STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

AT THE

THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE
THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS
ASPECTS (POA),
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Madam President

I have the honour to congratulate you, and other members of the Bureau, on your election and to assure you of Nigeria’s support and cooperation throughout this process.

2. The Delegation of Nigeria aligns itself with the Africa common position on the illicit trade on small arms and lights weapons as well as with the African Group Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Cameroun and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

3. Nigeria remains deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in the hands of armed bandits, kidnappers and terrorist group and acknowledges the crucial role of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (UN PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (IT). Nigeria wishes to state that there is no better time than now for the review of the PoA implementation, given global geo-political tension and multifaceted threat illicit weapons posed to the society.

4. It is no doubt that the influx of illegal small arms and light weapons across the globe has aided in bringing deaths and injuries to
millions of innocent populations at the hands of terrorists and other criminal elements. The dire consequences of uncontrolled illicit trade of small arms and light weapons on Nigeria’s socio-economic development and political disruption is immeasurable. This has global implications. It is on this note that my delegation wishes to call on all States, especially major producing States, to ensure that the supply of SALW is restricted only to governments or entities duly authorized by them.

5. Nigeria reaffirms the validity of the Programme of Action and highlights the importance of its prompt and full implementation. It also underscores the importance of international cooperation and assistance as a key element in its implementation. My delegation acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations to implement the PoA and calls for the full implementation of the International Instrument (ITI) to enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner the Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons which was adopted by the General Assembly. My delegation wishes to reiterate the importance of marking and keeping records of small arms and light weapons as it would provide a framework for weapons tracing in a timely and reliable manner.

6. Nigeria’s support for the adoption of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) resolution is a demonstration of its commitment to the implementation of UN Programme of Action (UN PoA) to Prevent,
Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects. My delegation, therefore, underscores the need to present a common front to robustly tackle the threat posed by illegal small arms and Light Weapons to international peace and security by curbing their proliferation into the hands of non-state actors. To mitigate their proliferation, Nigeria has redoubled efforts at strengthening its borders by seeking more cooperation across the West African sub-region and beyond.

7. In furtherance to Nigeria’s commitment, it established the National Center for Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) in 2021 with mandate to intensify its efforts in activities geared towards stemming the tide of the proliferation of SALWs. The Government of Nigeria has also established and sustained robust partnerships with the AU, the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and other relevant organisations.

Chair,

8. Nigeria has further deepened its commitment in the area of capacity building programmes for security agencies and carried out full assessment of SALWs situation in Nigeria, which includes but not limited to a comprehensive national weapon marking programme, the establishment of database on SALWs, improved surveillance on its borders and a review of Nigeria’s firearms law. It has also established a framework for collaboration with civil society organizations, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other relevant
stakeholders in assisting government to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

9. My delegation wishes to remind Member States of their inherent responsibility in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and, the need to intensify their efforts to identify the problems associated with this illegal trade and find better ways of resolving them.

10. Nigeria welcomes the establishment of the Global Framework for through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. We recognize this framework as intrinsically linked with the Programme of Action (PoA). While these are distinct mechanisms, we believe the undeniable connection between small arms and lights weapons and their ammunition cannot be overlooked.

11. In conclusion, Madam Chair, my Delegation wishes to reiterate its support for the establishment of a UN Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons for developing countries, to train relevant officials nominated by their respective governments in areas related to the implementation of the PoA. Nigeria also calls on Member States to expedite action on the implementation of the UN Fellowship Programme.

12. I thank you all.