

**Statement by Ms. DaHee Song**

**First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN  
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 (BMS8)**

**Agenda Item 6 (Substantial Agenda A)**

**June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, New York**

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**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 level, the regional level, and the global level**

Mr. Chair,

I would like to first extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election as Chair, as well as express my appreciation to your team and the Secretariat for convening this important meeting.

Mr. Chair,

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons and better regulate the arms trade to reduce human suffering, especially for the most vulnerable. The lack of adequate control of firearms, most of which were introduced in impacted communities during conflicts, severely hinders post-conflict reconstruction. Furthermore, the issue of illicit trade of SALW is interconnected with a variety of other areas, including international peace and security, terrorism, domestic and transnational organized crime, drugs, women and children's affairs, and socioeconomic development.

My delegation believes that states should bear the primary responsibility to prevent the illicit manufacture, diversion, and conversion of SALW. In line with the notion that effective control over the illicit international transfer of SALW contributes to regional peace and stability, the Korean Government has joined global efforts to address the issue of SALW, including supporting relevant General Assembly resolutions and submitting a national report.

Internally, the Korean Government has established and strengthened a strict

export control system to prevent the illicit transfer of SALW. More specifically, we have established marking, record-keeping, and tracing systems. My Government has also enforced *the act on the safety management of guns, swords, explosives, etc.* to manage at each stage of the life cycle of SALW, including manufacturing, importing, and exporting, before and during transfer, post-delivery storage in stockpiles, and end-use or disposal.

Effective legal instruments and regulations, including certified manufacture and trade safe firearms management, are key factors to ensure safe firearms management. As one of the original signatory states and a State Party to the Arms Trade Treaty, the Republic of Korea believes its full and effective implementation will be a powerful tool against the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chair,

The uncontrolled inflow of weapons undermines reconciliation efforts and he peacebuilding processes, which are essential to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Armed conflicts have devastated infrastructure, national economies, and public institutions. As a result, people from destabilized societies threatened by arms have been exposed to human insecurity.

As an ardent supporter of the SDGs, my Government has set specific goals for their implementation by 2030. In particular, SDG Indicator 16.4 and the prevention of terrorism and crimes caused by illegal arms trading have been established as priority tasks.

Lastly, the illicit transfer and misuse of SALW have had a catastrophic humanitarian impact on civilians, especially women and children. In light of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325, my Government agrees with the need to discuss the Women, Peace, and Security agenda for the full and effective implementation of the PoA.

I thank you, Mr. Chair. /END/