Statement by

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At the

Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 (BMS 5)

New York, 16 June 2014

(Check against Delivery)
Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairperson of BMS 5, and to thank you for your extensive efforts to prepare for this important occasion. We look forward to working with you and your team in the same cooperative and supportive manner that has characterized our delegation's contribution to the SALW process from the start.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel attaches great importance to the UN Programme of Action. We view its effective implementation as crucial for combating the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Illicit trade and uncontrolled transfers of SALW pose an enduring challenge to international peace and security, with significant destabilizing effects and humanitarian consequences.

A successful outcome of this meeting would strengthen international resolve to prevent the transfer of arms to terrorists and non-state actors. It could dramatically reduce the human suffering caused by the intentional use of these weapons against civilians. To achieve this goal we must enhance our level of cooperation in areas that have not yet received appropriate attention, such as trafficking prevention, border controls, post-conflict smuggling and circulation to other armed conflicts. Those and other coordination challenges have significantly hampered the implementation of the UNPoA.
Like many other states in our region and around the world, Israel views the implementation of the UNPoA as more relevant than ever. The Middle East has been evolving over the past years and it is still undergoing an historic transformation. The turbulence in our region poses great challenges, which should prompt the international community to work together to prevent illicit trafficking and terrorism.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have reviewed the Chairperson's fourth draft circulated last week, and would like to make the following substantive comments:

In paragraph 5, we suggest that text be added after "post-conflict situations" so that the paragraph will read as follows: "....particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations of abandoned arms and explosive munitions. Moreover, sophisticated technologies, such as unmanned vehicles, enhanced surveillance equipment, better secured means of transport and shipment, could further improve the fight against diversion.....", etc.

In paragraph 9, we feel this section should emphasize that the "procedures and sanctions in the event of diversion" refer to internal procedures and sanctions, rather than ones by an external entity or tribunal.
Mr. Chairperson,

Regarding the participation of the Palestinian delegation in this meeting, Israel would like to place on record its position that the Palestinians do not fulfill the criteria for statehood under international law. A Palestinian state does not currently exist and could only be established, as has been affirmed repeatedly by the international community and agreed between the Parties, through direct negotiations.

I would like to reiterate the position expressed by Israel's Ambassador to the UN on November 29th, 2012, in the context of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/19 as well as in the Security Council on January 23rd, 2013.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson,

Israel remains ready to play its part and engage constructively with other Member States to contribute to the success of this BMS. Please allow me to again convey our appreciation for your relentless efforts to move us forward, and to wish Member States, and the Secretariat, fruitful deliberations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.