Outcome of the Eighth 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

1. In the context of the Eight 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, States considered key challenges and opportunities relating to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels, including means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance.

2. States reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to their obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as their commitments set out in the Programme of Action, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs.

3. States reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to the principles and provisions set out in the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and their continued relevance and importance as global frameworks to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

4. States reiterated that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and underlined the importance of States assuming strong national ownership of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

5. States noted that preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients was a global challenge, requiring concerted efforts at the national, regional and global levels.

6. States noted the detrimental impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

7. States expressed concern about the humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, their excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation, including their role in initiating, exacerbating and sustaining armed violence and their negative impact on victims.
8. States acknowledged that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument is vital for sustainable peace, security, socioeconomic development, human rights and the protection of civilians, also as outlined in the relevant provisions on small arms and light weapons in the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament.

9. States, consistent with national laws, rules, and regulations, recognized the need for the equal, full and meaningful and effective participation of women in all decision-making, and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and encouraged mainstreaming a gender perspective into their implementation efforts to address the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

10. States underscored the role which civil society plays in supporting States’ efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and recognized the positive contributions youth can bring in this regard.

11. States continued to stress that the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument remains uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stand in the way of their full and effective implementation and underlined the need for enhanced, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance.

12. States reiterated the need for the full and effective implementation of all the principles and provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and recalled recognizing the provisions contained in the outcome documents of previous Biennial Meetings of States, Review Conferences and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

13. States recognized the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in efforts to prevent and combat domestic and transnational organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, money laundering, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, and the smuggling of migrants.

14. States reiterated their grave concern that the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including illicit manufacture, brokering, transfer and circulation, their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation, continued to have a wide range of negative humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, undermined the rule of law, respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and impeded the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims and survivors of armed conflict.

15. States recognized that recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, such as modular weapons, and the use of new materials, such as polymers, have implications for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and should be addressed by all States, taking into account opportunities, challenges, the role of industry, as well as financial and technical support, technological gaps between States and the need of boosting related international cooperation.

16. States called for the further strengthening of international cooperation and assistance in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including by taking into account the needs expressed by recipient States and their willingness to take national
ownership of their efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; ensuring the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance programmes; effectively coordinating initiatives among donors and between donors and recipients; and making optimal use of global, regional and subregional expertise and resources, including from developing countries, north-south cooperation, south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation.

17. States reaffirmed the importance of identification of individuals and groups engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, brokering, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for the acquisition of illicit small arms and light weapons and taking action under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals, including investigation and prosecution.

18. States recognized that the development of appropriate national normative frameworks, dedicated structures, procedures and capabilities, including doctrine, organisational development as well as adequate training, equipment, personnel, finance, infrastructure and security management, are required to build sustainable capacities to manage small arms and light weapons stockpiles throughout their life-cycle, in line with international standards.

19. States noted the importance of effective tracing of small arms and light weapons to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict settings.

20. States recognized the importance of developing or establishing strict national regulatory frameworks for the marking, recording and tracing of small arms and light weapons, in line with the International Tracing Instrument to prevent and combat the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

21. States reconfirmed the need to reinforce efforts to implement the commitments on marking, record-keeping and tracing contained in the International Tracing Instrument regardless of the materials or methods used in the manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

22. States took note of the establishment of the OEWG on Conventional Ammunition established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/233 to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management.

23. States considered the importance of calling the industry and private sector to contribute to efforts to effectively prevent the illicit manufacture and trade of small arms and light weapons.

A. Consideration of 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, at the national regional and global levels.

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

At the national level
24. To put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective national control over the whole life cycle of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including their manufacture and disposal within State’s areas of jurisdiction and the export, import, transit, trans-shipment or retransfer of such weapons.

25. To enforce and apply adequate national controls to the entire life cycle of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with national legal frameworks to encourage regular disposal, to minimize the risk of diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, including illegal armed groups, criminals and terrorists, and other unauthorized recipients, including by encouraging adherence to best practices on disposal.

26. To take into account complementarities between the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and global instruments, as well as sub-regional and regional instruments to which a State is a Party, in order to enhance, as appropriate, coordination at the national level on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

27. To encourage the development and implementation of national action plans, capacity-building programmes and/or other national policies which address all stages of the life cycle of a weapon, in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and which enable States to define national priorities and targets, and to coordinate the implementation of strategies, stakeholder involvement and resources allocation.

