Statement delivered by

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at the 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

under agenda item 6 and 7

New York, 7 June 2016
Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you upon your appointment as the chairperson for the BMS6 and to reaffirm Thailand’s full support and constructive cooperation throughout the deliberations. Thailand will now make an intervention on agenda 6 and 7.

2. Thailand welcomes the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 last year. The document bridges the development and security divides and promote inclusive and peaceful societies. We hence support implementing the PoA in light of the Agenda 2030 as is reflected prominently in the draft outcome document.

3. Thailand notes the transnational nature of illicit proliferation and trade in small arms and light weapons in illegal activities conducted by transnational criminals, non-state actors and terrorists, disrupting public safety. Here, we strongly believe that strengthening regional and international cooperation, law enforcement cooperation, bridging capacity gaps among states, and enhancing information-sharing and exchanges at all levels are the best way to address the challenges.

4. In this regard, we welcome such inclusions in draft 4 on implementation of the PoA, specifically promoting close cooperation with the World Custom Organization and the INTERPOL.

5. Thailand notes the implication of illegal weapons on gender-based violence and suffering by vulnerable groups. We therefore welcome the inclusion of the gender-perspective in draft 4.

6. Domestically, to ensure effective prevention and suppression of illicit arms, Thailand has imposed domestic legal framework in line with the PoA to regulate arms, and additionally its parts and ammunitions, both for military and civilian uses. All activities, ranging from production, acquisition, transfer or use of the small arms and light weapons, domestically and internationally, require authorization from relevant authorities.

7. In light of rapid technological development in the design and production of small arms and light weapons technologies, Thailand is formulating the dual-use items control schemes, expected to come into force by 2018, in order to address illicit flows in an efficient and holistic manner. Particularly since 2014 when Thailand became a signatory State to the Arms Trade Treaty, relevant agencies are working on national measures to ratify the treaty.
8. Regular stockpile management, review and destruction of surplus weapons are also necessary. On our part, the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the Ministry of Defense are streamlining the intra-agency online database to standardize stockpile management and facilitate arms-related criminal investigations to prevent lost or stolen arms.

9. We therefore support paragraph 30 related to sharing and implementing best practices in stockpile management and paragraph 47 on the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in such endeavours.

10. Finally, Thailand also recognizes the importance of cross-border cooperation to suppress illicit small arms and light weapon proliferation exploited by criminals and terrorists.

Mr President, on the ITI,

11. Thailand has also observed that firearms with polymer components have reduced marking durability and are more difficult for tracing. International cooperation and assistance can ensure that developing countries take advantage of new technologies such as laser-engraving and micro-stamping to trace illicit weapons. We welcome this reflection in paragraph 72 of the draft outcome document.

12. International tracing also depends critically on sharing information relating to seized weapons, proliferation routes and diversion methods.

13. At the regional level, Thailand has been cooperating closely within ASEAN at the Ministerial and Senior Official Meeting levels on Transnational Crime. Most recently, the ASEAN Forensic Science Institute was founded in 2015 to enhance law enforcement cooperation, and information exchange for transnational crime investigations among ASEAN countries.

14. At the international level, Thailand is of the view that INTERPOL can play a significant role in promoting cooperation and coordination among member States in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons.

15. My delegation notes the usefulness of the standardized database for firearms-related information-sharing (iArms) developed by the INTERPOL, supplementing domestic and international implementation of the ITI.

16. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.