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Statement by
Mr. Abdelkarim AIT ABDESLAM
First Secretary to the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations

Thematic debate on Conventional Weapon of the First Committee

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Mr. Chair,

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

Concerning the thematic debate on Conventional Weapons, my delegations would like to underscore that illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) continue to be an exacerbating factor in armed violence 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 had became an acknowledged reality on the ground of their existing close linkage with terrorists groups, organized crime, drug trafficking and networks smuggling.

Mr. Chair,

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.

On the other hand, we take note with great interest the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/151), entitled “Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures and assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them” as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/1, among other things, on recent developments concerning the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons and their implications for the implementation of the International Instrument aiming at enabling Member States to Identify quick and reliable tracing of these categories of weapons.

On the basis of its national experience, Algeria would like to reiterate that the UN – Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (SALW) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) remain of the utmost relevance and the need of their full implementation should be achieved 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 are 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.

We strongly believe that ensuring adequate assistance from developed countries, United Nations and international organizations can contribute enormously 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 this context, building on the successful conclusion of the BMS6 on the implementation of the UN-PoA, my delegation looks forward to further actions to eliminate the illicit trade in SALW in advance of the Third Conference Review 2018.

Mr. Chair,

We would like to stress once 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).

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, since its entry into force in 1983.

The adhesion of our country to this international instrument and the ratification of its three Protocols in 2015, confirm once more the commitment of my country to international cooperation as indispensable way to ensure peace and collective 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.

However, the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines remains real in many countries, including in Algeria. In this context, my country is fully committed to meeting its 2017 mine clearance deadline. Our engagement to date has seen us achieve a major milestone.
I take the opportunity to encourage all States Parties to overcome the remaining challenges, in particular by working together to assist and cooperate with each other to demine and to assist the victims, noting that the Fifteenth Meeting of States Parties which takes place in Santiago, Chile, this year, will feature a special session on enhancing international cooperation to accelerate implementation.

While our work to implement the Convention must continue for several years, the 15th MSP takes place at a time when the number of casualties is dropping. This indicates that the Convention is effectively meeting its goals, even if a lot more needs to be done before we can finish our job.

I thank you for your kind attention.