28. To highlight progress made under indicator 16.4.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens.

29. To consider establishing voluntary national and regional targets in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, with a view to ensuring that national and regional ownership and priorities underpin resource mobilization, assistance requests and the assistance programmes.

30. To submit voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Fourth Review Conference in 2024 in a timely manner, recognizing the importance of such reports to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, to build confidence and promote transparency, as well as to identify obstacles needs and opportunities for international cooperation and assistance.

31. To enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation to identify and act against groups and individuals involved in the illegal manufacture, trade, brokering, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit small arms and light weapons.

32. To comply with all commitments under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument related to the international transfer of small arms and light weapons and to put in place, where they do not exist, and apply measures in order to prevent diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets and to unauthorized recipients, including to terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, which may include export risk assessments, authenticated end used and/or end use certification and effective legal and enforcement measures, including, where appropriate, and in accordance with applicable bilateral agreements, post-shipment verifications.
33. To enhance national inter-agency information exchange systems to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons, including, where applicable, feasible and in compliance with national law, but not limited to national small arms and light weapons registries and licensing authorities, customs, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice services which enhance operational efficiency.

34. To strengthen the cooperation with civil society, youth, victims and survivors of armed violence, parliamentarians, industry and the private sector for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and international Tracing Instrument.

35. To encourage States in a position to do so to increase funding for relevant policies and programmes, advocacy, education, training and research, that take into account the disproportionate impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, children and youth, and to develop, where they do not exist, or strengthen, response mechanisms.

36. To make every effort, in accordance with national laws and practices and in accordance with applicable bilateral agreements, to prevent the unauthorized re-exports of small arms and light weapons, including by stipulating the parameters for the timing of re-exports and to consult the original exporting State before the retransfer of those weapons.

37. To ensure that international humanitarian law and international human rights law are taken into consideration in national small arms and light weapons transfer decisions.

38. To take effective measures to prevent and combat illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons.

39. To apply measures, consistent with relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, to prevent the illicit conversion of non-lethal firearms replica, blank-firing or toy guns into functional weapons and make such illicit conversions a criminal offence.

40. To apply existing provisions of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument to small arms and light weapons manufactured using 3D printing (additive manufacturing) and other novel technologies, including privately-made weapons used or possessed unlawfully, and other similar models that use novel technologies.

41. To take effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit online trade in small arms and light weapons taking place within the areas of jurisdiction of concerned States, including measures to ensure effective control, consistent with domestic law, over their export, import and transit.

42. To put in place, as appropriate, and consistent with national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, practical measures to detect postal shipments which include illicitly trafficked small arms and light weapons, both fully assembled and disassembled.

43. To establish, in accordance with national legal frameworks, as a criminal offence the illegal manufacture of small arms and light weapons, including manufacture without a license, and to effectively enforce applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

At the regional level

44. To recognize the existing regional road maps to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and encourage the adoption, establishment and the further strengthening, where appropriate and as
agreed by the States concerned, of relevant and applicable regional and subregional instruments, mechanisms, targets and good practices to complement the global process and support the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

45. To encourage the sharing of experiences and lessons-learned among regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms engaged in the establishment and implementation of regional road maps.

46. To consider the establishment and implementation of further regional and/or subregional action plans which could include goals and targets, measurable objectives and concrete indicators with a view to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner in respective regions.

47. To reinforce coordination between relevant regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms, on the one hand, and States and international organizations, on the other.

48. To promote and strengthen border cooperation and subregional, regional and cross-regional coordination and information-sharing efforts mechanisms, including the sharing of good practices and peer-to-peer exchanges, between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities, with a view to preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients across borders.

At the global level

States acknowledge the impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the exacerbation of armed violence and its victims.

Armed violence and the broader peace, security, and sustainable development nexus

49. To ensure that the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action is integrated into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including all relevant Goals and targets, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and efforts undertaken as part of the Decade of Action.

50. To ensure the equal, full and effective and meaningful participation of women, including in leadership roles and as agents of change, in all policy, planning and implementation processes, mechanisms and fora and at all levels related to the implementation of the Programme of Action, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and other relevant United Nations resolutions including General Assembly resolution 76/232, and UN Security Council resolution 1325.

51. To take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys including by collecting, where feasible, data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and utilizing analysis mechanisms to inform evidence-based gender-sensitive responsive policymaking and programming with a view to strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels.

52. To exchange national experiences, lessons learned and good practices on the mainstreaming of a gender perspective including to report, on a voluntary basis, gender-relevant information and initiatives as part of the national reports submitted on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
53. To recognise that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of contributes to combating gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict.

