Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Yusra Khan
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the

Second United Nations Conference to Review the Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

New York, 27 August 2012
Madam President,

Let me first congratulate you on your appointment as President, and other officers on their election to the Bureau of the Review Conference.

The Indonesian delegation is confident that under your able stewardship, an effective Second Review Conference of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects (UN POA SALW) can be achievable.

I assure you of our full support in order to help achieve a fruitful outcome.

We align with the statement made earlier on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Madam President,

We are concerned that despite a decade having passed since the adoption of the UN POA SALW, the illicit trade and use of SALW continues to pose a grave threat to peace and security at the national, regional and international levels.

As we speak, the illicit use of SALW in various regions is causing immense human suffering and hampering social and economic progress. SALW regrettably remain the weapons of choice in most conflicts and violent crimes.

It is paramount that the national and international actors carry out their respective roles to fully implement the PoA SALW.

Indonesia supports the continued validity of the PoA SALW as well as the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

This Second Review Conference is critical in taking stock of the progress or lack thereof on the implementation of the PoA from the period of 2006 to 2012, addressing the shortcomings, and coming up with an effective way forward.

We must work together constructively, deploy our political will, and achieve a befitting result.
While my delegation is aware that further efforts are needed at the national, regional and international levels to properly implement the PoA, it emphasizes that the level of international cooperation and assistance (ICA), although positive on many occasions, is behind numerous shortcomings in an adequate implementation of PoA globally.

ICA on PoA and ITI is specially significant for those countries and regions, which are lacking capacities and resources, and at the same time, having to intensify their spending on the development of their populations.

Indonesia sees merit in the NAM Working Paper with its proposals on how ICA can further strengthen the capacities of states to implement the PoA and ITI. We expect that the Working Paper’s recommendations will be considered positively by particularly those countries and regional and international entities that are in a position to assist.

We call on all parties to work together and cooperate to eradicate the menace of illicit SALW.

As part of Indonesia's efforts to realize success in this Review Conference, it convened a regional Meeting in Bali last year with the theme “Implementation of the UN PoA SALW: Looking towards the 2012 Review Conference.”

The meeting brainstormed on what more could be done in the national, local and regional domains to address security and socio-economic threats to peoples by the illicit SALW trade.

One of the outcomes of the meeting was the emphasis on reinforcing ICA for PoA.

Madam President,

While Indonesia extends its wholehearted support on the PoA and ITI, it stresses support for the right of each state to manufacture, import and retain small arms and light weapons for its self-defense and security needs.

Indonesia also underscores full respect toward all fundamental rights of states such as their right to territorial integrity and right to political independence with non-intervention
and non-interference in internal affairs with full respect for the established international law.

We would also like to underline the highly valuable role by the civil society, NGOs and youth in creating greater awareness about the issue of illicit SALW and contributing to supporting efforts against SALW. We encourage further positive initiatives by these necessary stakeholders.

Madam President,

Let me conclude by reiterating Indonesia’s willingness to work with all delegations to help achieve a positive and concrete result of the Conference.

Thank you.