Mr. Chairman,

1. Malaysia congratulates you, Ambassador Tanin, on your election as Chairperson of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects.

2. My delegation agrees with you that we should work together to reach a meaningful outcome by consensus, in particular within the short timeframe we have. We are heartened to see the manner in which you have conducted our deliberations, which have thus far been open and transparent. This is a challenging, but not insurmountable, task, and we remain confident of your ability to get us there. You can count on the cooperation and support of the Malaysian delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia fully associates itself with the positions outlined in the Working Paper submitted on 4 March 2014 by Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. With regard to the agenda item currently considered, specifically on the implementation of the PoA in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels, I wish to also outline a few points in my national capacity.
4. Malaysia has put in place, adequate and stringent laws, administrative procedures and regulations towards the implementation of the PoA at all levels. At the national level, there is an interagency mechanism for consultation amongst the relevant Malaysian agencies to ensure the effective management of stockpiles, including physical security measures. Our enforcement agencies conduct regular exercises to review arms stocks and determine the need to dispose ineffective stocks, based on standard operating procedures. In addition, all confiscated, seized or collected SALW, are destroyed. Malaysia’s management of SALW stockpiles was further enhanced by the enactment of the Strategic Trade Act in 2010, which also provides for the disposal of seized strategic items and unlisted items, thus closing potential gaps in implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

5. We believe that the PoA, although not legally binding, has provided the international community with a roadmap of guidelines and parameters to deal with this issue. In this regard, we hope that this Meeting will result in strengthened political will and commitment from member States, and reinforce the importance of the PoA in preventing, combatting and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW.

6. In addition, my delegation reiterates that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons must be addressed through a holistic perspective of arms control and disarmament, post-conflict peace-building, conflict prevention and socio-economic development. It is our view that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action should incorporate these aspects.

Mr. Chairman,

7. My delegation will elaborate further on other issues to be discussed in the subsequent sessions. We look forward to working closely with you and other delegations in coming out with a successful outcome to this meeting, which will do justice to the problems that arise from the illicit trade in SALW.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.