Thank you Mr Chair

Next year the United Nations will hold the third Review Conference (RevCon 3) on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons – or the PoA – which was adopted in 2001.

A lot has happened in this field since 2001.

The Firearms Protocol has come into effect. We have the International Tracing Instrument, the Arms Trade Treaty, and new legally binding instruments on small arms in West, Central and Eastern Africa, and in Europe.

A host of best practices, standards, resolutions and action plans have been developed – based in knowledge about the problem of small arms and light weapons its consequences for human security, human rights, international development and public health.

New challenges and threats have also arisen in the past 16 years, including technological developments and new international criminal organizations.

Meanwhile the lethal toll of small arms continues to devastate communities, and not only in the developing world. Ten days ago, we witnessed how one man used his personal arsenal to murder 58 people and injure hundreds more in just minutes.

The purpose of the Review Conference is to review – and improve – the PoA. The first two RevCons did not manage to improve it, or even to modify a single word.

The International Action Network on Small Arms, or IANSA, is the official coordinator of civil society in the small arms process, and we are fervently hoping that 2018 will break this pattern of stagnation.

In preparation for RevCon3, IANSA has identified five key issues as our main focus. We have fact sheets on these issues and are happy to share with delegations.

(And we thank UNSCAR for supporting production of our materials and other IANSA activities.)

**The first key issue is ammunition.**

Although ammunition was not explicitly included in 2001, it’s obvious that countries cannot fully implement the PoA without addressing the ammunition that makes guns lethal.

**Second, measures to address pervasive armed violence in crime as well as conflict.**
When the PoA was adopted, the main preoccupation of States was armed conflict. Today, evidence shows that the small arms problem is overwhelmingly a problem of crime, not conflict. For example, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the region with the most gun deaths, no country is now at war.

**Third, gender-based action to curb arms proliferation and armed violence.**

The last two Biennial Meetings of States on small arms made progress on the gender dimension. BMS6 made a strong commitment to women’s involvement in programs, policy and decision making, and advocated for the collection of data disaggregated by gender. These commitments should be incorporated into the PoA. The IANSA Women’s Network is leading this advocacy.

**Fourth, links between the reduction of small arms and the SDGs.**

Armed violence creates a breeding ground for organized crime, trafficking in drugs and minerals, terrorism, corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion that cost developing countries around $1.26 trillion per year. That money is diverted from health and education, thus undermining development.

**Fifth, synergies in implementing the PoA and the ATT— as well as other instruments.**

As I mentioned, States have made an array of commitments to prevent arms trafficking, diversion and misuse. The PoA should recognize and support synergies in implementation, to eliminate loopholes, increase efficiency, and maximize impact.

Mr Chair, alongside these five priorities, IANSA continues to press for a comprehensive approach to the problem of small arms – including addressing corruption, providing support for survivors, and promoting a culture of peace.

These issues require collaboration not only among States, but also between States and civil society. Thus my final point is to urge all governments to support and engage with civil society as partners. Civil society includes arms control advocates, women’s and youth organizations, researchers, faith groups, and advocates for peace, public health and human rights.

These are the members of IANSA, and we are ready to work closely with States to ensure that RevCon3 will make people safer around the world.

Thank you.