Statement by
Mr. Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, Arms Control Department
Israel Ministry of Foreign affairs

Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 (BMS 6)

ON

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, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument

United Nations, New York
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(Check against Delivery)
Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

As we have stated previously during the MGE2, Israel is very much aware of the risks advancing technologies pose. These risks stem not only from the new means and materials used to build or manufacture SALW, but also because of the effects of advanced technologies on the means to smuggle and divert these and other weapons systems. Anyone with a smartphone or a tablet can easily be connected to anyone else on the planet, enhancing their ability to avoid law enforcement. These new technologies are being used by terrorist organizations, organized crime and other NSAs not only to acquire such weapons but also to plan and execute attacks or commit other crimes.

The challenges we all face deserve our full attention and a proactive approach in order to address them in a timely manner and mitigate their effects. Some of these challenges, such as marking, record keeping, tracing and stockpile management, need to be continuously re-assessed, updated and upgraded in accordance with technological, operational and political developments. At the same time, it is important to note that while some advanced technologies may pose greater challenges, they also enable us to better operate in a wide range of fields and enhance local law enforcement and other relevant authorities' capabilities.

Israel is committed and is very much involved in trying to harness these same advancing technologies in the attempt to counter unlawful activities. Just to mention a few, here are some examples for the use of advanced technologies and procedures:

1. Bluetooth chip marking which automatically registers any weapon in stock
2. Movement sensors designed to reduce theft
3. Non-removable ID chips containing weapon information
4. Ensuring that all weapons produced are marked in accordance with the highest standards – readable, durable, and non-removable
5. Physically securing all stockpiles in accordance with international standards such as the Wassenaar Arrangement
6. Keeping all records in computerized systems
7. Deactivating weapons in an absolute manner making it impossible to reactivate.
8. As for export control, all weapons exported from Israel need to be approved by the relevant authorities verifying, inter alia, the end user, including its storage and maintenance capabilities and the proper marking at the manufacturing process.

Mr. Chairperson,

It should be emphasized that these technologies are complementary to the procedures and regulations that should be taking place on the national level in accordance with the UNPOA and the ITI. In our view, only the combination of a well-structured and functioning national system along with international mechanisms can yield the desired outcome of reducing and curbing the illicit transfer of SALW and minimizing their damaging effect. National mechanisms and authorities are crucial to this process. Collaboration and cooperation is essential not only among international actors but among internal actors as well – law enforcement establishments, manufacturers, R&D institutes, custom officers, government ministries and so forth.

Israel believes additional topics should be discussed, such as border control and improvised SALW, especially as we approach the 2018
Review Conference which we hope will promote enhanced implementation of the ITI and the UNPoA and will possibly decide on new concrete steps taking into account technological and other developments.

I thank you.