Thank you Mr. Chair, 

Thank you also to Member States for inviting civil society to address you. IANSA has the honour of coordinating civil society participation in the UN small arms process. Our members come from dozens of countries that are severely affected by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

IANSA members are dressed in orange today, as part of the Wear Orange Against Gun Violence campaign.

We are grateful for the support of UNSCAR in helping IANSA to bring a diverse range of NGOs to participate in this meeting.

The focus of this 6th BMS is to build on the second Review Conference and the 5th BMS, also bearing in mind the second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action.

The Programme of Action was agreed in 2001. Fifteen years in the life of a growing child is extremely significant. It is the milestone age of feeling totally independent except for finances. This is how IANSA feels about the PoA.

It is therefore important to remind States that the PoA text contains 20 compelling reasons for its existence, including illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world, with its attendant humanitarian and socio-economic consequences posing a serious threat to peace.

States encouraged non-governmental organizations and civil society to engage in all aspects of international, regional, subregional and national efforts to implement the present Programme of Action.

We are here, Mr. Chair, to share with States our contributions to the implementation of the POA, our work and observations of the reality on the ground and how we are engaging with all stakeholders.

Since the PoA is intended to address the problem of illicit arms in all its aspects, the small arms process must also consider implementation of the PoA in all its aspects.

For this reason, my colleagues will share with you:

- the need for gun destruction as part of the Colombian Peace Process,
- the effects of arms proliferation in the Sahel Region of Africa,
- the 20 years of gun control efforts in Australia
- the arms proliferation challenges in the Middle East
- and the gender dimension of armed violence
We have made some progress, but due to changes in the environment and more importantly in human behavior, care has given way to callousness, protection has given way to betrayal, and development has given way to insensitive destruction.

As we move toward the 2018 Review Conference, States must broaden the scope and mandate of the Programme of Action in order to take on board these significant changes leading to untold human suffering.

States must also focus on the issue of ammunition control and management, which cannot logically be divorced from the issue of controlling the weapons themselves.

Similarly, implementation of the Programme of Action does not occur in a vacuum; its implementation must complement AND be complemented by the implementation of other instruments.

Given the devastating effects of gun violence in poor communities around the world, this process must also recognize the impact of gender-based violence, and the need to assist and involve survivors of gun violence.

This is not a menu from which States can pick the items of interest.

In order for PoA implementation to accomplish the objective of reducing human suffering, all aspects of small arms and light weapons need to be addressed.

Once again, thank you Mr. Chair, and through you to States, for this opportunity to listen to NGOs and civil society.

Thank you.