70th Session of the General Assembly

Statement by
The delegation of Algeria

At the thematic debate of the First Committee on Conventional Weapons

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New York, 1e 26th October 2015

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Mr. Chairman,

Under the thematic debate on conventional weapons, my delegation would like to express its views on certain issues in this important area for international peace and security.

Algeria fully associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nigeria on behalf of African Group as well as Egypt on behalf of Arab Group.

Algeria reaffirms that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is an exacerbating factor in armed violence and that it continues to cause devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences. Given the severity of these consequences, we believe that this issue should be given due consideration at the international, regional and sub-regional levels and be dealt with a comprehensive and integrated manner.

Algeria also believes that this illicit activity continues to threaten peace and stability in many countries and regions. They represent a constant and major concern for the international community because they continue to fuel terrorism and organized crime. In this respect, Algeria continues to deploy intensive efforts to dismantle the organized arms trafficking networks and contributes enormously in fighting against the growing scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation notes with interest the report of the Secretary-General as contained in document (A/70/183), which provides an overview of the activities carried out by Member States, the entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations as part of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 69/33 and 69/51 respectively related on assistance to Member States for curbing the illicit traffic and collecting of small arms and light weapons and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

My delegation has also taken note of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General dated in June 2014 (A / CONF.192 / BMS / 2014/1) on « Recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design and implications for the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons ».

On the basis of its national experience, Algeria reaffirms that the United Nations Programme of Action for the prevention, control and elimination of illegal trade in small arms and light weapons and the International Tracing Instrument are more than ever of the utmost relevance. We continue to emphasize the importance of their full,
balanced, and effective implementation. We wish also to stress that international cooperation and assistance is essential in the implementation of those two instruments.

In this respect, Algeria continues to engage with the countries of the Sahel in measures of security cooperation as well as through technical assistance programs including the training of security personnel and customs services to allow these countries to develop their administrative, technical and operational capacities in the field.

In view of the importance of the implementation of the Programme of Action and in order to make it more efficient and tangible, my delegation believes that it is fundamental for Member States to regularly submit their national reports in order to assess both the progress made so far as well as the remaining challenges. For its part, Algeria has regularly submitted its national reports regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to stress again the importance 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).

Recognizing the importance of the international legal framework governing Conventional Weapons, Algeria joined in May 2015, to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its three protocols.

Affected by the landmine problem since the colonial era, Algeria continues to devote great efforts to ensure their total elimination. This is why the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines remains for us the appropriate regulatory framework able to fight against the scourge of landmines. We believe that the implementation of the Convention and its universality are necessary steps to eliminate forever the danger of these deadly weapons if not disabling.

I thank you for your attention.