CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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

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Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

Let me congratulate you, Madam President, on your election to the post of the President of the Conference and assure you that Czech delegation will continue to offer you every support and cooperation during this important Conference. We fully associate ourselves with the statement made by European Union.

My country has a long history of manufacturing of small arms and light weapons. As such, it is aware of its responsibility not only vis-à-vis its own citizens, but also towards the people of other countries across the world. Therefore, the Czech Republic has created a system of registration and regulation of the arms trade, which effectively prevents the transfer of legal weapons into illicit channels. Companies that produce and trade in weapons must obtain a license issued by the state authorities and fulfill obligations imposed by the law. In the case of trade in weapons that qualify as military equipment the state authorities assess and approve every individual transaction. Furthermore, the Czech Republic, as a member of the Permanent International Commission for Firearms Testing (C.I.P.), has built an effective system for marking of weapons. This system is entirely controlled by a state authority.

Currently, the Czech Republic is preparing an update of the system of weapons registration. As of 2014, a single electronic arms register should be in place, gathering data on all the weapons on the territory of the Czech Republic. The unified register will simplify the method of registering weapons for arms companies and will grant the Police a permanent overview of all weapons, their sales, transportation, etc., on the territory of the Czech Republic.

Details on the tracing of weapons with GPS and on the unified register will be presented during the thematic side event organized by the Czech Republic on 4th September 2012.

At the regional level, as a member of the European Union, the Czech Republic observes and actively takes part in the creation of a European legal framework regulating arms trade.

At the international level, the Czech Republic actively supports efforts of the international community to prevent and suppress illicit arms trade. We meet all the requirements arising not only from the UN Plan of Action, but also from other international instruments related to the trafficking of weapons and always
diligently observe embargoes of the UN Security Council as well as those of the European Union.

As a good example of assistance to the third countries, I would like to point out here to the Prague Tracing Workshop on the ITI for 15 African states of ECOWAS which was held in Prague in September 2009. This seminar was organized in co-operation with UNODA and was financially supported from the Czech voluntary contribution to UNODA projects.

Madam President,

My delegation commends your efforts in drafting the outcome document of the Conference. We consider it as a good basis for further substantive discussion. Let me assure you that Czech Republic will continue to take an active part in these elaborations and in the international efforts to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons as well as to restrain their uncontrolled proliferation.

Thank you