



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

### **Summary Report: Plenary Session: Afternoon – 19 March 2012**

**New Zealand, the EU, Jordan, Kenya, Switzerland, Turkey, Russia, Australia, Trinidad and Tobago, Spain, France, USA, Jamaica, Venezuela, the Philippines, Peru, Nigeria, Serbia, South Africa, Germany, Pakistan, India, Panama and Argentina** took the floor to express their views and expectations of what the Review Conference on the PoA should consider.

All delegations stressed that the RevCon negotiations should be governed by transparency and should aim to strengthen the implementation of the PoA in all its aspects. They emphasised as well that the PoA remains the framework of reference for national, regional and global action to curb the illegal flow of SALW. **India** reminded us that any agreement of a final document should be based on consensus. **Germany** stressed the necessity to reach substantial solutions through compromise.

While most delegations estimated, such as **Nigeria** put it, that the role of the RevCon was to “fill in the gaps”, others, such as **Kenya** and **Switzerland** expressed the view that the Conference represented a “turning point” and an occasion to look forward and “take positive steps forward”. For **Australia**, the RevCon serves the purpose of evaluating the impact of the PoA since 2006 and address issues concretely in order to propose practical solutions. For the **Philippines**, the Conference offers a unique opportunity to prevent the negative effects induced by SALW on conflict and post-conflict societies.

A great deal of delegations insisted that the RevCon establish clear standards and reasonable indicators that measure the success of the implementation process at the national, regional and global level. Moreover, they pointed out that the question on how the different instruments dealing with SALW (PoA, ATT, ITI, Firearms Protocol...) could better complement each other should be thoroughly analysed. Additionally, **South Africa** proposed to clarify the respective mandates of the BMS and MGE to tackle the appropriate issues.

Most delegations emphasised that ammunitions and explosives should be included in the PoA. They stressed as well that the gender dimension of armed violence should be taken into account and that the particular status of women and children should be better protected. **Germany** particularly insisted on the decisive role that women could play in Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and in overall peace-building efforts. Finally the useful expertise and determinant inputs of civil society was noted by the majority of delegations.

All delegations reminded that states retain the right to manufacture, import and export SALW to ensure their national security and right to self-defence. They recognised at the same time that SALW is largely responsible for armed violence associated with transnational organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and human right violations. Additionally, they stressed that states bear the sole responsibility for fully implementing the PoA and taking the appropriate measures to fulfill their obligations under the Firearms Protocol, as the latter is a non-binding agreement.

At the national level, most delegations agreed that considerable progress has been made over the last 6 years, particularly regarding national reporting (even though its frequency remains deeply

irregular and its content inconsistent) and the adoption of national legislative regulatory frameworks to conform with the PoA. However, they emphasised that more work should be done on many issues: coordination of national policies between governmental agencies, marking every imported and locally-manufactured SALW, and brokering activities. Two single issues were frequently raised by delegates: the strengthening of border controls and cooperation, and the pressing need of better stockpile safety management and destruction.

At the regional level, most delegations emphasised the role that regional organisations played in helping to adopt national regulatory frameworks and coordinate action between legislative, military and customs policies. Yet information-sharing on arms transfers and capacity building through technical and financial assistance are still lagging behind. The particular issue of tracing was singled out as a pressing because of insufficient record-keeping and inaccurate identification of weapons. Developing states called on other states to increase international assistance, particularly regarding training and equipment.

At the global level, a greater cooperation with the World Customs Organisation and INTERPOL as well as with the UN system was requested by almost all delegations. The question of the effective implementation of UN Security Council embargoes was often raised, as well as the need to develop a common understanding of the unique problems related to illicit brokering in SALW, as in both cases efficient implementation of the PoA is facing serious challenges.