Belinda Padilla – President, Chief Sales Officer. Armatix GmbH

Madam President, distinguished delegates and friends, thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this important global conference. Let me also thank IANSA for providing me the platform to make my remarks. Obviously our industry is not a member of IANSA and we are not speaking on their behalf, but we share many of the common concerns and synergies around limiting the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

At the outset, I’d like to state that legitimate industries such as ours, strongly support the need to develop robust and effective controls to prevent the misuse and diversion of small arms.

Our industry has nothing to fear from any of the proposals contained within the Program of Action and we are strongly supportive of measures like the International Tracing Instrument or any related initiative aimed at enhancing safety, security, reliability and ultimately our shared common goal of reducing the deaths and injuries associated with the misuse of these weapons.

Our sector has a clear role to play in enhancing and developing global standards. Through knowledge and practical experience of working directly within various regulatory frameworks, standards, laws and procedures. My company is an expert in the field of wireless digital locking and security systems and therefore have considerable expertise in issues like safe storage, handling and movement of existing and future Small arms and light weapons.

Technological innovation has an important place in our discussions. We could help to the increased implementation of any international standard aiming at controlling these weapons.

Our company is helping lead efforts in using smart technology to make weapons safer, more accountable and to prevent their diversion to unauthorized end users. This technology has potentially enormous benefits for law enforcement agencies, for example, making it impossible for police officers to be shot with their own weapons. Our goal is to prevent accidental discharge of small arms and to prevent their use in public spaces such as hospitals, schools and colleges or any designated area of public safety.

Clearly there are also enormous challenges and risks associated with stockpile management, storage and transfer of small arms light weapons. It is in the best interest of a responsible Industry to enhance effective controls in these areas and provide the means by which significant benefits in reducing these risks could be achieved. Technologies such as microchips, GPS tracking, smart locks, amongst others can assist with safe storage and transport.

Madam President, let me just finish by reiterating our commitment in overseeing the shifting issues of small arms and light weapons control and leading safety to the 21st century. All of which leads to your efforts through the Program of Action in making real and significant impacts in reducing the enormous human suffering associated with Gun Violence.