54. To take account of the disproportionate impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, children and youth and to develop, where they do not exist, or strengthen response mechanisms.

**Programme of Action in the context of conflict and post-conflict settings**

55. To ensure the safe, secure and effective management of all small arms and light weapon stockpiles in conflict and post-conflict situations.

56. To encourage and enable States emerging from conflict, in cooperation with other States, multilateral organizations and civil society, to build sustainable capacity which enables national authorities to fully and effectively implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and to assume strong national ownership.

57. To encourage the consideration, as relevant, with the consent of host States, of provisions related to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the relevant mandates of United Nations and regional peace support operations, in particular the collection, identification, recording, tracing and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons and support to national capacity-building efforts to prevent and combat the diversion of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

58. To strengthen national capacities to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, bearing in mind Security Council resolution 2616.

59. To seek to reinforce national control measures in line with other relevant sub-regional, regional, and global instruments to which a State is a Party, noting the benefit of coordinated action, with a view to preventing and reducing the risks of diversion, illicit manufacturing and trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

60. To provide humanitarian and recovery assistance, at the request of interested States, by States in a position to do so, to victims and survivors of armed conflict and armed violence, and consistent with existing State obligations.

61. To request the Secretariat to prepare an analysis, within existing resources, of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, based on available information, including information submitted and/or provided by Member States, for presentation at the Fourth Review Conference for its consideration and appropriate follow up. Prior to its presentation at the Fourth Review Conference, the findings and recommendations will be shared with Member States in informal meeting(s).

62. To promote and strengthen coordination between national focal points responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action and national focal points responsible for implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including in responding to relevant sections of voluntary national reports, and to encourage the sharing of good practice and experiences between them at national, regional and global levels on harmonizing national policies, including action plans, on small arms and light weapons and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.
B. 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

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients.

63. To reinforce efforts to mark, record and trace small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument and to maintain, develop or establish reliable and effective national legal and administrative frameworks for this purpose, including, where applicable, information exchange among relevant national authorities with a view to including all relevant information when responding to tracing requests in a timely and effective manner.

64. To strengthen adequate and constructive responses to tracing requests between States and to reinforce the judicial and law enforcement cooperation between them on tracing requests to facilitate criminal investigations and criminal justice response, in line with national laws and regulations.

65. To encourage States in a position to do so to assist other States to build sustainable national capacity for weapons marking, identification and tracing including in interpreting small arms and light weapons markings and determining the traceability of small arms and light weapons with a view to enhance the submission and responses of tracing requests and the determination of the likely traceability of a weapon, and to encourage States receiving this assistance to take strong national ownership and ensure the sustainability of the assistance provided.

66. To encourage, as relevant, with the consent of host State, the consideration of provisions related to the International Tracing Instrument in the mandates of United Nations and regional peace support operations, in particular marking, recording keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons including to ensure adequate allocation of resources to relevant missions in this regard.

Implications of new technologies in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument

67. To strengthen cooperation with the private sector and industry for the development of technologies that improve the marking, record-keeping, tracing and safe, secure and effective storage of small arms and light weapons.

68. To take advantage, as appropriate and where available, of opportunities presented by of recent technologies, such as data matrix codes, radio frequency identification and biometrics, to strengthen the identification and record-keeping of small arms and light weapons including through facilitating the transfer of these technologies, especially to developing countries, where appropriate, by States in a position to do so.

69. To continue exchanging views on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced by other novel technologies and on ways of addressing them.
70. To reinforce efforts to implement the commitments on marking, record-keeping and tracing contained in the International Tracing Instrument regardless of the materials or methods used in the manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

71. To take into account recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and to strengthen normative frameworks, where needed, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, from acquiring small arms and light weapons.

72. To consider including national experiences on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design in the voluntary biennial national reports submitted on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

73. To reinforce in a concrete manner the international cooperation and assistance to the use of new technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing, where available, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument in light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

74. To assess ways of addressing the recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, particularly through strengthening international cooperation by technology transfer, including equipment, technical assistance and financial support by States in a position to do so, taking into consideration the technological gap between Developed and developing countries.

75. To continue consideration at the Fourth Review Conference of the proposal of an open-ended technical expert group to develop agreed recommendations to ensure the full implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and Programme of Action in light of recent developments in small arms manufacture technology and design, with a view to recommending, by consensus, its establishment. Such consideration should may include inter alia the mandate, funding, time frame and modalities of the open-ended technical expert group.

C. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, and means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

76. To note the need for adequate, measurable, sustainable, and timely international cooperation and assistance to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

77. To encourage States in a position to do so, to share expertise, provide financial support, transfer knowledge, resources, equipment and technology, explore south-to-south and triangular cooperation as well as a complement of North-South cooperation, and build institutional capacities to strengthen border control, customs and law enforcement to prevent diversion, in particular, loss and theft, through safe, sustainable, secure and efficient management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and regular appropriate disposal of surplus of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons.
78. To explore ways to ensure and further strengthen comprehensive international assistance related to all aspects of the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons.

79. To encourage the promotion of good practices and lessons learned of modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, by among others, further encouraging the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and youth considerations in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

80. To consider, where appropriate, that the development of appropriate national normative frameworks, dedicated structures, procedures and capabilities, including doctrine, organisational development as well as adequate training, equipment, personnel, finance, infrastructure and security management, with a view to building sustainable capacities to manage small arms and light weapons stockpiles throughout their life-cycle, in line with international standards.

81. To encourage the reinforcement of the international cooperation and assistance to the appropriate use of new technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing, where available, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

82. To strengthen international cooperation for building capacity of States to address the opportunities and challenges related to recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and 3D printing.

83. To support the capacity-building of regional and sub-regional organizations for the provision of tailored policy and operational support and assistance to States in tackling illicit small arms and light weapons.

84. To decide recommend the expedient establishment for a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons in order to strengthen technical knowledge and expertise in areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, particularly in developing countries, and welcomes the Secretariat’s efforts in options of funding and administrative arrangements for the programme, and calls on all States to take a decision on the establishment of the programme.

85. To encourage the use of national reports to communicate assistance requests as well as for the planning and delivery of international cooperation and assistance.

86. To promote international cooperation and assistance which responds to the needs and implementation priorities identified in national action plans and regional road-maps, where applicable.

87. To encourage States in a position to do so, to consider supporting the funding of assistance projects over several years to allow for sustained capacity building and multi-stakeholder coordination that includes civil society.

88. To develop options for enhancing the effectiveness of the existing international assistance frameworks in support of the effective implementation of under the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, including establishing a structured procedure, within the Secretariat, to process requests for assistance submitted under the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, for consideration and appropriate follow-up by Member States at the Fourth Review Conference.
89. To support existing mechanisms aimed at matching needs with expertise and resources.

90. To encourage the conduct of voluntary baseline assessments, as a joint undertaking by requesting and donor States as mutually agreed, in the context of requests for international cooperation and assistance, including financial assistance and technology transfer, under the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, with a view to addressing needs in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, preserving and strengthening national ownership of requesting States, and fostering confidence between all stakeholders.

91. To encourage States in a position to do so, to embed technology transfers in broader cooperation frameworks aiming at building sustainable capacities for the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons, through the establishment of appropriate national normative frameworks, dedicated structures, processes and capabilities, including, doctrine, organizational development, as well as adequate training, equipment, personnel, financial, infrastructure and security management, in line with international standards, and to explore south-to-south and triangular cooperation, as well as a complement to North-South cooperation.

92. To promote international and regional cooperation among the law enforcement, customs, and arms transfer licensing authorities to prevent diversion to unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists.

93. To make use of bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as subregional, regional and global mechanisms to exchange information and experiences, including existing challenges, to expose and cut off illicit arms trafficking channels and to improve the capacity for risk assessments in arms export control processes.

94. To make use of and strengthen cooperation and information-sharing mechanisms at the international, regional and sub-regional level to share information, experiences, guidelines and good practices between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities.

95. To consider including activities with regards to international cooperation and assistance in the biennial national reports submitted on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

96. To establish or strengthen subregional, regional, cross-regional and global cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms in order to enhance the effectiveness of assistance programmes, strengthen the matching of needs with resources, improve dialogue between donors and recipients, avoid duplications and maximize complementarities, and expertise.

97. To encourage effective implementation of cooperation and assistance projects through, regular updates on the progress and timely reporting on both substantive and financial matters.

Other issues and topics for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects:
During the discussion of agenda item 9, some States indicated that, without prejudice to the views of other States, in their view, certain issues were important for the implementation of the Programme of Action. On those issues, other States expressed a different opinion. The issues included:

(a) The application of the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to small arms and light weapons ammunition and called with some States calling for further dialogue among States in this regard.

98. To recall the decision, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2018 to 2024 agreed upon at the third Review Conference, to convene the fourth 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 in 2024, to be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting in early 2024 of not more than five days.