



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
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Statement by

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**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic to the United Nations**

at the

**Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, 19th June 2018.

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the delegation of the Lao PDR, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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. I wish to assure you of my full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duty.
2. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). However, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

3. Being versatile in nature, small arms and light weapons are being increasingly used by the unauthorized recipients of groups such as terrorists, drug trafficking and other organized crimes. The illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, therefore, has continued to spread and posed serious consequences to peace, security and stability in many countries. As peace and security is a prerequisite for socio-economic development, the international community has to redouble its efforts to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
4. This Review Conference provides us with a good opportunity to take stock of what we have achieved and identify what more needs to be done. My delegation would, therefore, like to reiterate the need for all States to respect international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of states and the peaceful resolution of international disputes. We also would

like to reaffirm the right of each state to manufacture, import and acquire small arms and light weapons for its national defense purposes.

5. My delegation is also of the view that preventing and combating illicit trafficking in SALWs are the primary responsibility of states and in line with the UN Program of Action.
6. Regionally, as member of ASEAN, the Lao PDR works closely with the ASEAN-POL and Interpol by establishing the ASEANPOL data base in order to share and exchange information on the activities of the transnational crimes, including the illicit trafficking on small arms and light weapons. In addition, the Lao PDR also participated in the regional and international workshops and meetings related to the implementation of UN-PoA on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Mr. President,

7. It is worth noting that my country neither manufactures nor exports or re-exports SALWs. The Lao PDR only imports appropriate quantity of such weapons for the legitimate national defense purpose. The Lao DPR also has a very strict policy and law on arms control with only the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Public Security have the authority to import weapons. Furthermore, civilians are not authorized to carry arms. As such, SALWs have been place in the list of prohibited goods for import and export under the relevant rules and regulations.
8. Finally, my delegation reaffirms our support to fight against illicit trafficking in SALWs as well as our support in the implementation of the UN-PoA on SALWs. My delegation will participate constructively to make this review conference a success.

Thank you, Mr President.

