Mister moderator, this is the first time that Belgium takes the floor so let me
start by thanking you for your sustained efforts for this subject and assuring
you of the Belgian engagement for a BMS5- outcome that will have an
impact with regard to our common objectives. Belgium also thanks to
Virginia Gamba and Jeoffrey Sterling for their contribution that gives a
hopeful outlook

Belgium alligns itself fully with the statement by the European Union.

For Belgium the fight against arms trafficking is a priority for several reasons. I will mention two:

1. In recent year our country was hit several times by deadly crimes
   involving illicit small arms. Less than one month ago an intruder killed 4
   people in the Jewish museum in the heart of Brussels with an assault
   rifle, very probably smuggled in from abroad. Since 2 years the National
   Security Plan of the federal police includes the fight against arms
   trafficking among its priorities. In this regard Belgium joined
   INTERPOL’s iArms and responds to international tracing requests.

2. Secondly: Belgium is an important producer and exporter of military
   small arms. Therefore it has a special responsibility to prevent that
   weapons of war end up in the wrong hands. Belgium wants to take up
   this responsability.

In our view tracing of illicit arms has an essential role in countering
diversion. Tracing reveals patterns and actors of diversion and strengthens states’ capacities to curb the
problem. This of course on the condition that relevant authorities have access to tracing results and that they act
upon these results. Belgium developed this vision in a working paper on tracing that can be found on the BMS5
website. In short - the paper adresses the following 5 objectives:

1. the need to increase the capacity to trace illicit arms in conflict zones,
   also with the help of UN-missions. - In this regard I want to signal that
   Belgium systematically responds to tracing requests by UN expert panels
   in their task monitor arms embargoes by the UN Security Council.
2. Second objective: the need to compile and share information on actors and patterns of identified diversion in order to make it accessible to relevant authorities so they can act upon it. This sharing should happen on a national, regional and international level, also by means of databases; therefore we look at INTERPOL’s iArms, we look forward at the launch of iTrace and we also support par 38. that looks at a role for the UN Secretariat in this regard. It’s clear that this approach can only work when the information shared and compiled is reliable and verified.

3. Third objective: an appeal to use this information to increase the effectiveness of arms control measures, including for export control and stockpile management (PSSM) and of broader instruments for conflict prevention, crisis management and peace building, including DDR, SSR and integrated border management;

4. Fourth objective: Welcoming the report of the Secretary General on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design and implications of the ITI and to make use these developments in order to facilitate and improve marking, record keeping tracing , PSSM and export control; Belgium would like to see this subject figuring on the agenda of next year’s MGE and we also support a supplementary document to the ITI;

5. Fifth objective: welcoming the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on small arms of 22 August 2013 (S/2013/503) and UN Security Council Resolution 2117 of 26 September 2013, both very usefull and relevant documents in this context – congratulations to respectively UNODA and Australia for that.

To deepen our understanding about conflict tracing, Belgium organized a seminar on the subject in February of this year in Brussels. We were happy to welcome several speakers, among whom a representative from UNODA and former UN experts panels members with field experience. The findings of this seminar were partly translated in our working paper. More about this on the side-event that Belgium organizes together with Small Arms Survey and GRIP on Thursday 19 June during lunch break, to which you’re all invited.

Thank you Mr Chairman.