Mr. Chairman, I am Herbert Keusgen, President of the World Forum on Shooting Activities, an ECOSOC NGO representing approximately 50 member associations and hundreds of millions of hunters, sport shooters and legal civilian firearms owners across the globe.

Our organization has attended every UN meeting involving small arms and light weapons issues since 1997 including the Programme of Action, the UN firearms Protocol as well as the Marking and Tracing Instrument and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, I am talking exclusively about civilian firearms, what means hunting and sporting firearms, and therefore please allow me to repeat what our organization maintained since the UN began addressing small arms:

The problem is definitely not the firearms legally owned by law-abiding citizens like hunters and sport shooters, and therefore the primary issue should be military and, of course, illegally owned weapons.

In a recent presentation, Matt Schroder of the Small Arms Survey\(^1\) pointed out that military weapons are the problem in destabilized areas and he noted that this is especially the case in Mexico for example. But also in other current areas of unrest and war it is evident that the firearms I am talking about are definitely not involved in and contributing to these conflicts.

It is Nations and criminal groups which do not bother at all about international regulations, treaties and human rights, who transfer arms to protect their national and criminal interests. And this is unfortunately a fact of life in international politics and behavior.

Our fear is that the Treaty will have no real impact on this sad reality and therefore may focus its efforts on those civilian firearms owned by law-abiding and reliable citizens like hunters, sport shooters and collectors.
Let me make another point concerning the UN efforts regarding the regulation of ammunition. Based on my personal experience from industry I can only say that this will be impossible. This is not a political statement but a technical truth. And, apart from that reality, accounting for an individual round of ammunition would be like trying to trace an individual grain of rice in the international market.

Mr. Chairman, let me conclude with a positive note. We look forward to the Meeting of Government Experts on Marking and Tracing in June 2015. We are absolutely prepared to support the United Nations with our experience and expertise. But this requires that we will be heard and not ignored.

We will defend the legal rights of the lawful possession of firearms, but we will also fulfill our duty to you with our expertise, assistance and fruitful cooperation. Therefore I beg you, take advantage of our willingness to cooperate and support you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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