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**Statement by
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On the Implementation of the PoA

at 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 in All
Its Aspects**

New York, 27 June 2022

In the Name of God, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to first and foremost congratulate you and the other bureau members for your election. It is our hope that, under your leadership, we will draft an outcome document that is in line with the mandate and competence of the BMS that can both reach consensus and stay clear of any controversial issues including secondary topics or synergies in the context of the PoA.

Mr. Chair,

We fully support the POA; its effective, complete and non-discriminatory implementation as a political and voluntary instrument, can contribute to combating illicit trade in SALWs.

Therefore, we have taken several key steps, including through adopting six acts and laws by the Iranian council of ministers as well as the Parliament.

In order to enforce those regulations, we have taken concrete measures regarding manufacturing, marking and exporting SALWs. Therefore, systematic marking on SALWs is an integral part of the production process. Furthermore, some of those measures include long-term record-keeping of SALWs production and assignment, complete destruction of collected or confiscated SALWs, regular visits to stockpiles, manufacturing under government control and, receiving a mandatory end-user certificate from the importing States. We have an Action Plan to collect illicit SALWs and stop their trafficking as well as security and disciplinary procedures related to SALWs. Additionally, we convene programs aimed towards education and raising awareness on the dangers and detrimental impacts of the illicit trade in SALWs.

In addition to the implementation of action plans to counter terrorist elements, identifying and combatting arms trafficking gangs along with the intensification of border controls to counter terrorism as well as the illicit trade and trafficking of SALWs have all contributed to the detection and seizure of more than 40,000 illicit weapons in 2020-21.

Since 2017, we have organized four joint meetings on the security of SALWs and concluded a number of security cooperation agreements with and neighboring as well as regional countries.

The Ministry of Defense is the National Point of Contact on SALWs. A national committee on SALW was also created for policy-making, examining related issues, coordinating national measures and preparing national biennial reports.

A number of Iranian officials have participated in Interpol meetings and training courses, and we are cooperating with Interpol to detect and arrest SALWs traffickers. All of our activities have been explained in our national report that we have submitted already.

Finally, while emphasizing on the effective, complete and comprehensive implementation of POA, we would like to underline the importance of exchanging information and experience; preventing the production and trade in replica guns capable of transforming to lethal weapons; and facilitating the transfer of technology and equipment necessary to combat illicit trade in SALWs to developing countries without discrimination, such as x-ray machines, full-body scanners, advanced radars to control borders, etc.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.