Submission of India
on the
Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects
(A/RES/74/60)

India attaches high importance to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. India’s national security has been adversely affected by terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and piracy, in all of which, illicit trade in SALW plays a pernicious role. The continued full and effective implementation of the PoA is, therefore, a priority for India, especially as a means for combating terrorism and transnational crime.

2. India has a robust legislative and administrative mechanism to combat and eradicate the menace of illicit SALW, the details of which may be seen in India’s National Reports on UNPoA submitted regularly. India is also party to all the thirteen counter-terrorism conventions and has ratified the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime as well its Protocol on Firearms.

3. India has always maintained strict export controls over all munitions and related items including SALW. India had joined the Wassenaar Arrangement in December 2017 and it regularly updates its export control list (SCOMET List), including on munitions and related items, to harmonise it with Wassenaar Arrangement control list. India does not hold any surplus conventional ammunition and effective management of existing operational stocks are ensured.

4. Towards our continued commitment to prevent and combat the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons, the existing domestic legislation on arms and ammunition has been further strengthened in terms of monitoring, control and punitive actions through “The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019” enacted on 13 December 2019. The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019, strengthens control on manufacturing and export of arms and ammunition including illegal trafficking. It also lays down provisions for stamping of arms and ammunition for tracing and tracking towards the investigation of any illicit trafficking including maintenance of records by all concerned agencies pertaining to manufacture, sale, purchase and export of arms and ammunition. A comprehensive electronic data base is under development, which will facilitate accounting and greater visibility of all types of ammunition and weapons.
Provision for laser etching of weapons, to ensure indelible marking, is also under consideration.

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