15 May 2020

Excellency,

I write to inform you that on 14 May 2020, the General Assembly adopted decision A/74/L.62 on the Seventh 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 (BMS7), which was scheduled for 15 to 19 June 2020.

In light of the situation concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly postponed BMS7 to a period in 2021 to be decided by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

I will continue to follow the current developments on the pandemic and will assess, in consultations with the Secretariat the appropriate period to hold informal consultations on the way forward. Otherwise as earlier indicated, all written views and proposals can be submitted directly to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org.

Please note that although BMS7 has been postponed, States are still encouraged to submit their national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. To date, 38 States have submitted their reports to the Secretariat. The extended deadline of submission, which has been communicated to all States through a Note Verbale, is 31 May 2020. The online reporting tool can be accessed through the BMS7 web portal (www.un.org/disarmament/bms7).

I avail of this opportunity to express my solidarity with all Member States who are fighting COVID-19.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Lazarus O. Amayo
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

To: All Permanent Representatives &
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
NEW YORK