Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at the national level, the regional level — including through regional and subregional arrangements and organizations — and the global level, and in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
(6 June 2016)

Mr. Chairman,

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has caused havoc all around the world, abetting crime, terrorist activities, narcotics trafficking and sadly, deaths and disabilities of civilians including women and children. The easy availability of these arms is being facilitated inter alia by lack of or weak regulatory controls, excessive production, transfers and sale motivated by profits and politics.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan greatly values the contribution made by the UN Programme of Action in addressing the challenges arising from misuse or unauthorized use of these weapons. Strengthening the implementation of Programme of Action in pursuance of its mandate should be the cardinal principle. The mandate provides guidance for our work and would facilitate agreement.

We continue to believe that an integrated and holistic approach which takes into account the supply and demand perspectives of illicit trade in SALW, and its close nexus with terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, is required to address this challenge in an effective and comprehensive manner.

By adopting 2030 Agenda, we, as the global community, have committed ourselves to a shared vision of inclusive growth and development, ensuring that ‘no one is left behind’. The 17 broad and cross-cutting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the 169 associated Targets chart a development-centric and growth-oriented pathway. Full and effective implementation of UN PoA would have positive correlation with the progress on 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chairman

We are glad to inform you that Pakistan’s national report under PoA and ITI is being submitted which is reflective of our commitment to this process.

Pakistan has developed the necessary legislative, regulatory, enforcement and institutional mechanisms to address the range of issues relating to conventional arms including small arms and light weapons. An Inter-Ministerial Group addresses these issues in an integrated manner. Policy guidelines on the export of conventional arms are in place as also a national evaluation mechanism to regulate trade in these arms. No export authorization is issued without end-user certificates duly issued/ backed by government authorities.
Mr. Chairman

In closing, let me highlight that the agreed outcome of the 2nd SALW Review Conference and that of the fifth biennial meeting (BMS5) was encouraging. We hope that our work here would be guided by the positive spirit in reaching an agreed outcome by consensus. This would generate momentum for the success of Third Review Conference scheduled for 2018.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.