



**Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) on
the UN Programme of Action on small arms (PoA)
19-23 March 2012**

Summary Report: Plenary Session: Morning – 23 March 2012

The United Arab Emirates on behalf of the Arab Group, Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, the United States, Nigeria, Mexico, Pakistan, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica on behalf of CARICOM, China, Norway, Switzerland, The European Union, New Zealand, Kenya, South Africa, Burundi, India, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Egypt, France, Brazil, Cuba, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Niger, Colombia, Ghana, Syria, Italy, Iran, Algeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Netherlands, Israel, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Venezuela all expressed their comments and concerns on the Chair's non paper, "Elements for the Second Review Conference," which was distributed in the afternoon session on 21 March.

The Chair opened by stating that her intention was for the non-paper to be a point of departure and guide for discussions at the Review Conference - not an exhaustive list of every issue discussed at the PrepCom. She then asked delegates to consider whether the summary captured the week's discussion fairly and in a balanced manner, and raise any problems. Following this, she asked how the summary could be referenced in the PrepCom report.

The majority of states expressed support for the Chair's non-paper and the proposal to annex it to the Draft Report. Many commended the document for its inclusiveness and transparency and praised the Chair's commitment to achieving consensus. Several delegates noted that while the non-paper did not include every issue they wished to see presented; included certain issues they did not agree with; or used different language in certain cases than they themselves would have, the non-paper is a strong platform for guiding the discussions moving forward.

The United Arab Emirates on Behalf of the Arab Group, Cuba and Iran voiced their concern that the non-paper includes questions and issues that were contentious and beyond the scope of the PoA. **China** echoed these concerns, specifically referring to the inclusion of MANPADs, stressing that the RevCon should focus on SALW and not be a venue for the introduction of new concepts.

Some states expressed concern that the Chair's non-paper did not include more direct reference to the working paper submitted by **Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**. Referring to particular recommendations in this paper, **Japan** called for further emphasis on the importance of regional centres for information sharing and capacity building, while **Australia, Brazil, Pakistan and Syria** (among others) suggested that the Chair's non-paper could place more emphasis on the need for international assistance and cooperation to ensure successful implementation of the PoA.

The Chair acknowledged that the paper should include greater emphasis on assistance and capacity building. She then suggested that the Draft Report of the Preparatory Committee could include a new paragraph, in section II.e. following paragraph 8.bis that read, "The Preparatory Committee had also before it a Chair's summary of the thematic debate of the Preparatory Committee, containing 'Elements for the Second Review Conference' (Annex II)," and that the title should be changed to "Chair Summary". To avoid ambiguity **India** suggested the phrase "for possible consideration at the review conference" be included just before "(Annex II)." **Iran** suggested an inclusion of a qualification that this paper was written under the chair's own authority and did not express the views of the member states. **Cuba** echoed the statement made

by **Iran** and asked that this be added to the paragraph and not be included in a footnote. **Turkey**, on the other hand, argued that a footnote would be appropriate.

India, Brazil and Cuba took the floor to discuss specific items within the Chair's non-paper. **India** and **Brazil** spoke specifically about section III which discusses follow up mechanisms to the PoA. **India** argued that points e, f and g (on developing an implementation plan and tools for assessing implementation of the PoA and identifying a process for the consideration of additional issues) needed rewording, pointing out that assessment of implementation is already done through national reports. **Brazil** supported the inclusion of specific points on ensuring adequate government authorisation of international transfers of SALW as well as specific reference to the computerization of small arms records via the INTERPOL tracing system.

Niger and **Liechtenstein** called for the Chair's non-paper to include an emphasis on a women's perspective, with **Liechtenstein** stressing the need to focus on children as well, as both groups suffer disproportionately from the illicit spread of SALW. **Niger** also wished to underscore the importance of NGO's in disseminating information and working at the grassroots level.