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On Consideration of international cooperation and assistance

Six 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

New York – June 2016
Mr. Chair,

Myanmar congratulates you on your election as the Chair of the Six Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects. I also wish to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their elections. You have our support.

Myanmar also aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chair,

My delegation also shares the concerns of the international community over the illicit trade, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons. Proliferation of these weapons continues to claim many lives, and posed a serious threat and challenges to humanity. The Program of Action is a significant roadmap which could guide States to address the concerns, both at the national and global levels. We are of the view that adequate and sustainable international cooperation and assistance, particularly in the areas of capacity building, is required for the developing countries to fulfill their commitments to effectively implement the Program of Action.

At the national level, Myanmar has been working closely with the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD). Recently, in February this year, a capacity-building workshop on small arms and light weapons was held in Nay Pyi Taw in collaboration with the UNRCPD. Myanmar government officials from various security sectors involved in small arms and light weapons control have had the opportunity to exchange their
experiences and practices with the international experts and representatives from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

We had had a similar workshop in 2014. It shows our interest in strengthening capacity to management and control of small arms and light weapons. In addition, as part of our collective efforts to prevent illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, we maintain regular contacts with neighboring countries, and with relevant regional and international institutions such as INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL, to share information on arms smuggling.

We hope that international assistance for capacity-building in the developing countries would be increased in support of the implementation of the Program of Action.

I thank you, Chair.

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