

**Joint Position of (Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, DPRK, Egypt, Iran, Nicaragua, Syria,  
Venezuela, Zimbabwe and Cuba) on BMS7  
26 -30 July 2021**

Excellency,

With reference to your letter dated 10 June 2021 in your capacity as the Chair-designate of the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 (BMS7), we would like to reiterate our sincere appreciation for all your dedicated efforts in setting the scene for a successful meeting.

From our perspective, while the BMS6 and the Third Review Conference had specified the mandate as well as the agenda of the BMS7, we accepted to engage in the discussions on the agenda in the spirit of compromise and flexibility in an attempt to accommodate the proposals made by a group of States to reopen the agreed language.

Regrettably, due to the maximal and inflexible position of a group of countries, the silence procedure on the compromise language offered as a result of your extensive consultations was broken.

Once again, in the spirit of constructiveness, we express our flexibility regarding the language on the agenda item B in your letter 10 June 2021<sup>1</sup>.

We deem it necessary to highlight that going along with this formulation is subject to the condition that it would only allow discussing the issues raised by the interested delegations during the meeting and should not be interpreted in any way as a sign of any readiness to include in the outcome of the meeting any provisions that indicate an agreement, even in principle, on the need to establish non-consensual instruments such as a supplementary annex to the ITI.

Moreover, we reiterate our rejection of any reference in the outcome of the meeting any controversial notions in relation to “synergies” between the PoA and non-consensual instruments that have not been accepted globally, as well as any references that imply the inclusion of ammunition in the scope of the PoA.

Finally, we reiterate our principled position on the necessity of ensuring that all Member States will have the opportunity to fully participate in the meeting on equal footing, and preserving the established practice of consensual decision making at the PoA meetings. This practice should be preserved and applied to all procedural and substantial issues including the agenda, the modalities and the outcome.

We would be grateful if this joint letter is circulated to all Member States as an official document of the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> “Consideration of 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, including an exchange of views on the implications of the developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, taking into account all views and proposals of Member States, as well as relevant deliberations during previous meetings and relevant GA resolutions adopted by consensus”

Thank you.