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**Statement by
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Delegate of
the Republic of Indonesia
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

Thematic Debate: Conventional Weapons

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

NAM reaffirms the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms for their self-defense and security needs. We express our concern about unilateral coercive measures and emphasize that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

We recognize the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialized and the Non-Aligned Countries, and call for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by the industrialized states with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

NAM remains deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. We recognize the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms. We call on all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments, and to implement legal restrictions preventing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. We encourage all initiatives by States to mobilize resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.

NAM emphasizes the importance of early and full implementation of the PoA, and in this regard, stresses that international assistance and cooperation are essential aspects in the full implementation of the PoA. We express our disappointment at the inability of the UN Conference to Review the Progress made in the Implementation of the PoA to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects, held in New York, from 26 June to 7 July 2006, to agree on a final document. We note the third Biannual Meeting of the States (BMS) held in New York, from 14 to 18 July 2008, which considered the national, regional and global implementation of the PoA. We reaffirm the total validity of the PoA and encourage Member States to coordinate efforts in the UN with a view to reaching agreement on a follow-up to the PoA in order to ensure its full implementation.

We call for the full implementation of the international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner the illicit small arms and light weapons, which was adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM continues to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law, of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorizing innocent civilians, denying them access to farmland, causing famine and forcing them to flee their homes eventually leading to de-population and preventing the return of civilians to their place of original residence. We call upon all States in the position to do so, to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations, the social and economic rehabilitation of victims as well as to ensure full access of affected countries to material equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance.

NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction invite those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention.

NAM States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols encourage States to become parties to the Convention and its additional Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War.

We recognize the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions, and stress the Movement's principled position on the central role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and arms control. We take note of the continued consideration of the issue of cluster munitions in the context of the CCW. We also take note of the Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions, held in Dublin, 19-30 May 2008.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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