

PRESIDENT'S NON-PAPER FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION PURPOSES

(27 March 2006)

Conference to Review Progress Made in 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

New York, 26 June – 7 July 2006

The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: A Strategy for Further Implementation.

III. International Cooperation and Assistance

1. The Conference reaffirms that the primary responsibility for solving the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects falls on all States and also recognizes that States need close international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate this illicit trade.
2. Recognizing that enhanced cooperation and assistance is needed for the full implementation of the Programme of Action, States undertake to strengthen cooperation and to enhance coordination, complementarity and synergy in efforts to deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the global, regional, subregional and national levels and to establish and strengthen cooperation and partnerships at all levels among international and intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions.
3. States and appropriate international and regional organizations in a position to do so should, upon request of the relevant authorities, seriously consider rendering strengthened assistance, including technical and financial assistance as well as assistance in capacity-building, to further support the implementation of all measures as contained in the Programme of Action and in this Outcome Document of the Review Conference, including, in particular, the following
 - the development of appropriate legislation and regulations,
 - the operational capacity for law enforcement,
 - stockpile management and security,
 - destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons designated for destruction,
 - specialist training,
 - transfer of technologies,
 - disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants,

- the establishment of national coordination agencies or bodies, and
 - the collection and exchange of relevant information.
4. States and international and regional organizations should, where appropriate, intensify their efforts to cooperate, develop and strengthen partnerships to share resources, information and technologies on all aspects of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
 5. States and appropriate international and regional organizations should seriously consider rendering technical, financial and other assistance, both bilaterally and multilaterally, in building national capacity in the areas of marking, record-keeping and tracing, in order to support the effective implementation of the International Instrument to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons
 - a) by building national capacity in the areas of marking, record-keeping and tracing, and
 - b) by examining technologies that would improve the tracing and detection of illicit small arms and light weapons, as well as facilitating the transfer of such technologies.
 6. States are encouraged to cooperate, where appropriate, with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to support the effective implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.
 7. States are encouraged to increase their cooperation and exchange of information to prevent the use of false end-user certificates, including assistance, upon request, in monitoring, developing and strengthening reliable end-user certification processes as well as in investigations and prosecutions in accordance with their respective constitutional and legal systems.
 8. States and appropriate international or regional organizations in a position to do so should provide technical, financial and other assistance to enable other States to develop and implement adequate national controls on arms brokering.
 9. States in a position to do so are encouraged to provide assistance to interested States in strengthening their capacity to enforce United Nations Security Council arms embargoes, taking into account recommendations proposed by relevant United Nations monitoring mechanisms and expert bodies.
 10. States and international and regional organizations are encouraged to exchange information and experience, on a voluntary basis, inter alia, on their national laws, regulations and practices on the export, import, transit, transshipment and brokering of small arms and light weapons.

11. Noting the valuable contribution of the United Nations project entitled “Capacity Development for Reporting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action”, the Conference encourages States in a position to do so to continue to support that project.
12. States are encouraged to reinforce the capacities of regional and international mechanisms, including the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization, in order to strengthen their ability to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and to intensify their coordination regarding transborder, transit and transshipment control.
13. Noting the work of the Group of Interested States, the Conference requests, as appropriate, to strengthen this mechanism so as to ensure improved coordination for the provision of effective and targeted assistance.
14. Recognizing that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has a multidimensional nature, States, in a position to do so, are encouraged to provide assistance and support to the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism.
15. States, in a position to do so, are encouraged to strengthen the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs Trust Fund for global and regional disarmament activities and the UNDP Voluntary Trust Fund for small arms and light weapons in order to enable them to provide effective support to programmes and projects for the implementation of the Programme of Action at national, subregional, regional and global levels. States are encouraged to establish similar trust funds in regional and sub-regional organizations.
16. States in a position to do so are urged to set up a sponsorship programme in order to enable States to be represented at meetings on the implementation of the Programme of Action.
17. States and international, regional and subregional organizations as well as regional and country offices of international development organizations should enhance cooperation and coordination to support the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned in the design and implementation of programmes and projects within the framework of the Programme of Action.
18. States request the Department for Disarmament Affairs to establish a database which contains information, provided on a voluntary basis by Member States, on best practices regarding related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

19. This Conference requests UNIDIR, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, to carry out a study on the financial and technical needs of developing countries for the full implementation of the Programme of Action to be submitted to the next Biennial Meeting of States for consideration and further action.
20. This Conference requests multilateral and regional financial institutions to include provisions for small arms and light weapons programmes, where appropriate, in (i) reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in post-conflict areas; (ii) the consolidation of governance issues; (iii) the strengthening of legislation and the improvement of operational capacity of law enforcement agencies on small arms and light weapons, as well as in (iv) the promotion of socio-economic development agendas that include public awareness on small arms and light weapons issues.
21. Recognizing the importance of reliable information and analysis on all issues related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as a key aspect of the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, States, regional and subregional and international organizations, research centers, health and medical institutions, the United Nations System, international financial institutions and civil society are urged, as appropriate, to strengthen their commitment to the development of and support for action-oriented research, including the development of indicators to measure and assess the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes to implement the Programme of Action.
22. States are urged to consider establishing a permanent assistance and cooperation mechanism in order to facilitate all aspects of the further implementation of the Programme of Action.