



# KAZAKHSTAN

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## **STATEMENT**

**by**

**Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov,**

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**to the United Nations**

**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**

**Implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in  
a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons**

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Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for focusing this discussion on the International Tracing Instrument as a key tool in the global effort to seek ways to develop norms for measuring its effectiveness. It is vital is not just to curb brokering but also the illegal manufacture, import and export of these weapons. Stricter measures need to be implemented to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner.

It is an important step towards transparency. However, to realize this objective, it is important that countries maintain an effective firearms tracing mechanism, which is an aspect that many countries still lack, especially those emerging from armed conflicts. Such areas are usually characterized by widespread circulation of illicit arms and ammunition. Also many of the SALW are recycled from past wars, with their original sources having been government stocks. The lack of effective marking and record keeping processes leads to leakage from firearm stockpiles, especially, in times of conflict. New arms are supplied deliberately in the course of armed conflicts without due regard for record keeping, all of which have to be curbed. Till such time that we have a legally binding instrument for ITI, the SALW components should be strongly regulated within the Arms Trade Treaty, and also in the UN Register of Conventional Arms.

While the ITI leaves it up to states to decide on a method of marking, the standards of the ITI should be fully complied with. Markings have to be made on an exposed surface, be easily recognizable, durable, and recoverable, with the full name of the manufacturer, the country of manufacture and the serial number or alternatively, a combination of a geometric symbol. All state-held weapons must be marked. Simple markings should be added when importing weapons, as required already by the Firearms Protocol, to identify the country and year of import. The same applies when permanently transferring weapons from government stockpiles to civilian use. In addition, illicit arms found or seized must also be marked if they are not promptly destroyed. Manufacturers are encouraged to develop measures against the alteration or removal of markings.

Key to the success of ITI is recordkeeping, where records of all marked weapons in the national territory must be established and kept as long as possible. In particular, manufacturing records must be kept at least 30 years, and all other records – including on transfers – at least 20 years. Manufacturing companies going out of business will forward their records to the state.

Cooperation in tracing and implementing the ITI is enhanced through transparency and confidence building measures. States will ensure that systems are in place to undertake confidential traces, including all necessary laws, regulations, and administrative procedures, and the designation of national points of contact. Traces can be initiated by states, by providing a set of initial information. States receiving a tracing request should respond diligently, including by cooperating

with Interpol and other regional organizations. They will also share information with the United Nations, in particular on national points of contact and national marking practices, and generally provide international cooperation and technical, financial, or other assistance.

The follow up of international decision is just as vital. It should be made obligatory for states to submit national reports every two years on their implementation of the International Tracing Instrument - possibly as part of their report on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action. They will also discuss implementation at the Biennial Meetings of States. There need to be regular review sessions with more time dedicated solely to the ITI, to enable future developments during the Programme of Action Review Conference.

Thank you.