Mr. Chair,

My delegation underscores that cooperation and assistance are crucial for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. They must be regarded as cross-cutting aspects in our discussions.

Brazil works with neighbors in South America in a cooperative manner towards the prevention, combat and eradication of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. This relationship is based on a network of bilateral and subregional instruments, particularly in the context of MERCOSUR, that allows for exchange of information and harmonization of policies and regulations.

We are encouraged that a dialogue on issues related to the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons is being shaped in the broader context of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States – CELAC, which recently adopted a Special Declaration on the topic, during the recent summit held in Havana, Cuba.

Mr. Chair,

Assistance is key to the effective implementation of the Program of Action and must be provided in consonance with needs and priorities of requesting States. We recognize the value of platforms such as the PoA Implementation Support System in providing information as well as facilitating match-making.

Mechanisms for facilitating cooperation could be further expanded. The proposal of establishing a trust fund merits further consideration. This was encouraged in the outcome document of the 2012 Review Conference, in order to mobilize assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Thank you.