

Eighth 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

Statement by the Brazilian Delegation

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, regional and global levels.

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me congratulate you, ambassador Manalo, on your acclamation as chair of the Eighth 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. I also congratulate the election of the other members of the Bureau of this meeting. You can count on Brazil's cooperation and support in the conduction of our work in the course of this week.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil attaches great importance to the issue of preventing and combating diversion of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and their illicit international transfers to unauthorized recipients.

Regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action at national, regional and global levels, Brazil stresses the importance of effective national control over the whole life cycle of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We understand that, to minimize risks of diversion, dedicated attention must be paid to each step of the process, from manufacture to disposal, including transfers at national and international levels. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of marking, tracing and record-keeping procedures, as well as of adequate and responsibly-conducted export and import operations.

We recall that, in many high-profile cases of international trafficking of weapons, diversion occurs due to export and import transactions authorized on the basis of falsified end-use/end-user certificates, or of certificates issued by authorities that were not competent to do so. Brazil, therefore, reiterates the importance that the BMS recommends the strengthening of national control systems, especially through enhanced inter-agency interaction, as well as considers ways to facilitate the exchange of information between competent

export control authorities on the validation of end-use/end-user certificates and also for the confirmation of receipt of arms and ammunition shipment.

In addition, the prevention of diversion and illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to unauthorized users largely depends on the generation of data on trafficking patterns, and this can only occur with systematic use of tracing procedures provided by International Tracing Instrument.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil believes that the implementation of the PoA can benefit from the observance of its complementarities with other global, regional and sub-regional instruments to which a state is party. Although we understand that each of those instruments have different legal status, membership and scope, and have independent follow-up processes, we see them as part of a broader framework with common goals. With that in mind, we support that this consideration should be reflected in the outcome document of the BMS8.

Brazil considers that, at this stage, the integration between disarmament and sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda is indispensable, and this is especially true when we are talking about small arms and light weapons. In the same vein, we believe that we cannot detach the discussions on SALW from gender perspectives, considering the different and, in most cases, devastating impact the illicit trade and diversion of these weapons and their ammunition have on women and girls. With that in mind, Brazil fully supports the recommendations that include this relevant perspective.

To conclude my remarks on this agenda item,

I would like to join those delegations that consider necessary to integrate our discussions on ammunition to the framework of the PoA. From Brazil's perspective we should not insulate topics that are inherently connected. In that sense, we support the adoption of an approach that connects the implementation of the PoA with the implementation of the recommendations made by the report from the Group of Governmental Experts on Ammunition (document A/76/324) and the future work of the recently established OEWG on ammunition.

Finally, Brazil aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by Paraguay on behalf on the member states of MERCOSUR and associated states.

Thank you.