Madame High Representative Nakamitsu,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

As we conclude our work here, I want to express that it has been my sincere honor to serve as your President.

I want to thank each and every one of your delegations for the thoughtful and constructive contributions you have made during this Conference and in the preparations for it.

Though the work has not always been easy, it has been undeniably worth it.

Worth it because of your collegiality and support.

Worth it because of the quality and substance of our debates. Worth it because of the critical importance of the PoA and ITI. And most importantly, worth it because of the profound impact our efforts can have on people around the world, in our neighborhoods, and our villages.

I am grateful for the flexibility many of you showed in your negotiations, and your willingness to work with each other to try to resolve differences and find common ground.

You have shown true diplomacy.

I’m proud of several elements of this outcome document.

One key aspect is establishing a more structured procedure for international cooperation and assistance. This will enable us to more effectively match needs with resources, thereby enhancing our implementation efforts.

This document also includes elements to help affected communities and reduce the human cost of small arms and light weapons in various settings.

Another significant advancement in this outcome document is the establishment of a process and structure for a new Open-ended Technical Experts Group to examine developments in manufacturing, technology, and design.

Instead of solely focusing on the challenges posed by new technological developments, the OETEG also examines positive technological advancements and how they can aid in implementing the Programme of Action.

These achievements are to be celebrated, and I am confident they will be appreciated beyond these walls.

The outcome document also builds on progress in previous biennial meetings of states and the Third Review Conference on gender issues and offers actionable steps to move toward evidence-based, gender-responsive policymaking while also recognizing the importance of considering youth perspectives.

I am also happy to say we reaffirmed the connection between small arms and light weapons and sustainable development, which will serve our ambitions in both peace and security and Agenda 2030.

These are significant advances.
So, let us take pride in the fact that we spared no effort in working until the end to forge a consensus. It is no small achievement that we now have an outcome document that substantially advances our efforts under the PoA and ITI.

No one got everything they wanted, but every State should see some of their priorities reflected.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It remains for me to offer thanks to all of you, including the 100 States who submitted national reports.
I thank the members of the Bureau, for their remarkable work in helping with the negotiations and producing several versions of the outcome document under extremely tight time guidelines.
I thank the delegates who have worked long hours on complex topics on this outcome document.
I thank you also to the intergovernmental and regional organizations who have engaged in this process, helping to bring real context and knowledge to the discussions.
I also want to thank all the non-governmental organizations who participated in this conference, bringing your experiences and expertise to bear on our deliberations.
I thank civil society for their assistance on these issues and for reminding us that SALW violence has human faces. We were also able to feel the truth of those words during the powerful and emotional testimony of the victims and survivors of gun violence last Thursday.
I want to especially thank them for their brave statements and the bold work they are undertaking to help prevent future armed violence. We see you. We hear you.
I also want to thank UNODA for their support throughout the process, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms Izumi Nakamitsu, and Ivor Fung, Manuel Martinez Miralles, Aude Feltz, Tak Mashiko, Laurie Mincieli and Frida Thomassen.
Thank you also to other members of my team including Ana Avila, Emile LeBraun, and Himayu Shotani.
The gravity and scale of the consequences of illicit small arms and light weapons meant that our work here was vital and necessary.
But let us not forget that our work is far from over.
What we decide in this conference room matters only if it is put into practice.
In truth, our real work is just beginning.
We have six years to put meaning behind the words in our outcome document and to make great strides in implementing the PoA and ITI.
When we reconvene in 2030, we will confidently affirm that our progress has contributed to sustainable peace and development, ultimately saving lives.
As we conclude today, I hope that this outcome document becomes a living ethos, guiding our collective and national efforts to combat illicit small arms and light weapons.
I thank you.