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

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity building, and means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance

Statement of Mr. Nazim Khalidi, 
First Secretary

New York, 27 June - 1st July 2022
Mme. President,

1. Algeria continues to give the highest priority to securing its borders, sparing no efforts in dismantling criminal networks, and contributing in the fight against the growing scourge of terrorism, terrorist groups, drug trafficking, smuggling and organized criminal networks, in particular in the Sahel region.

2. In the fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and in addition to strengthening its national system, Algeria has also focused its action on reinforcing the cooperation at sub-regional and regional levels to face the security threats posed by the proliferation of weapons, resulting from the spill-over effect from some neighboring countries.

3. In its relations with its partners, Algeria values sharing information and the exchange of expertise within the framework of assistance and cooperation actions and contributes to the capacity building of the countries of the region. In this vein Algeria has, for several years, built a cross-border cooperation, in particular with the neighboring Sahel countries, through the training of security and customs service's agents and the supplying of equipment to enable these countries to develop administrative capacities and technical and operational measures to deal with smuggling and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

4. In the meantime, Algeria launched in cooperation with Mauritania, Mali and Niger the Joint Operational Staff Committee (CEMOC), hosted in the city of Tamanrasset, with the objective to tackle collectively the spread of terrorist activities and transnational crime, as well as the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. This mechanism is supported by the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), which provides a platform for intelligence and information sharing among seven countries of the region.

5. These regional efforts call for a strong support from the United Nations and the International community through technical and financial assistance in order to help the Sahel countries build capabilities to fight against the illicit trade of conventional weapons, and dismantle the organized arms trafficking networks and terrorist groups in the region, in accordance with their national plans and strategies.

Mme. President,

6. Globally, Algeria has ratified or acceded to a multitude of international and regional instruments relating to transnational organized crime and the fight against
terrorism. It also maintains close cooperation with regional and international organizations, in particular with INTERPOL and AFRIPOL.

7. Algeria promotes establishing information-exchange platforms and sharing best practices with its international partners. In that spirit, my country is highly and swiftly responsive to requests for information it receives through INTERPOL or from any another international parties within the scheme of mutual legal assistance treaties.

8. In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate its strong support for the NAM proposal for the establishment of a UN Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons for developing countries, to train relevant officials nominated by their respective governments in areas related to the implementation of the PoA. Therefore, we welcome the Secretariat’s efforts in options of funding and adminstrative arrangements for the programme, and call for the expedient establishment of this fellowship programme, in accordance with paragraph 117 of the BMS7 Outcome Document.

9. Finally, Mme. President, my delegation looks forward to effective cooperation among the member states to set an ambitious and clear vision aimed at building the capacities of developing countries to deal with recent technological developments and providing the necessary training in this regard, as well as providing the necessary equipment for the marking operations of small arms and light weapons, and international border control equipment to curb illegal smuggling weapons, according to the needs of different countries.

I thank you.