Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you following our informal consultations of 16 March 2022, at which we were able to agree, provisionally, on the agenda items for the 8th Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8) 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 and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. I take this opportunity to reiterate my appreciation to all delegations for the spirit of cooperation and understanding that continues to characterize our deliberations.

During those consultations, I listened very keenly to the constructive views that delegations were able to offer both on the proposed agenda elements as well as on the need to begin substantive discussions that would enable us to make good progress towards an outcome document for BMS8. Thus, on the basis of those views, the written inputs submitted to me by delegations as well as the mandates for BMS8 accruing from BMS7, I am pleased to share with all delegations, hereto attached, preliminary elements for a “zero draft” outcome document for BMS8.

As in past practice, this “zero draft” does not, in any way, reflect the elements of the final document. It is a guidepost for our deliberations in the lead up to BMS8. I call on all delegations to review and enrich it, guided by the spirit of flexibility and compromise to accommodate inputs from each other. I also encourage delegations to submit written inputs to help in crafting the subsequent iterations of the “zero draft”.

Our first opportunity to exchange views on this draft will be at the informal consultations to which you are all invited on 22 April 2022, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. These informal consultations will be held virtually and a technical note and a link to the meeting are circulated alongside this letter.

Looking forward to working with you all. Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

ENRIQUE A. MANALO
Permanent Representative

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York