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HEAD OF FIJI DELEGATION
THIRD SESSION OF ATT PREP COM
“Comments on the Chair’s Revised Draft Paper”
NEW YORK, 15 JULY 2011

Mr. Chairman

Fiji lends its voice to the chorus of interventions that have expressed appreciation for your role and for your comprehensive paper. This delegation also uses this opportunity through you to commend their Excellencies, distinguished representatives for the cordial and cooperative manner in which we’ve together conducted our affair during this 3rd Preparatory Committee session.

Mr. Chairman,

I’ll be very brief; these are our reaction to your Draft Paper.

I. PREAMBLE

The preamble section is a weakened version: noting in particular employing the opening words “Recognizing, mindful...” rather than the more slightly stronger one such as: “Determined, Concerned that.., Deeply concerned, Acknowledging..” e.g. in Preambular paragraph 4. “Recognizing the need to prevent”... can be replaced by, “Determined to prevent”, which is more emphatic and powerful.

II. PRINCIPLES

It is our respective assessment that the current list misses out an important element which is the direct link between sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and the easy access to an illicit arms market, that facilitates patterns of gender based violence, including sexual violence as a tool of war that violates the dignity and rights of women. The principle of gender equality and the prohibition of violence against women need to be reflected among the guiding principles for an effective ATT consistent with other UN SC Resolutions on women, peace and security and women’s human rights.

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mr. Chairman, the fundamental question is “Why do we need an ATT?” Fundamental answer must be: “To save lives and reduce the human costs of the current unregulated arms trade” as key focus, and the mirror upon which all other elements of a potential ATT are reflected.
The Treaty must reflect the imperative of saving human lives and reducing the human cost of the irresponsible arms trade, at the heart of its goals and objectives. Failure to acknowledge the human face of an ATT by focusing merely on technicalities will render the Treaty irrelevant, blind and deaf to the needs of those who have suffered and will continue to suffer the consequences of the unregulated trade in arms.

As Justification for the above, as an example: information available from the website of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) indicates: 1000 people killed by small arms every day, thousands more are injured and disabled, 640 million guns already in the world, 8 million more are produced every year, 10-14 billion rounds of ammunition produced annually, enough to shoot all persons on earth (I'm afraid that includes you too Mr. Chairman) twice...

VI. REPORTING

On reporting, while we appreciate the content reflected in your draft, we will again reiterate our request for consideration of the possibility of group reporting

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

F. Victims assistance

Note that ‘victim’ is a gender neutral term thus propose that F 1. & F.2 takes note of different needs or assistance by gender and age, as well as gender-disaggregated data collection with respect to victims.

Conclusion

Finally Mr. Chair, we give the assurances that we will return to the Pacific with your Paper, we will give it appropriate consideration and further thought and will return to the negotiating conference next year with our continued cooperation and support under your able leadership.