Thank you, Ms. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank the organizers for providing the opportunity to share comments on the contribution of NATO and its partners to the fulfillment of the goals of the Programme of Action.

Importantly, I must add the NATO Alliance is committed to contribute actively to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. These are important elements of cooperative security as contained in NATO’s Strategic Concept.

So too is the importance of our implementation of the PoA. That said, my comments will be articulated in two key approaches: the first is through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the activities of its 50 nations (28 nation Allies and 22 Partners); the second is through the Alliance’s Trust Fund mechanism. I will provide you with a brief overview of these approaches and the developments that have been made.

1. **NATO/EAPC Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) Contribution**

   The NATO/EAPC’s Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons & Mine Action remains one of the few focused groups meeting on a regular basis to address these specific issues. It addresses implementation of norms and standards for the destruction of excess weapons and munitions, training and the exchange of information between member states and other International & Regional organizations and NGOs. The objectives of the Working Group are to contribute to international efforts which seek to mitigate the illicit proliferation of SALW and to facilitate the full implementation of the UN PoA.

   1.1 **Exchange of Information**

   Acknowledging the essential role of civil society in the struggle against the illicit proliferation of SALW, the AHWG has sought to develop and encourage an exchange of information between NATO/EAPC and International Organizations, including both recipient and donor nations at the same table. Our Structured Information Exchange in September 2011 sought to enhance the use of the AHWG though providing an opportunity for NATO/EAPC nations to consult and coordinate on bilateral and multilateral SALW-related efforts. Through providing tailored and focused information on current and forthcoming projects related to SALW and ammunition, the aim of the event was to provide opportunities for
donors and recipients to identify any existing duplication of effort and to highlight opportunities for cooperation, thus facilitating the enhancement of project efficiency and effectiveness, both practically and financially.

The event represented the first forum of its kind for us in which experts from donor countries, emerging donor countries, recipient countries and international and regional organizations had been brought together to provide concise information on current and future projects that they are conducting in the field of SALW and/or ammunition around the world. Consequently, it succeeded in providing an opportunity for donors to acquire a clearer overview of projects where they could enhance coordination and cooperation with other donors working similar projects in the same country or region, while simultaneously providing recipient nations with insight into the processes involved in developing and implementing projects from a donor perspective. It was clear from the Structured Information Exchange that there were occasions where donors were not aware of the involvement of other donors operating in the same country.

Our next step in these efforts is to continue capturing the details in our Project Information Matrix and look to having follow-on events at 18 month intervals, our next is slated for March 2013.

1.2 Training

The NATO/EAPC Work Programme provides opportunities for partners to participate in Alliance training and education programmes. We have continued to offer SALW courses at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, and I highlight that we are developing a new SALW (and Mine Action) orientation course set for a test run early in 2013 that will assist nations with establishing PSSM best practices and guidelines for SALW and ammunition, as well as identifying surplus munitions for destruction. Importantly, the course also will address integration of considerations at governmental leadership and interagency levels. This course is open to all NATO partner countries, and we will work closely with other international and regional organizations to make the most out the limited time officials from NATO/EAPC nations have available to attend such a course.

2. Trust Fund Projects

Under Trust Fund procedures, NATO allies and partners work to identify and implement specific projects. In each case, one or more NATO member or partner nation take the lead in sponsoring and developing the project proposal, and in identifying potential contributors. The nation benefiting directly from the project is expected to take an active part in this work and to provide maximum support to the project within its own means.
NATO Trust Funds Projects are funded by voluntary contributions both from within and outside NATO. As defense budgets come under pressure, funding is increasingly found from outside NATO by those nations who recognize the effectiveness of NATO SALW projects, particularly where the projects are associated with national militaries or military operations.

On the operational side, Trust Fund projects directly address the material aspects of the problem by reducing surplus stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition. Trust Fund projects also reduce the financial burden caused by excessively large stockpiles, while reducing the threat of the illicit proliferation through theft and illegal entry of these weapons onto the black market. This is particularly the case since past experience demonstrates that theft of weapons from national stockpiles can directly contribute to illicit trafficking. The AHWG encourages practical cooperation among the participating countries by highlighting and encouraging Trust Fund projects through providing a clearing house function for nations and partners seeking assistance through the mechanism.

To date over NATO trust Fund projects helped destroy over 108M rounds of ammunition, 2M sub-munitions, 7K tons of cluster munitions and 446K SALW.

3. Conclusion

The overall efforts of the NATO/EAPC and the AHWG contribute to transparency and the exchange of information among governments. Moreover, these efforts provide additional fora for advocacy and further cooperation toward full implementation of the UN PoA.

Delegates of the AHWG represent 50 nations comprising the NATO/EAPC bring an integrated, holistic approach to addressing SALW issues since they specialize in political-military and security issues. Through our multifaceted approach, NATO/EAPC members recognize that addressing the threats emanating from the illicit trafficking of SALW are complex and intertwined with other social, economic and security issues.

Ms. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your time, and I look forward to discussing these issues in greater detail with you. I particularly look forward to what you decide here at the RevCon with eye toward NATO responsibility for its implementation.

Thank you.