UK Statement
Fifth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its Aspects

Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to enable States to Identify and Trace, in a timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons
Mr Moderator, the UK welcomes this opportunity today to discuss implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. We remain fully committed to this instrument and look forward to frank and open dialogue with our international partners.

The UK would like to thank you Mr Anthony Simpson for acting as moderator of this debate and also Mr Wolfgang Bindseil of Germany. We are grateful for your efforts in the preparation and organisation in the run up to this session on the International Tracing Instrument.

Mr Moderator, I can reassure you that the UK continues to remains fully committed to the ITI and reiterates its commitment to ensure that SALW are suitably identified, marked and traced.

The UK is proud to operate under a transparent system and welcomes a broader mechanism for information gathering and exchange, focused not only on combating but also preventing the diversion of small arms and light weapons. We believe this is a vital component in ensuring effective implementation of the ITI.

To this end, the UK would like to highlight the excellent new initiative ITRACE, which we wholeheartedly support. ITRACE is a global information management system for diverted or trafficked conventional weapons and ammunition. The system itself will aim to trace a weapon from its point of capture, and work backwards through each step in its diversion, all the way to the point of manufacture, showing the detailed
route along which the weapon/ammunition has travelled. This information will be made freely available to all those who access the system.

The tool will be of great assistance when assessing the illicit spread in small arms and light weapons and should also assist states, regional and international organisations’ efforts to effectively implement both the ITI and UN POA.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind Member States of the ITRACE side event which will take place in this room at lunch time today. We hope that colleagues will find this event informative.

The UK also supports the wider use and exchange of information of the iARMS system, which we find extremely useful and informative. As we heard from the distinguished representative from Interpol, iARMS facilitates information exchange and cooperation between law enforcement agencies on firearms crime by providing a centralised system for the reporting of lost, stolen, trafficked and smuggled firearms by law enforcement agencies globally and also by providing responses to international firearm trace requests. Our national ballistics intelligence service has populated the iARMS database with all reported lost and stolen licensed firearms within the UK.

We are also in the process of continually populating the database with recovered firearms since 2008 and have made over 100 trace requests to other countries via iARMS. Mr Moderator, we welcome the continued and growing use of this tool.

Mr Moderator, the UK remains fully committed to the ITI and hopes to continue our informative and productive discussions with partners on this matter.

Thank you