Distinguished colleagues,

as explained in our working paper, Germany attaches great importance to the idea of universal implementation of the UN PoA and the ITI, and stands ready to actively support Member States in their efforts. Our regional engagement encompasses four continents, namely Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia, but our focus is on Sub-Saharan Africa. The introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals, most notably target 16.4 has given our policy a new impetus and will certainly help to mobilise additional support.

In this respect I only want to highlight two recent initiatives:

1) German-AU initiative SALW-control and PSSM in the Sahel zone. This initiative intends to improve coordination of international cooperation and assistance activities in that region, relying heavily on the knowledge and ownership of the relevant regional organisations, under the cover of the African Union Commission for Peace and Security. On Saturday we will organize a comprehensive meeting between major donors and these African partner organizations.

2) Platform for the implementation of SDG 16.4. Together with the Small Arms Survey we aim to set up an open platform for all those institutions, governmental and non-governmental, that work on the realization of this ambitious and important target. In early July the web-based platform will go online and will hopefully thrive on the substantial inputs of all partners willing to engage.

We do see the United Nations / ODA as a vital ally in the global fight against SALW proliferation and are a proud founding member and major contributor to the UNSCAR-trust fund facility. Hopefully more and more Member States join the ranks of the Strategic Planning Group and make this instrument for implementing the PoA and – for the time being – the ATT a success.

Last not least a plea for transparency: Germany publishes all its arms control projects, including budgets, on an annual basis. We also attach project lists to our PoA reporting. Any questions are welcome, let us try to coordinate the best we can. Reducing the suffering caused by SALW is definitely worth it!