



PHILIPPINES

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PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

by

MR. JOSE EDUARDO A. DE VEGA
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations

at the Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons
of the First Committee

68th Session of the UN General Assembly

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ECOSOC Chamber
UNHQ

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we witnessed two concrete efforts on the part of States and the international community to end the flow of illicit weapons which remains one of the biggest threats to international peace and security. The Philippines signed the landmark Arms Trade Treaty last month and we hope to finalize the process of ratification at the earliest possible time. We encourage Member States that have not signed to do so.

The Philippines welcomes the convening of the High level event by the "Co-Authors" of the ATT resolution to generate and support progress towards the early entry into force of the ATT.

The Philippines is working closely with the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific on arrangements for the convening of a regional meeting in Manila in late November to promote wider support for the entry into force of the ATT.

Another highlight was the Security Council's adoption last month of the first-ever resolution devoted to the questions of small arms and light weapons (SALWs). The international community must be reminded of its obligation to comply fully and effectively with the Security Council-mandated arms embargoes.

The Philippines remains committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALWs. We maintain that the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) is the best way for individual States to address the negative consequences of illicit SALWs.

My delegation welcomes the successful convening of the 2012 UN PoA Review Conference which produced an outcome document. We look forward to the upcoming fifth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS5) to consider the UN PoA to be held on 16-20 June 2014. The Philippines hopes that BMS5 will further strengthen global action on SALWs.

The Philippines further calls on States with the capacity to do so to provide assistance, especially on new technological innovations in marking, record-keeping and tracing, and strengthening our border security, to prevent the illicit transfer of arms and build additional legislative and institutional mechanisms to implement other provisions of the POA.

Through international cooperation and assistance, the Philippines will be able to establish strong national mechanisms to prevent the illicit trade in SALWs.

The Philippines also reiterates our call on producer states, which have the special responsibility to strictly apply the legal restrictions, to curb the illegal trade in SALWS. We call on them to supply arms only to responsible governments and their authorized agencies.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation looks forward to participating in the Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be held in Costa Rica in September 2014.

The Philippines presided over the 2012 Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). My delegation is confident that the incoming chair of the 2013 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW to be held next month in Geneva, Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel of France, will be able to carry on his mandated task. My delegation assures him of our continued support.

As the Philippines puts priority on the universalization of the CCW, we urge States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention and its Protocols.

Finally, the Philippines is tabling the draft resolution entitled "*Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects*" contained in L.28.

Following the submission of the draft resolution on 17 October, and as circulated to all Permanent Missions by Note Verbale on 22 October, amendments have been made in operative paragraph 7 of the resolution.

We hope that the First Committee will continue to adopt this resolution by consensus as was the case in previous years.

Thank you.