STATEMENT
of the delegation of Ukraine
at 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
(August 27, 2012, New York)
Dear Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Madam President, on your assumption of the presidency 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. I would like to assure you of my delegation’s full support to ensure a successful outcome of the conference.

Since the delegation of Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement(s) made by the Presidency of the European Union, I would like to touch upon some additional issues from our national prospective.

Madam President,

Ukraine fully shares concerns of the international community that the illicit trade, spread and misuse of small arms and light weapons poses serious threat for security and stability in the world. Therefore, we continue considering the UN Programme of Action as one of the most important tools in global efforts to combat this threat. We support proper implementation of the PoA as well as the International Tracing Instrument by all States.

Since the First Review Conference held six years ago Ukraine has continued implementing the PoA and ITI provisions. As it was reflected in Ukraine’s latest national reports, including the last one submitted in 2012, my country has enacted adequate legislation and has put in place appropriate procedures to exercise effective control over SALW.

The production, marking, possession and destruction of this category of weapons is licensed and supervised in accordance with a number of national regulations. These regulations are in full compliance with the recommendations of the Program of Action and the ITI and provide, inter alia, for a strict marking system that enables the competent national authorities to identify and trace the relevant weapons. Measures for the destruction of surplus SALW, as well as of those which are unserviceable or have been seized in connection with illicit traffic, are carried out on a planned and regular basis.

Ukraine attaches particular importance to ensuring effective export control procedures, including in the sphere of brokering activity, that meet all standing international requirements. In this sphere Ukraine strictly adheres to the decisions taken by the UN Security Council, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Wassenaar Arrangement. The UN Security Council resolutions which impose sanctions regimes are guidelines for the adoption of the relevant legislation.
and regulations in Ukraine and are strictly implemented by the national authorities. The number of national legal acts, adopted by the Parliament, the President and the Cabinet of Ministries, are currently regulating all forms of activity related to the export control, including SALW.

At the regional level, Ukraine cooperates closely with participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in developing effective measures aimed at terminating and eradicating the illegal proliferation of SALW. In conformity with the OSCE Document on SALW Ukraine submits each year to the OSCE Secretariat information concerning its exports of SALW to the OSCE States and imports from those States for the previous calendar year, and separately on confiscated small arms and light weapons removed from illegal trade and on their destruction in Ukrainian territory. Similarly, Ukraine exchanges information with other OSCE States concerning its technology and procedures for destroying those weapons, managing stockpiles of such weapons and ensuring their security.

Madam President,

In 2013 Ukraine is going to assume the OSCE Chairmanship. In this respect, I would like to note that the SALW issues are among priorities of my country in such capacity in the OSCE politico-military dimension. In particular, as the incoming chairmanship, we are going to support implementation of the OSCE projects assisting participating States in the destruction of surplus small arms and lights weapons as well as surplus conventional ammunition.

Madam President,

Ukraine commends your efforts in elaborating zero-drafts of the outcome documents of the Conference. We consider them as a good basis for further substantive discussion. Let me assure you that Ukraine will take an active part in these elaborations and in the international efforts to combat uncontrolled proliferation of SALW.

It is our strong conviction that the ability of all member States to reach consensus on final documents of the Conference will evidence our common support of global efforts to combat illicit proliferation of SALW and, respectively, stimulate States to further promote implementation of the PoA and ITI for the next six-year period.

Thank you.