Statement by
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to the United Nations

Thematic debate on Conventional Weapon
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Mr. Chair,

Algeria fully associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Nigeria on behalf of African Group.

Given the importance of Conventional Weapons issues, my delegation would like to underscore that the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation continue to be an exacerbating issue in armed violence, by fuelling and prolonging conflicts and generate devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences. Moreover, they continue to threaten peace, security and stability in many countries and regions, particularly in Africa.

In this context, they represent a constant and major concern to the international community since it has become an acknowledged fact on the ground of their existing close link with terrorists groups, organized crime, human and drug trafficking and networks smuggling.

In light of these challenges, Algeria continues to grant a high priority in securing its borders from the organized arms, drug and human trafficking networks and it spares no efforts in dismantling those criminal networks and it contributes enormously in fighting against the growing scourge of terrorism, in particular in the Sahel region. Besides that, my country had adapted its legislations and regulations on these matters.

Mr. Chair,

On the other hand, we take note with great interest the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/122), on “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them” as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/438-A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/1), which covers, among other things, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the general implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms; an update on developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design and their implications for the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument; and financial and technical assistance.

On the basis of its national experience, Algeria would like to reiterate that the UN – Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (UN-PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) remain of the utmost relevance to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and we actively call for their full implementation in a balanced and comprehensive manner.
In this regard, we stress the importance of submitting the national reports regularly, in order to assess both the progress made and the remaining challenges on eradicating the SALW. For its part, my country has regularly submitted its national reports in view of the implementation of these two instruments.

As stated in the UN-PoA, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation, and assistance remain essential to ensure effective borders control and therefore to achieve the eradication of the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. In this respect, Algeria remains strongly engaged in favor of all forms of assistance and cooperation initiatives undertaken at regional level.

Within this framework, my country engaged further with the Sahel countries in security cooperation measures as well as through technical assistance programs, including training of the security personnel and customs services in order to allow these countries to develop their technical and operational capacities in the field. Similarly, Algeria concluded cooperation agreements related directly or indirectly to the illicit trafficking of all types of arms.

Mr. Chair,

Algeria strongly believes that ensuring technical and financial assistance from the developed countries, the United Nations and international organizations will contribute in strengthening the capacities of the Sahel countries to fight against the illicit trade in SALW, and, therefore, dismantling the organized arms trafficking networks and terrorists groups.

In its relationship with its partners, Algeria also promotes the sharing of information and exchange of expertise and responds to requests for information it receives through INTERPOL or through mutual legal assistance in accordance with domestic law and international instruments. The establishment of a police African mechanism so-called AFRIPOL, headquartered in Algiers, will greatly enhances the capacity of the continent to address the threat posed by terrorism and transnational organized crime.

In this context, building on the successful conclusion of the BMS6, with the adoption by consensus of a substantive outcome document (A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2), Algeria remains committed to the UN-PoA and looks forwards, like many others, to further actions to eliminate the illicit trade of SALW in advance of the upcoming 2018 Third Conference Review on the UNPoA.
Mr. Chair,

We would like to stress the importance and relevance of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, additional to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (commonly called Firearms Protocol), which provides a framework for States to control and regulate licit arms and arms flows, prevent their diversion into the illegal circuit, facilitate the investigation and prosecution of related offences without hampering legitimate transfers.

Algeria underscores the importance of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which seeks to prohibit or restrict the use of certain conventional weapons that are considered excessively injurious or whose effects are indiscriminate. The adhesion of my country to this important international instrument confirms its commitment to international cooperation as indispensable way to ensure peace and security based on the principles of the UN Charter. It reflects as well the subscription of Algeria to the affirmation of humanitarian principles and the goals that imply this Convention.

Let me conclude on another positive note. Since its accession to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention, Algeria has been sparing no effort to fulfill its obligations and has worked tirelessly for achieving the noble objectives set 20 years ago by the States Parties to the Convention. In this respect, we take this opportunity to announce that this year Algeria’s efforts were crowned by: -fulfilling its international obligations by destroying the remaining stockpile of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Ottawa Convention; and -the completion of humanitarian demining operations by more than 8.8 million mines.

I thank you for your kind attention.