STRAJN

STATEMENT

BY

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DELEGATE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

IN THE
1ST COMMITTEE OF THE 57TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 66 (V):

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT –
THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

NEW YORK, 16 OCTOBER 2002
Mr. Chairman

Since this is the first national statement of Slovenia at this year session of the First Committee, please allow me to extend to you and other members of the Bureau our sincere congratulations upon your election. Let me assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation in the fulfilment of the responsibility entrusted to you.

I would also like to extend in the name of my government sincere condolences to the people of Indonesia and all countries whose citizens suffered in the terrible terrorist attack on Bali.

Mr Chairman

Slovenia fully supports efforts of the United Nations, European Union, OSCE, Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, Stability Pact and other regional and sub-regional organizations, in combating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Slovenia is also one of the active members of the Human Security Network where the question of the threat to human security posed by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons is one of the most important once. We would like to express our strong support to the proposal of the Secretary General in his Report on the small arms for the development of an international mechanisms for identifying and tracing small arms and monitoring embargoes and sanctions. Establishing such mechanisms is one of the preconditions for more effective actions on the field of combating illicit trade with small arms and light weapons.

Since 1990, four million men, women and children were caught in the crossfire from small arms and light weapons and perished in the killing fields all over the globe - thousands of them also in our close neighbourhood. A great amount of such weapons is still in the illegal possession of individuals in many countries of the region. Slovenia is deeply concerned about that fact and is vitally interested in taking prompt actions on all levels - global, regional, sub-regional and national - in combating the destructive consequences of these weapons.

Mr. Chairman

As a follow-up of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and implementation of it's Programme of Action I would like to inform distinguish delegates that Slovenia will together with DDA organize a regional conference which will take place in the first half of the next year. Slovenia is committed to strengthened peace and security in South Eastern Europe and we hope that this event will enhance the process of effective regional and sub-regional cooperation in combating illicit trade of small arms and light weapons on fields of marking and tracing it, controlling it's import and export, weapons collection and destruction, sharing information and on the field of cooperation with civil society. We are strongly convinced that we can solve a global problem with effective cooperation on regional and sub-regional levels.
Mr Chairman

Please allow me at the end to express Slovenia’s gratitude to the delegations of Japan, Columbia and South Africa in preparing a very comprehensive draft resolution on Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to the delegation of Mali in preparing a draft resolution on Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them. Slovenia will be glad to cosponsor both of them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.