Oral intervention to the Eighth Meeting of States on the prevention of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

Thank you, Mr. President
The misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, their illicit transfer and destabilizing accumulation remain a major factor in undermining peace and security at the national, regional and global levels, and have severely exacerbated the conditions of vulnerable groups already suffering from conflict. This is because illicit flows and easy availability of weapons can exacerbate and perpetuate conflict dynamics, render arms embargoes ineffective, endanger peacekeepers, humanitarian workers and the local population, and complicate the achievements of peace agreements. Failure to maintain stockpiles appropriately poses serious humanitarian risks and a known source of arms diversion.

The management of stockpiles of small arms, light weapons and ammunition has become one of the phenomena of global concern, especially after the increase in arms and ammunition legally owned by citizens and owned by armed groups, especially in Libya, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Mali, and perhaps in some relatively stable countries such as Sudan and Tunisia illegally As well as the ineffectiveness of their management, which is reflected in the spread of smuggling and illegal trafficking networks, especially for small arms that are not permanently controlled, and that are illegally traded in crisis areas and hotbeds of conflict through distribution, theft, smuggling, transfer or resale, especially. Through porous borders by groups of dealers, agents, brokers and financiers of such activities in the context of diversions of the transfer of arms, especially their parts and components through the so-called Darknet
and Internet platforms, which has led to a significant increase in the use of postal services, making detection and criminal investigations more difficult.

Hence, both the Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights and the Global Coalition to Control the Spread of Arms affirm that the effective implementation of the International Instrument for Tracking and Controlling Small Arms and Light Weapons requires the adoption of a package of mechanisms through which arms transfers can be monitored and organized and serious work to prevent the diversion of conventional arms of all kinds in countries and regions experiencing armed conflicts in order to work to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons.

Therefore, it is necessary to:

- Strengthening serious cooperation in implementing decisions to impose an arms embargo on countries and groups that violate human rights

- States must acknowledge the dangers inherent in the increasing proliferation of small arms and light weapons, even if possessing them is a constitutional right, as it threatens the most important human right, which is the right to life

- Illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, their parts, components and ammunition must be curbed for the sake of fair justice, responsibility and human security

- All small arms and light weapons control initiatives should be implemented with due attention to their potential impacts on children's rights and vice versa

- Establishing controls at all land and sea border crossings to prevent the smuggling of these weapons

- Conducting awareness campaigns through the media directed at citizens to encourage them to get rid of the weapons they have, while explaining the dangers of having such
weapons within reach of civilians, especially young people who often become victims as a result of their wrong use.