Excellency,

As we continue our preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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 (RevCon4), I wish to convey a few updates on preparations for this conference.

Revised Elements Paper

Following our intensive deliberations at the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), held in New York from 12-16 February 2024, as well as the regional preparatory meetings organized by UNODA for Asia and the Pacific, West and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean and further consultations with all regional groups and the Arab Group, I am sharing here the revised draft elements paper. The revised draft elements paper will be translated and will be published in the dedicated website for the Review Conference in UNODA meetings place.

This version is an update from the initial draft shared with you ahead of PrepCom on 7 February 2024. It is meant to reflect the key priorities and issue areas you have shared with me during these various engagements. It is hoped that this revised elements’ paper will be further enriched by your inputs and will serve as the basis for the zero draft outcome document, both in structure and substantive elements as expressed by delegations. The Paper will further underpin our discussions during the informal consultations in the coming months and the enriched version will serve as a conference room paper at RevCon4.

I look forward to receiving your views on the elements paper and suggestions for the zero draft outcome document, either through the upcoming informal consultations and/or through written feedback to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org before 26 April. It is my intention to integrate those views into the zero draft and share it with Delegations soon after the deadline.

Informal consultations

As mentioned in my previous letter dated 23 February 2024 and in line with the preparation roadmap it contained, I will hold the next two informal consultations on 16 and 18 April 2024, virtually, from 13:15-14:45. Please find the links as follows:

16 April, Virtual on MS Teams

18 April, Virtual on MS Teams

The main objectives of these consultations will be twofold: 1) to allow you to share more specific views on the revised elements paper to inform the development of the zero draft outcome document and 2) to deepen understanding on two of the key topics that were articulated during PrepCom: international cooperation and assistance; and the integration of small arms and light weapons controls into development and prevention frameworks.
In order to achieve the second objective, I have requested that the Secretariat brief us on 16 April on international cooperation and assistance, and in particular, its proposals for a structured mechanism to match needs with resources, per the mandate it received from the outcome document of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States, para 87. On 18 April, in my capacity as President-designate of RevCon4 and in consultation with the Bureau, I again requested a Secretariat briefing, this time on the integration of small arms and light weapons controls into development and prevention frameworks.

Other matters

Let me remind you that States wishing to share their views and proposals through working papers are invited to send them to the Secretariat at conventionalarms-unoda@un.org. As I have said before, I also encourage you to socialize your working papers and the ideas they contain with other States and groups so that they can contribute to our fruitful discussions.

An information note for participants will be issued by the Secretariat shortly. It contains information on registration and other procedural matters relating to participation in RevCon4. For further information and updates about RevCon4, I strongly advise you to regularly visit UNODA Meetings Place.

I would also like to take the opportunity to draw your attention to the deadline to submit national reports by 30 April 2024. This is an essential tool for the Fourth Review Conference to be able to assess progress in the implementation of both the PoA and the ITI. The Secretariat has already facilitated the credentials to access the reporting platform to all points of contact. Please contact the Secretariat should you not have received the credentials relating to your delegation’s access to the PoA reporting database. I count on you and encourage all Member States to submit their reports before the established deadline to ensure proper preparations.

Finally, I want to thank you for the sustained engagement thus far. The constructive environment you have created and maintained throughout the various consultations thus far will no doubt serve us well during RevCon4 to achieve tangible results.

Looking forward to a productive and constructive exchange of views at the informal consultations on in April and please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Maritza Chan Valverde
President-designate of the fourth Review Conference