

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Draft Resolution L. 49: The Illicit Trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Mr. Chairman,

The United States remains fully committed to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (POA). We have upheld our obligation under this agreement and encourage others to do the same. Throughout this process we have expressed our firm position that in order for the POA to be successful, States must undertake practical measures for implementation, including destruction of surplus weapons, development and enforcement of arms export and import control policies, and better stockpiling management. Such meaningful steps do not require additional meetings and while the U.S. remains ready and able to assist other states in fulfilling their obligations under the POA, we remain consistent to the view first expressed in 2001 that a perpetual series of meetings is not required to achieve this nor do we believe such meetings are likely to advance the real objectives of this resolution.

Therefore, we voted "no" on this resolution.

recognize some basic facts, we cannot vote in favor of a resolution which is based on an erroneous premise.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.