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**Third 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, 14-18 July 2008

**Working document of the member countries of the Central
American Integration System and Associated States and
Mexico for the Third 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**

1. For the countries of the region, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is a key tool to effectively address the multidimensional problem generated by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and their ammunition and components, which can generate specific action to promote and strengthen security and stability in the region.
2. In this regard, we pay special attention to the follow-up and full implementation of the Programme of Action and we are concerned about the limited scope of the agenda of this Third 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. Regarding the problems that our countries face owing to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, it is necessary to find urgent solutions from a humanitarian and preventive perspective without minimizing them vis-à-vis the technical aspects. Therefore, we recognize that a multidimensional approach that goes beyond reduction and arms control measures is required, taking into account the relationship between security, armed violence, crime, trade, human rights, health and development.
3. We stress the importance of reviewing complementary issues in the United Nations small arms and light weapons process, which are basic tools to enable States to effectively fight illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, and which must also be addressed during the meeting, including control of ammunition, adoption of regulations on the civilian possession of firearms, avoiding their diversion to the illicit market, and the need to consider binding initiatives that take



into account the problem caused by the absence of controls in brokering activities, whether licit or not.

4. These issues must be reflected in the agenda of the Biennial Meeting in order to start a constructive dialogue leading to a future agreement on concrete actions. Likewise, regional proposals contained in declarations, such as the Antigua declaration of 26 May 2006, and substantive contributions of documents adopted at the Biennial Meetings, such as, among others, the Working Document of the Latin American and Caribbean region before the Third Biennial Meeting (A/CONF.192/BMS/2008/WP.9) must be adequately considered.

A. Cooperation and assistance

5. We reaffirm the importance of having effective cooperation and assistance mechanisms, without any conditions, and therefore we support the proposals of the facilitator, in particular those pertaining to the acceleration of efforts to determine the needs for assistance, cooperation and national capacity-building, as well as the adoption of new initiatives, such as the database of the Coordinated Action on Small Arms proposed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

B. Instrument to allow States to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner

6. We reiterate our support for the conclusion and adoption of an international legally binding tracing instrument of small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner.

7. The outcome document of the Third Biennial Meeting must strongly call on States to implement the Instrument on Marking and Tracing, highlighting the need to adapt their national procedures for carrying out the marking of weapons, to establish permanent records and to be able to trace the origin of weapons.

8. It must also emphasize the importance of establishing flexible mechanisms for cooperation and assistance at a regional and global level, including the establishment of a common database. Regional disarmament centres should also assist in this important task.

C. Stockpile management and surplus disposal

9. The outcome document should reflect the importance of effective control and management of stockpiles, and that, the control, management and disposal of ammunition be included as an indispensable component.

D. Brokering in small arms and light weapons

10. The recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on illicit brokering are a first step in addressing the issue.

11. Nevertheless, we need to work in order to accomplish the establishment of a legally binding instrument on brokering as a complement to the Programme of Action. In this regard, we call upon States to initiate a process to seek the adoption of a legally binding instrument on brokering.

E. Next steps

12. We underline the need to establish a follow-up mechanism that allows moving forward in the implementation of the Programme of Action, which should not be limited to the biennial review and which should establish a timetable for technical meetings to enhance cooperation among States and to convene a new Review Conference of the Programme of Action in the year 2011.

13. The illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and components is a problem of utmost importance to our region and the whole world. We therefore appeal to the rest of the international community to act in order to stop this evil.
