Statement by Turkey on International Co-operation and Assistance for the full and effective implementation of the PoA and ITI

Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

8 June 2016, New York

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the hard and systematic work you and your team have put into the preparations for this meeting since December. Your transparent approach in the drafting of the outcome document has provided us with a good basis for our discussions this week.

Preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) can only be achieved through "international cooperation and assistance". Accordingly, the effective implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) depends on furthering the level of "international cooperation and assistance". That is why Turkey considers this to be one of the indispensable topics of deliberation in the biennial meetings of states.

We believe that transparency and information-sharing would help promote consistency and confidence in the implementation of agreed multilateral standards. National reports on the implementation of the PoA are of significant value in achieving consistency and promoting transparency. They are also valuable in providing us with the data that we can use in measuring the progress in implementation and serve to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation including the matching of needs. Last but not least, as stated in the Secretary General’s report, national implementation reports can be used to convey national information on indicator 16.4.2 to the United Nations Secretariat which would ensure that relevant national information is fed into the progress reports on the Sustainable Development Goals.
With these in mind, we encourage all member states to submit national reports on PoA implementation. The submitting of national reports in time for the PoA’s Third Review Conference in 2018 will be of particular value.

At the Third Review Conference in two years, it would be useful to look at an analysis by the Secretariat of national reports in order to identify implementation challenges and opportunities, help strengthen future implementation efforts and guide the work of actors that assist with such implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey intends to continue to contribute to the efforts to foster international cooperation, including through the adoption and implementation of additional norms, rules and measures.

At the last two biennial meetings of the Programme of Action, its Second Review Conference in 2012 and the two meetings of governmental experts, there was agreement on furthering the work on measurability, discussing the impact of new weapons-related technologies and considering improved mechanisms for assistance and cooperation. We agree with the Secretary General that the time until 2018 should be used to build on these agreements, developing them into concrete elements for a tailored work programme for a new six-year cycle. Consideration of developing and using standardized documents that cannot be forged, possibly through the use of modern technology, including microchips, would also be helpful.

Mr. Chairman,

We are as strong as our weakest link: With member States having different capacities, it is very important to lend a helping hand to the members of the international community that seek assistance. We welcome the fact that member states needing assistance are increasingly indicating so in their national reports. This should help us understand the nature of the need and streamline assistance efforts.

That said, one cannot over-emphasize the role of national ownership: The primary responsibility in implementation of the PoA and ITI continues to lie with the member states.

The entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), in December 2014 is an important milestone in regulating the international arms trade. ATT will
complement and reinforce the POA. It will also provide a valuable vehicle for assistance.

Furthermore, UN Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) on SALW complements and reinforces the PoA process, while 2220 (2015) underlines the important need for enhanced reporting synergies.

Finally, the inclusion of target “16.4.2” to significantly reduce illicit arms flows in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the 70th General Assembly session is a big step in global efforts against the illicit trade in SALW.

Mr. Chairman,

Against this backdrop, my delegation believes that our meetings this week provide us the opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made, reaffirm our commitments and discuss what further measures we can take to save lives.

Turkey is fully committed to the process and looks forward to a productive BMS6 that will take it forward.

Thank you.