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

Agenda Item 7: 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.

Statement of H.E. Mr. Nazim Khaledi,
First Secretary

New York, 27 June - 1st July 2022
Mr. Chairman,

1. Given the utmost significance of the International Tracing instrument, Algeria reiterates its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the actions and provisions of the ITI, as reflected in its national reports.

2. To this end, Algeria has put in place a thorough legal framework covering the four aspects of this instrument, namely, marking, record-keeping, cooperation in tracing and implementation, and follow-up. Given its evolving nature, this legal framework allows to follow up and adapt to, when appropriate, the various developments in the field of small arms and light weapons, and consequently to fight against any illicit and / or criminal scourge in this regard.

3. Moreover, national legislation and regulations relating to war materials, weapons and ammunition, have put in place a mandatory marking considering that any weapon must be unequivocally identified to be authorized for possession, commercialization, export and import.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Regarding marking practice in light of developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design, the Algerian manufacturer has adapted to the developments in manufacturing techniques occurred in the market of SALW, including:

   - The switch to polymer materials for the manufacture of grips, hand-guards, barrels and handles,
   - Marking of serial numbers by Laser

7. As for the issue of the open-ended technical expert group to develop agreed recommendations to ensure the full implementation of the ITI and the POA in light of recent developments in small arms manufacture technology and design, my delegation is ready to consider constructively this proposal at the upcoming Fourth Review Conference in 2024, with a view to recommending, by consensus, its establishment.

8. My delegation is of the view that the open-ended technical expert group proposal require, extensive discussions, to take into account, among other things the following dimensions:
1. The impact, on the balance of the POA and ITI framework, of introducing additional commitments on States in their efforts to fully and effectively implement the UN-POA,

2. The impact of the existing technological gap between States and the differing effects of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design,

3. The financial and technical capacities of States, in particular for the developing countries, to obtain equipment and training, whether from the concerned countries or authorities and donor countries,

9. Therefore, my delegation stresses the need for further discussions among member States in order to reach a common understanding of these dimensions, and recommends to avoid the inclusion of any preconditions or early conclusions related to the open-ended technical expert group proposal in the final document.

10. Finally, my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Arab Group.

I thank you.