



Statement
by H.E. Darja Bavdaž Kuret,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN,
at the Third Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action
New York, 18-29 June 2018

Mr President,

Allow me to **congratulate you** on your **appointment as President** of the Third Review Conference and express our sincere **appreciation** for all the preparatory work you and your team did, including the **draft outcome document**.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statements. In addition I would like point out some elements in my **national capacity**.

Since we have last gathered at a review conference, many negative developments occurred, including **acts of terrorism, armed conflicts** and developments in **illicit manufacture of firearms** and their parts. On the other hand we have witnessed **positive developments** like entry into force of the **Arms Trade Treaty** and adoption of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. I wish to emphasize that Slovenia fully supports Goal 16, target 16.4, which aims at significantly reducing illicit arms flows by 2030.

Another positive development is the growing recognition at the international level of the importance of **gender dimension**. Slovenia especially welcomes the fact that:

- gender based violence with SALW already constitutes a violation of Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law;
- ATT contains explicit provisions to address the risks of SALW being used for gender-based violence;
- UNSC resolutions specifically encourage empowering women in efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, and misuse of SALW.

The promotion of women's rights is one of our **national priorities**, as well as a priority within the Human Rights Council that Slovenia currently presides. Gender equality is also one of the recurring themes of **Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation**. We held a special meeting on Women, Peace and Security and are including a gender perspective in all other events, including the one devoted to the issue of SALW.

We organized a special Security Dialogue on this topic in OSCE and are using our current role to strengthen ties with other organizations. One of them is the Wassenaar Arrangement, which took part in a discussion on **exports**. This was part of our efforts as chair of the Working Group of the Wassenaar Arrangement last year and as a **co-rapporteur for Montenegro**. We hope that with our assistance, Montenegro too will be able to join this important multilateral regime.

Mr President,

A Slovenia-based non-profit organization, **ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF)**, addresses the **threats posed by improperly stored SALW** through physical security and stockpile management, ensuring safe storage conditions and thus preventing unplanned explosions and illicit proliferation. In addition, through the **destruction of SALW surplus**, ITF assists local governments. Through a **sustainable approach**, ITF's programs include professional training, transferring knowledge and expertise to the local capacities, and hence ensuring safe stockpile management and surplus reduction in the long term.

Mr President,

Solutions are mentioned in the draft outcome document as well as in the EU statement, but let me just point to a few:

We have to:

- strengthen the **normative framework** for curbing illicit SALW nationally, regionally and globally;
- fully and effectively **implement** the UN PoA and the International Tracing Instrument;
- recognize the importance of **synergies** between the different instruments related to UNPoA SALW like Arms Trade Treaty, UN Firearms Protocol, UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- agree to exercise **control** on SALW manufacturing, export, stockpile management, responsible disposal, etc. **including in ammunition**, nationally, regionally and globally;
- transparently **report** on the implementation of the obligations under UNPoA.

We are convinced that by **implementing** all above mentioned we will contribute to international peace and security, reduce human suffering and promote cooperation, transparency and responsible action.



Mr President,

Finally, I would like to reiterate my delegation`s full commitment to **actively participate** in the discussions and our utmost support for the work of the Conference. Only by **working together** we can halt the flow of illicit arms as well as safeguard legitimate trade.

Thank you.