Dear Madame Chair,

Let me start by congratulating you to your appointment as President of the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action and let me assure you of Germany’s full support for your stewardship of the 4th PoA Review conference.

The UN Program of Action and ITI are essential tools in the fight against illicit trafficking, diversion, unauthorized re-export and the illicit trade in SALW. Both tools provide Member States with a “ready-made” toolkit of standards and mechanisms in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. We will only be able to break the vicious cycle of SALW proliferation, violent conflicts, terrorism, violent extremism and organized crime, if we work together in a coordinated and focused manner to address this truly global challenge.

The German delegation fully aligns with the statement of the European Union, and would like to highlight the following points in our national capacity.

The full, effective and determined implementation of the UNPoA and ITI remains essential, today more than ever. The Review conference provides us with the opportunity to joint re-affirm our commitments and determine our next steps towards achieving full and effective implementation.

In this context allow me to remind delegations of one of the key achievements of in conventional arms control in the year 2023 - The successful adoption of the Global Framework on through-life ammunition management. This successful adoption of the corresponding resolution with 169 votes in favor underlined that a vast majority of Member States supports the principles of the Global Framework and is ready to work towards its meaningful implementation. Let us leverage RevCon4 to contribute to this endeavor, including by inserting the necessary references to responsible ammunition management in the UN PoA RevCon4 conference report. Including ammunition into the PoA process will encourage PoA participant states to exchange and share relevant experiences, lessons learned and best practices.

In addition, let me underline the following 4 elements my delegation deems crucial for the next RevCon4:

1) First, it is important to continue and strengthen support for regional coordination mechanisms, also known as Roadmaps. These are essential tools to strengthening small arms control, in addition to national and international efforts. Given the transnational nature of the threat, Germany supports regional approaches that complement national efforts, where feasible, to contain the illicit trafficking of SALW. The roadmap-model has
become a recognized good practice and successful tool in this endeavor. The model is based on the principle of national and sub-regional/regional ownership.

2) Second, we should continue mainstreaming SALW control into peace-keeping mission mandates.

3) Third, we need to not only continue, but strengthen our focus on gender issues, especially the full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation of women in all decision-making and implementation processes related to the UNPoA and ITI. This is essential for effective small arms control as is the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into its implementation. Over the last years, Germany has increased its funding to strengthening gender-responsive small arms control. This is a common feature of all our SALW-related cooperation and assistance projects.

4) Forth - agreeing on a mandate for establishing of an OEWG on technological advances, e.g. 3D printing in SALW production is crucial to ensure the PoA can contribute to address today’s additional challenges. Thus, further practical steps are needed.

Madame Chair,

I am looking forward to having fruitful discussions at the PrepCom this week in order to prepare for a successful RevCon4 and start working towards a strong outcome document.