



ALGERIA

الجزائر

**Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York**

**بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك**

Check against delivery

**Eight 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**

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level and the global level.

**Statement of Mr. Nazim Khaldi,
First Secretary**

New York, 27 June - 1st July 2022

Mr. Chairman,

1. I wish to start by congratulating you, Ambassador Manalo on your election as President of the Eight 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.

2. Our congratulations are also extended to the other bureau members. I wish you all every success in this endeavor and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Based on its national experience, Algeria remains deeply committed to the full and effective implementation of the UN-POA and the ITI and reiterates their total validity and relevance.

4. In this regard, Algeria has endeavored to submit, regularly, its national reports on the implementation of the UN-POA and of the ITI.

5. From my delegation's perspective, there is no doubt that the fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. This approach must be based, at the national level, on strengthened links between the various competent services and institutions and, at the regional and international levels, on close cooperation oriented to tackle not only the vectors of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons but also its root causes.

6. In this respect, Algeria reiterates that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and underlines the importance for States to fully assume strong national ownership, for the full and effective implementation of the UN-POA and the ITI.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients is also an issue of a paramount importance.

8. Diversion as a consequence, inter alia, of an inadequate weapons stockpile management, poses the serious risk of having illicit flows of stocks and arms transferred to unauthorized recipients, including non-State actors such as terrorist groups, drug trafficking, smuggling and organized crime networks. This growing scourge should garner the utmost attention of our work and must be appropriately addressed within the BMS8 final outcome document.

9. In this vein, Algeria is of the view that the full and effective implementation of the UN-POA and the ITI is critical to preventing and combating the evolving challenges related to the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients at the national, regional and international levels.

10. By the same token, the fight against diversion is, indeed, a prerequisite for stability and conflict prevention, which is critical to achieve the mutually reinforcing goals of sustaining peace and sustainable development.

11. As mentioned in the national report, Algeria has already adopted, inter alia, a series of measures to tackle the issue of diversion, among which the collection of information related to cases of diversion linked to stockpile management. Moreover, cases of diversion linked to stockpile management are subjected to investigations and legal proceedings.

Mr. Chairman,

12. In light of this growing and deeply alarming challenges related to diversion of SALW, and in order to facilitate consensual outcomes, my delegation wishes to underline the following elements:

- States should reaffirm the illegality of transferring small arms and light weapons to any Group, entities or persons without prior permission from the receiving State.
- States must stress the need for continued dialogue and concerted action at the national, regional and international levels on the implementation of adequate small arms and light weapons control measures to prevent the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.
- States must avoid duplication and overlapping efforts by including issues as ammunitions in the UN-POA scope based on the agreement reached at the time of the establishment of the ITI in 2005 and since this issue is now under consideration by the UN Member States within a specific framework.
- States must also avoid establishing synergies or complementarities between the POA and other non-universal and non-consensual instruments related to conventional weapons.

In closing, Mr. Chairman,

13. I'd like to reiterate my delegation's readiness to work constrictively with all the Member States to make significant progress and achieve a consensual outcome. Algeria looks forward to fruitful discussion this week. Finally, my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered earlier on behalf of the Arab group.

I thank you for your kind intention.