

Statement by
Mr. Hassan Rahimi Majd, Second Counselor of
the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New York
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Thematic Discussions:
Conventional Weapons
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In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chair,

My delegation reaffirms that the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular Article 51, unequivocally upholds the sovereign and inherent right of every state to acquire, manufacture, import, export, and retain conventional arms for legitimate purposes of self-defense and security. This right is inalienable and cannot be restricted or undermined by any multilateral process. It is for each state, in the exercise of its sovereignty, to determine its defense requirements and the structure, doctrine, and equipment of its security and armed forces.

At the same time, my delegation is gravely concerned by the continued expansion of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which constitutes a growing global challenge that no state can confront in isolation. Despite tireless efforts at the national level, this phenomenon persists in fueling instability and facilitating terrorism.

A particularly alarming dimension is the illicit trafficking of these weapons, along with conventional ammunition, across borders, which directly undermines national security and sovereignty while providing

enablers for terrorist acts and criminal networks. This reality makes clear that strengthened regional and international cooperation—especially with regard to tracing the origins and routes of illicit flows—is indispensable.

One of the main obstacles to achieving real progress lies in the insufficient cooperation of certain producing and exporting states that view this problem primarily through an economic lens. My delegation stresses that arms-producing countries bear a special responsibility to prevent the diversion and trafficking of the weapons, as well as the conventional ammunition they manufacture and export. This responsibility is particularly critical in regions such as the Middle East, where the unique political and security environment magnifies the destructive consequences of illicit flows.

Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge the outcome of the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of States on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional in June 2025.

We stress that genuine, sufficient, and unconditional international cooperation and assistance are indispensable for the effective implementation of the UNPoA, the International Tracing Instrument, and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management (GFA). Commitments must be translated into concrete, timely, predictable, and non-discriminatory support, encompassing technical and financial assistance, transfer of technology, and provision of equipment. In this regard, the establishment of the open-ended

technical expert group, whose mandate explicitly includes identifying practical and concrete measures for international cooperation and assistance, together with the expedited implementation of the Fellowship Training Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the operationalization of the new UN funding mechanism for the implementation of the PoA and ITI, and the standing dedicated fellowship training programme on conventional ammunition, will be critical in enabling developing countries to fully implement their commitments and to participate meaningfully in shaping global efforts.

These steps, if realized in good faith, can significantly enhance the capacity of developing states to fulfill their commitments. At the same time, the divergent views expressed during the Fourth Review Conference of the PoA and Preparatory Meeting of States on the GFA underscore the need for vigilance and careful attention to ensure that consensus is preserved and future processes are not undermined.

Mr. Chair,

Arms transfers to aggressor and occupying powers are unequivocally prohibited under international law. The continued provision of weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment to the Israeli regime, alongside shielding it in international fora, constitutes grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and amounts to complicity in the ongoing genocide perpetrated by the Israeli regime in Gaza. Moreover, the Israeli regime's repeated acts of aggression against its neighbors, including Iran and other states in the region, further exacerbate regional instability and underscore the urgent need to halt external military support. An immediate and comprehensive arms embargo on the Israeli regime is therefore indispensable.

The continued supply of arms by the United States and certain European states renders them complicit in these violations. This complicity is reinforced by authoritative legal assessments: The International Court of Justice has recognized the plausible risk of genocide, and the International Criminal Court Prosecutor has requested arrest warrants against Israeli leaders for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. Continuing arms transfers under these circumstances constitutes deliberate assistance to operations that breach international law and endanger civilians, further perpetuating cycles of violence and impunity.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates its full commitment to the implementation of the PoA, ITI, and GFA. Combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as the illicit trafficking of conventional ammunition, requires collective determination, accountability from producing states, and genuine support for developing countries.

Thank you.