



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**UK Statement**

**Fifth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action  
UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small  
Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its Aspects**

**International Co-operation and Assistance for the full and effective  
implementation of the UNPoA and ITI**

Mr Chairman, the UK remains fully committed to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We believe that international co-operation and assistance is vital in ensuring the effective implementation of both the UNPoA and International Tracing Instrument.

The UK is committed to providing assistance to tackling the drivers of instability in fragile and conflict-affected countries. We are helping those countries where the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is causing the most damage. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence work together on conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping. We do this through our “conflict pool” fund, which supports activities that seek to reduce the number of people around the world whose lives are, or might be, affected by violent conflict. We also fund work through our Counter Proliferation Programme fund, which aims to support and strengthen the international system of counter proliferation Treaties, regimes and organisations and work towards their effective implementation.

Since we last spoke at the review conference in 2012, the UK has provided over 1.5 million pounds towards projects focused on conventional arms through the counter proliferation programme fund. These include:

- Work to secure MANPADS in Libya
- Assisting states in strengthening conventional arms controls
- Conventional Arms trafficking work in the Balkans
- Engaging industry in conventional arms compliance

- Assisting states in effective export controls implementation

In this coming year alone, through our counter proliferation programme fund, we are planning to fund just under half a million pounds towards conventional arms projects with a truly global reach. These include:

- Work to address the problem of small arms and light weapons in Libya and the wider Sahel region
- Work on strengthening conventional arms controls

We have also co-operated with international partners by providing £350,000 towards the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation UNSCAR. We support UNSCAR activity and recognise the importance of its role in conventional arms work across the piece.

These are just some of the areas where the UK is providing co-operation and assistance and is a demonstration of our commitment to the UN Programme of Action. We will continue to work closely with our international partners to ensure we push the SALW agenda forwards and hope to achieve a progressive and comprehensive outcome to BMS5.

Finally, under our commitment to section three of the UNPOA, the UK has worked tirelessly alongside international partners to ensure the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013. A milestone in history. Once in force, this Treaty will complement and reinforce the POA, undoubtedly saving lives and reducing human suffering from the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.