

**Seventh Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the
Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade
in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (BMS7)**

26-30 July, 2021

Daily Briefing Day 5

Yesterday marked the fifth and final day of BMS7.

The 9th plenary meeting started promptly at 11 am EST but lasted just over a minute as the Chair announced that discussions on Agenda item 11: Consideration of the draft final document, would continue in closed and informal deliberations. The UN Web TV stream lasted long enough for the audience to hear a bit more after the closing of the session. The Chair stated he would take inputs from delegates on the following paragraphs: paragraphs 24 and 36 on ammunition, paragraph 55 on synergies, paragraph 93 on the creation of an open-ended group, and paragraph 119 on the fellowship program, as he heard that some states still wanted to discuss them.

At the beginning of the afternoon, the final version of the outcome document: <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/A-CONF.192-BMS-2021-CR-P.2-Rev.1-revised-draft-outcome-document-final.docx> was released on the UNODA website. Some key paragraphs for IANSA remain in the final document (for example, paragraphs 24 and 36 that ammunition, and paragraph 74 on disaggregating data by sex, age, and disability). Paragraph 31, after being removed in draft #5, was reinstated in the final version. However, it now reads: "To ensure that international humanitarian law and international human rights law are taken into consideration in national small arms and light weapons transfer decisions." Language about applying an "overriding risk" analysis was deleted.

After some delay, around 5 pm EST, the final open plenary session began. The Chair opened the meeting by stating how far BMS7 had come. After having started under dark auspices, as states could not even agree on the Agenda, the Chair recognised that great

progress was made and underlined the fact that the outcome document was balanced and the product of compromise and consensus.

The Chair then recognised that there were some hurdles before the outcome document could be adopted, and he gave the floor to Iran to deliver a statement. Iran stated that they opposed paragraph 92 [1] and proposed an amendment to it. Iran stated that if the amendment could not be adopted, they would ask for a vote on paragraph 92.

Germany took the floor and stated that “it is not a draft [they] are happy with, but again this is not about being happy, but striving for compromise, for consensus, as we have been reminded this week so many times (...).” Ireland shared a similar view in their statement.

Indonesia asked for an amendment on paragraph 31 (mentioned above) but stated immediately that if the amendment they were proposing was to be rejected by other member states, in the spirit of consensus and supporting the process, they would not ask for a vote on the paragraph and would adopt the final outcome document as-is.

Brazil then intervened followed by Mexico and both states concurred that despite the fact that they had to make many concessions on the text of the outcome document, they were, as many other states, working in the spirit of consensus. Therefore, they urged Iran to retract their demand about paragraph 92 and to proceed without asking for a vote on para. 92.

The Chair made one last call, asking for the text to be adopted as a consensus. However, the Chair’s efforts failed and Iran reiterated its demands.

Russia declared in the last minutes of the meeting that they still had serious concerns regarding gender sections of the outcome document and said that the inclusion of gender considerations in SALW control were “counterproductive”. Russia was most concerned about paragraph 52, 68, 73 and 77 and mentioned that these paragraphs were “not a basis for future negotiations.” On the other hand, Costa Rica welcomed the progress made during BMS7 in terms of gender and said that the joint statement from more than 60 states they had made in the days prior clearly speaks to this fact. Costa Rica concluded by stating that the Women, Peace and Security Agenda compels us to combat armed violence and discuss the relevance of gender.

Despite the challenges presented by Iran in the last hour of BMS7, the final document was adopted by a vote of 114-0-0. In the coming weeks, IANSA will be producing a detailed analysis on the final outcome document.

[1] Paragraph 92 states: To continue exchanging views on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and on ways of addressing them and to consider the proposal of an open-ended technical expert group at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States, inter alia mandate, funding, timeframe and modalities that could develop action-oriented next steps agreed by consensus that address challenges and opportunities of such technologies to the marking, tracing and record-keeping of such weapons.

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