point for the only global action to fight against the illicit trade in SALWs. Much progress has been achieved since its adoption in 2001. Yet we are still far from achieving its full implementation, and this requires us to redouble our efforts and to make best use of this Conference.

We believe that transparency and information sharing would certainly help promote consistency in the implementation of agreed multilateral standards. We would like to call for the effective use of the available UN and regional instruments in this regard.

Cooperation between national and international law enforcement and customs agencies plays a key role in our efforts. Increased cooperation between national intelligence agencies would also complement such efforts.

Global information exchange platforms facilitate our endeavors to combat and prevent the illicit trade in SALW. The establishment of secure platforms, similar to the OSCE Communication Network, to swiftly exchange information between Member States would strengthen our cooperation.

Turkey intends to continue to contribute to the efforts within the UN and other fora to foster international cooperation, including through the adoption and implementation of additional norms, rules and measures. It is with this spirit that we supported, signed and are in the process of ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty. As an additional measure, developing and using standardized documents that cannot be forged, possibly through the use of modern technology, including microchips, comes to mind.

International assistance is fundamental to the successful implementation of the UNPOA and other relevant documents and measures. We are as strong as our weakest link, but Member States have uneven capacities, mainly due to different levels of socioeconomic development. Many countries have numerous vital priorities to address all at once, including combating the illicit trade in SALW, but little resources and capacities to address them effectively.

It therefore becomes very important to lend a helping hand to the members of the international community that seek assistance to build such capacities. We would like to emphasize the role of national ownership in this regard.

Although resources available for cooperation and capacity-building have been increasing, there still seems to be a gap between available resources and needs. We welcome initiatives to bridge this gap.

We believe that increased cooperation and assistance are needed in stockpile management; disposal of surplus SALW and ammunition; record-keeping, marking and tracing; training of border and customs officials; technical support for legislative measures; awareness-raising; and mitigating the humanitarian impact of the proliferation and misuse of SALW.

On the other hand, given the linkage between the illicit trade in SALWs and terrorism and organized crime, it is clear that we need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, and, where necessary, to assist capacity-building efforts in this regard. To this end we have concluded bilateral agreements in the field of security cooperation, fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime with 70 countries.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is important to adopt a holistic approach to cooperation. Support from civil society, including non-governmental organizations, strengthens our efforts. In this regard, we should also mention the role that industry plays, as manufacturers, traders and transporters of SALWs. We therefore appreciate the inclusion of a paragraph in the draft outcome document, regarding their engagement. We were also pleased with the increased references to regional and subregional organizations, as they play an important role in our efforts.

As we have expressed during the informal meetings, SALWs have devastating consequences on children. This important issue needs to be addressed effectively, including through international cooperation. Together with a number of countries, including EU and CARICOM member states, Australia, Costa Rica, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Switzerland and Uruguay, we have presented specific language proposals on the matter, and look forward to their inclusion in the next draft outcome document.

Thank you.