67th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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STATEMENT
BY
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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
BEFORE
THE FIRST COMMITTEE
ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
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New York, 24 October 2012
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ALGERIA
STATEMENT ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

Mr. Chairman,

The Algerian delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express Algeria’s views regarding the issue of conventional weapons.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group.

We note that the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters recommended in the Secretary-General report (A/67/203) to stress, where appropriate, the need for a consistent and non-redundant architecture for conventional arms based on the centrality of such United Nations tools as the Register of Conventional Arms and for negotiations mandated, conducted or endorsed by the General Assembly, such as, in particular, the future Arms Trade Treaty.

In this regard, we agree that there is a need to consider possible overlaps between existing UN instruments; ways to improve communication between the instruments and Governments; and ways to assist States with implementation and reporting under the existing United Nations instruments and Frameworks.

My delegation also notes the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/176) that provides an overview of the activities undertaken by Member States and the UN system regarding the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions 65/67, 66/34 and 66/47 which cover the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the assistance provided in that context and the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures.

We note with concern the paragraph 5 of this report regarding the “large influx of small arms and light weapons in the wake of the Libya crisis that has a detrimental impact on an already precarious security situation in the neighbouring Sahel region”. As result of this crisis, it is reported “an increase in weapons trafficking and criminality, a dramatic spike in armed robbery and an invigoration of insurgencies and actions by terrorist groups”. Moreover, according to the UN assessment mission to the Sahel region, it was “discovered that large quantities of weapons and ammunition from Libyan stockpiles, including rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns with anti-aircraft visors and light anti-aircraft artillery, were smuggled into the Sahel region”.

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Directly affected by these terrorist and criminal activities, Algeria has constantly made intense efforts to control its borders and to fight against terrorism and the trafficking in conventional weapons by non-state actors.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Illicit trade of small arms and light weapons continue to threaten peace and stability in many countries and regions, particularly in Sahel region, as a source of supply to terrorist groups and organized crime, and is therefore an ongoing concern to Algeria.

The alarming situation prevailing in the Sahel region require substantial assistance from developed countries, United Nations, and international organizations to strengthen the capacity of countries in the sub-region to fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Algeria calls on all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments and to apply legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the successful conclusion of the Second Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects, held last August. We continue to emphasize the importance of a full, balanced, and effective implementation of this Programme of Action. We wish also to stress that international cooperation and assistance is essential in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

In this regard, Algeria reiterates its commitment to the implementation of this UN Programme of Action. The actions undertaken in this area by the Algerian authorities were identified in the last national report submitted in Spring 2012. Algeria is also committed in the implementation of the International Instrument on Tracing of small arms and light weapons, since its adoption in 2005.
Mr. Chairman,

Algeria regrets that the United Nations Conference for the Treaty on Arms Trade, held in New York last July, was unable to conclude its work to elaborate a legally binding instrument for the international transfer of conventional arms and looks forward for a resumed session of the Conference to be convened in 2013 in order to finalize the elaboration of the Arms Trade Treaty. The adoption of this new international instrument will certainly strengthen the institutional architecture in the field of disarmament.

As in any international convention, it is necessary to define the basic principles of the draft Treaty. Algeria believes that this instrument should be based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, notably sovereign equality of States; the right of peoples to self-determination; the right of States to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter.

The provisions of this Treaty should also be consistent with the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States; the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force and the occupation of the territories of others or the use of force in international relations; the obligation for States to take measures to prevent the diversion of arms to the illicit trade; and the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and possess conventional weapons for legitimate needs to defense, security, and law enforcement.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman,