



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

by

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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 Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and
global levels, including stockpile management, including physical
security measures of small arms and light weapons**

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Chairman,
Madam High Representative

I congratulate you both for the capable leadership you provide to the international community to effectively address the critical issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW), with its many new threats and manifestations which have reached not only immense, but also complex proportions.

Central to our deliberations and collective response is the urgent need to strengthen the effective implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) at all three levels - the international, regional and national levels, which must go parallel. It is obvious that strong interventions at any one level will promote gains in other two. This calls for a clear mandate with well delineated procedures and structures for the PoA, including for the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). While the issues are numerous, my delegation would like to propose the following key measures.

For effective implementation at the international level, all Member States need to submit more clear and specific timely reports with data on how the PoA is implemented at the national level to facilitate national, regional and global stocktaking. A large number of countries do not have their own SALW PoAs and should do so speedily, delineating corresponding structures in a comprehensive way. The establishment of adequate stockpile management and physical security facilities and arrangements the effective implementation of the UN Firearms Protocol and the ITI, should become a priority for the purposes of strict monitoring and subsequent action by each Member State. This is especially critical if peace is fragile in a particular country or if there are neighboring countries in conflict to which SALW can be illegally transferred. Just as crucial are the steps necessary to prevent the illicit proliferation of the new threat of surface-to-air man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) and their components.

In addition, UN system-wide coherence working together with the World Customs Organization and Interpol would bring results. The Security Council will have to address challenges to human security posed by SALW, with special attention given to women and children who are the most tragic victims. Increased representation of women at all decision making levels and a specific link between the PoA and the SC Resolution 1325, would lay a strong foundation. Regional peacekeeping and peace support operations must ensure safe storage, disposal and tracing of illicit SALW, together new mandates and teams of civilian and military experts. The Peacebuilding Commission has to be fully engaged in carrying out this task together with civil society.

Illicit SALW trade is impacting political security and sustainable development in literally all regions of the world. Hence, close cooperation with the active engagement of regional organizations is critical to implement and coordinate cross-regionally the relevant legally and politically-binding regional, as well as, international instruments. Such concerted action would provide much support to national effort. Vast and isolated borders demand greater coordination, vigilance and instant exchange of information to prevent smuggling. Strict control of air transport, which can easily go undetected, needs special attention. The nexus between terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and the illicit trade in SALW calls for greater collaboration between customs, border control mechanisms, defense and security forces, and police and judicial authorities across regions.

All these measures call for further strengthening legislative regimes, capacity building, training programmes, technical assistance, updating equipment improving measurability, the use of web-based information platforms, and matching assistance needs with available resources.

As OSCE Chair in 2010, and OIC Chair in 2010-2011, as well as even today together with both, and through other platforms, like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Collective Security Organization Treaty (CSTO) Kazakhstan is working relentlessly to prevent the proliferation of illegal circulation of such weapons. My country supports and provides information, on a regular basis, to the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the OSCE Document on SALW, knowing that both will make a considerable contribution to global efforts.

Today, the country is trying to enact national legislation on export control. Kazakhstan rigorously implements measures to tighten established controls over the export, manufacture, supply and transfer of SALW in accordance with strict national regulations. Annually, the government has been successful in uncovering crimes involving the use of fire arms and explosives, as a result of which, thousands of small arms have been taken out of illegal circulation.

Kazakhstan stands ready to join the multilateral action to improve global, regional and national security and thus ensure human wellbeing through combating the scourge of illicit trade of SALW.

Thank you.