REMARKS

BY

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AT THE

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE 2012 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

THEMATIC DEBATE ON INTERNATIONAL TRACING INSTRUMENT

UN Headquarters, New York
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of thousands of people every year. Violence perpetrated with small arms and light weapons, as we all know, destroys livelihoods and displaces entire communities.

Ghana will, in the spirit of cooperation, positively support efforts aimed at creating an armed-violence free world. In this regard, I wish to point out that Ghana has developed a National Plan of Action which is a catalytic strategy to the achievement of the objects and obligations in the UNPoA.

Madam Chair,

The review of the UNPoA, over ten years after its adoption by States Parties, is important since it is necessary to examine the progress made as well as challenges encountered in order to effectively respond to those challenges.

We, therefore, consider this review meeting in advance of our conference in September an essential exercise. It is our expectation that this Prepcom meeting would come up with concrete and workable frameworks for the review conference in September.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, Ghana has made active efforts to meet its national obligations within the framework of the United Nations Programme of Action and we hope to share our experience with other countries.

I thank you.
Madam Chair,

Please allow me on behalf of the Ghanaian delegation to congratulate you on your election to chair this Conference. We are confident that with your outstanding diplomatic skills and experience you will steer this conference to a success. My delegation further pledges its utmost support to you, and would cooperate fully with you.

Madam Chair,

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia, on behalf of NAM, and Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group.

Madam Chair,

The Republic of Ghana acknowledges the concerted efforts of the international community in developing and adopting the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The development of the UNPoA is one of the decisive actions that the United Nations has taken to strategically respond to devastating effects of the illicit proliferation, trafficking and trade in small arms and light weapons across the world. Africa and particularly West Africa are living examples of how small arms can erode developmental gains and collapse democracies.

Ghana is particularly pleased with the good intention of numerous countries, regarding the effective implementation of the UNPoA and also believes that the easy availability of small arms and light weapons, and high levels of armed violence, act as a major barrier to development. More especially and worrying, Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition and explosives in the hands of criminal gangs, armed groups or terrorists, are used to kill and injure hundreds