



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

### Summary Report: Plenary Session: Morning – 20 March 2012

**Egypt, Thailand, Ecuador, Malaysia, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, The United States of America, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum, South Africa, Switzerland, Argentina, Cuba, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Japan, Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Australia, Italy, Indonesia, Peru, the Philippines, Uganda, and the Netherlands** took the floor in this session, which focused on international cooperation and assistance - both at international and regional levels.

Every state agreed that successful implementation of the PoA depends on international cooperation and assistance. The majority of states emphasised that increased technical and financial assistance from donor countries is essential to allow developing states to fully implement the PoA. Several states including **Nigeria** and **South Africa** maintained that this assistance is separate and distinct from development aid and that aid should not be affected by increased assistance intended towards furthering the implementation of the PoA.

Several specific types of technical assistance were mentioned as priorities, including stockpile management assistance, capacity building, and improving border controls, marking and record keeping. **Ecuador** argued that markings should be standardised, at least by region, to allow states to more effectively work together to track, trace and combat the trafficking of illicit arms. The delegation from **Norway** stressed the importance of victims' assistance and stressed that this needs to play a central role in assistance for PoA implementation.

Several states, including **Cuba**, argued that assistance should be non-discriminatory. The **US** asserted that greater transparency by recipient states would allow donor states to coordinate with each other and allow resources to be matched with needs. It was suggested by **Switzerland** and the **Republic of Korea**, among others, that more extensive national reporting could create greater transparency and efficiently match resources with needs. However, Australia stressed that the PoA needed to take into account the burdens reporting places on states with less capacity.

Many delegates argued that greater transparency and information exchange was essential for the effective implementation of the PoA. Likewise, cooperation in border and customs controls was held to be critical in halting the illicit trafficking of SALW. Many states argued that national points of contact were needed to help further cooperation and coordination between and amongst states. **South Africa** and **Switzerland** stressed that south-south cooperation is as, if not more critical as cooperation and assistance between developed and developing countries.

Many delegations mentioned specific regional and global organizations that could facilitate cooperation between members. Interpol was brought up by many states, including the **Netherlands**, as one global organisation that could help coordinate efforts between states on improving the marking, tracing, record-keeping and capacity building necessary to combat the illicit trade in small arms. The important role of civil society as partners in PoA implementation, particularly in capacity building and in representing those affected by small arms misuse, was highlighted by many of the delegations including **Argentina, Norway, Uganda, Thailand, and the Netherlands**.

The **Islamic Republic of Iran** and **Egypt** stressed that the Prepcom should abide by the agreed mandate of the conference and not attempt to add new commitments or mechanisms to the PoA distinct from those agreed upon by consensus in the UN General Assembly.

A great number of delegations aligned themselves with the statement made yesterday by **Indonesia** on behalf of the **Non-Aligned Movement**. Several others including praised the NAM working paper as a document that could enrich the discussion over the final outcome document of the Prepcom.

Many states expressed their hope and belief that the forthcoming Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), if adopted, will complement the PoA and help achieve its goals, including **Italy** and **Argentina**. However, it was stressed that the ATT can not and will not replace the PoA.

**Italy** and **Uganda, Ecuador** and others argued for including MANPADS and ammunition in the PoA. **Argentina** expressed their hope that the PoA would fully take the gender perspective of gun violence into account.