

15 June 2010

Original: English

**Fourth 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, 14-18 June 2010

Draft report

International cooperation and assistance

1. States discussed the efforts undertaken by all States to promote information exchange, cooperation, assistance, national experiences and lessons learned, as well as the role played by international, regional, subregional and civil society organizations in providing assistance to States in building national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. They welcomed the efforts undertaken to date, but highlighted the need to pay greater attention to practical cooperation to achieve implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. States noted that assistance included the transfer of resources and expertise, including financial and technical resources, from one country to another with a view to building national capacity for effective implementation of the Programme of Action. States also noted that cooperation included all forms of joint or coordinated action between two or more States, including the sharing of information and experience, in support of Programme of Action implementation. States noted that cooperation and assistance could take place in a variety of forms, including between donors and recipients and between neighbouring States.

3. States recognized that the primary responsibility for solving the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects fell on all States. They also recognized the need for close international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate this illicit trade. While recognizing that Governments bore the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States recognized also the need to encourage increased cooperation, and called on international partners to build and strengthen capacities in States, upon request, by addressing illicit arms trafficking in a manner that reflected national priorities through an approach of shared responsibility. States also noted the need to consider ways to assess the



effectiveness of cooperation and assistance in order to ensure implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. States considered steps to enhance understanding of existing tools and mechanisms for addressing assistance needs and for matching needs with available resources. States welcomed the further development, by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, including the new reporting template, and the work of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament. States also welcomed the compilation of national assistance proposals from Member States recently prepared by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. They acknowledged the role those tools and mechanisms had in improving the matching of needs and resources for international cooperation and assistance and for national capacity-building in the area of small arms and light weapons. States also emphasized the need for further efforts to identify, prioritize and communicate needs, and discussed possibilities for such efforts in the context of follow-up mechanisms.

5. States underlined that, while the specific format for presenting assistance needs was the prerogative of States, the value of assistance proposals would be enhanced if they were formulated as concrete projects with measurable goals as part of relevant national plans. It was emphasized that national reports could be used as a tool for communicating needs for assistance and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs. States also recognized the value of assistance to States to facilitate the preparation of national reports.

6. States highlighted the need to improve inter-agency cooperation, led by their national coordinating bodies, including information-sharing and joint action between law enforcement, intelligence and arms control officials. States recognized the value of coordination between those agencies in the formulation of project proposals and the mobilization of resources. States also recognized the utility of existing international, regional and bilateral mechanisms for facilitating information exchange, identifying and prosecuting groups or individuals, assisting in the prevention of illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons and supporting implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

7. States noted the multidimensional nature of the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. In this regard, States recognized the linkages between existing assistance and cooperation projects, and the potential for more such projects, which addressed multiple challenges, including terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in drugs and precious minerals.

8. States also stressed the importance of the development and implementation of public awareness programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

The way forward

9. Recognizing that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and stressing that the provision of international cooperation and assistance, including assistance for national capacity-building, is an overarching theme, essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, States are encouraged to promote international cooperation and assistance at the national,

bilateral, regional and multilateral level through an approach of shared responsibility among them.

10. Recognizing the progress made over the past two years, States affirmed the needs and priorities identified during the Third 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.

11. Building on these priorities, States also identified the following additional measures:

(a) States are encouraged to enhance practical cooperation, by reviewing past and existing international cooperation practices and by further efforts, including joint or coordinated action, among all relevant agencies, including stockpile management, law enforcement, judicial, prosecutorial, investigative, intelligence, border and customs control agencies, as well as arms control officials responsible for arms transfer licensing, transit, brokering and transport;

(b) States are encouraged to share knowledge and expertise on implementation of the Programme of Action, including in the development of appropriate legislation, regulations and administrative procedures, the development of weapons collection programmes, and the strengthening of national capacities, including the training of national authorities in areas such as investigative techniques, prosecution, border controls, stockpile management, tracing and the use of marking machines;

(c) States that have not yet done so are encouraged to nominate a national point of contact to act as liaison between States on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including cooperation and assistance;

(d) States are encouraged to consider ways to assess the effectiveness of cooperation and assistance in order to ensure implementation of the Programme of Action, including at the open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2011;

(e) States also encourage increased inter-agency coordination nationally and internationally, including by using existing organizations and structures, such as the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL;

(f) While reaffirming the primary responsibility of all States for solving the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States recognize the role the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations can play in assisting States in building capacity to identify, prioritize and communicate assistance needs, as well as the potential role of such organizations in following up on assistance requests in order to match needs and resources;

(g) In order to identify, prioritize and communicate needs and match them with resources, States are encouraged to build on existing mechanisms, such as the enhanced Programme of Action Implementation Support System, and to consider other ways in which needs and resources can be matched effectively and assistance and cooperation can be more effectively coordinated, including exploring opportunities for increasing strategic dialogue between States;

(h) In this regard, States encouraged further efforts by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in the context of the Programme of Action Implementation

Support System, to assist States, upon request, in preparing project outlines identifying country-specific needs;

(i) In order to better identify donors for these proposals and to increase the visibility of available assistance, States encouraged the holding of occasional informal meetings of interested States, international and regional organizations and civil society to identify possible matches. States recognized that such efforts should complement, support and feed into existing regional efforts;

(j) States and international, regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so should support the development and implementation of public awareness programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
