Mr. Moderator,

1. Thank you for giving me the floor, and for allowing me to deliver my delegation’s positions on the agenda item currently being considered, specifically on the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). My delegation also congratulates you on your appointment and we thank you for your constructive efforts in taking this process forward.

Mr. Moderator,

2. Despite the adoption of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) nine years ago, the marking and tracing of illicit SALW continues to be limited and difficult, particularly in conflict or post-conflict environments. Malaysia believes that member States should take advantage of our discussions today, and work together towards giving the ITI a new breath of life to make it more implementable and relevant.

3. As regards to implementation of the ITI at the national level, Malaysia maintains permanent registers for the purpose of identifying and tracing small arms, thus providing our enforcement agencies the capacity to trace any particular arm by referring to the register. In addition, Malaysia has introduced two systems for tracing purposes. The MyBid system assists in conducting ballistic identification on all small arms recovered, seized or alleged to be used in any crime. The Firearms Licensing Application Monitoring and Enquiry (FLAME) system assists by maintaining electronic records of all arms.
4. In this regard, my delegation notes that the current draft outcome document contains references to new challenges and recent developments in weapons technology. We believe that next year’s Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts will provide a timely opportunity for further discussions on these important issues.

Mr. Moderator,

5. As part of our collective efforts to alleviate and reduce armed violence, Malaysia undertakes several initiatives to enhance collaboration with ASEANPOL, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, and the World Customs Organisation, in building-capacity for marking, record-keeping and tracing at the national, regional and global levels. We are working closely with our counterparts in ASEANAPOL and INTERPOL on the integrated electronic ASEANAPOL database system (E-ADS) for information sharing and exchange of intelligence and operational matters on crimes, including the illicit trading of SALW.

6. In this regard, my delegation wishes to reiterate the importance of governing the disclosure of such information through appropriate law enforcement channels, and in line with relevant laws and regulations as well as national security measures. I should also highlight here the language of the ITI, which points out that the choice of methods for marking SALW and for record-keeping are national prerogatives.

Mr. Moderator,

7. My delegation underlines that full and effective implementation of the ITI, and indeed the PoA itself, requires an effective approach to international cooperation and assistance. We will deliver further remarks on this issue when it is deliberated under the next agenda item.

Thank you Mr. Moderator.