Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6)

8 June 2016

Agenda Item 8

Statement by Australia on behalf of UNSCAR Donor Countries

Chair

We would like to make some general remarks about UNSCAR on behalf of the UNSCAR donors Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and my own country Australia.

UNSCAR is a multi-donor mechanism established in 2013 in response to the need and demand for focused and effective funding to support arms regulation. Since its inception it has provided close to $6 million dollars in funding for projects with a particular focus on the Arms Trade Treaty and the UNPoA.

Those eligible to make an application for UNSCAR funding include:

- UN System partners;
- Regional and International Organisations;
- NGOs; and
- Research Institutes.

UNSCAR accepts applications that support and implement effective conventional arms regulation. Applicants are expected to take gender considerations into account in their project formulation. Priority is given to projects which include one or more of the following key elements:
Projects that take into account assistance needs as identified by States in national reports to, for example, the PoA and the ATT. Projects which address assistance priorities identified at UNPoA Biennial Meetings of States and at ATT Conferences of States Parties; and Projects which address synergies between international and regional instruments on arms regulation; Promotion of the relevance of conventional arms regulation to development, particularly in connection with Target 16.4 under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Support for the universalisation and/or effective implementation of relevant global instruments on arms regulation, including the Programme of Action on small arms (PoA) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):

UNSCAR donors would like to emphasise, that UNSCAR does not interfere in the content of projects. Applications are drawn up by eligible organisations, often in partnership with one or more governments, and applicants are responsible for the execution of projects. UNSCAR selects projects which meet the priorities noted earlier and, for those selected, monitoring is undertaken only to ensure that the funds are used in the manner proposed in the application.

In the current 2015-16 cycle, 11 projects were selected by the UNSCAR committee amounting to USD$1.7 million which supported ratification, accession to and implementation of the ATT, supported implementation of the POA; and addressed synergies between the ATT and the PoA.

Applications for the 2016-17 cycle opened on 1 June and close on 28 July.

We look forward to receiving a strong number of proposals in this round and encourage those interested to refer to the UNODA website for further details on the application process.