TO: UNODA/ Disarmament/ Programme of Action on SALW
And Permanent Representatives of the MGE2 Member States

Excellency,

I would like to express my appreciation for the well-attended open, informal consultations on the Second Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which were held on Thursday, 2 April 2015. Our gathering provided me with further valuable and constructive insights on Member States’ perspectives on the possible agenda and other substantive and organizational aspects of MGE2, which is scheduled to take place from 1-5 June 2015.

I would like to thank all delegations for their constructiveness and flexibility on this issue at our most recent informal consultations, which has allowed for several key issues to be clarified. On the basis of what I have heard at the informal consultations, I have made revisions to the provisional MGE2 agenda and programme of work which I attach herewith. In this regard, I find that there is no need to hold another round of informal consultations later this month.

Instead, I would like to invite you to the next informal consultations on MGE2 which will be held in New York on Thursday, 28 May 2015 at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 1. In line with standing practice, this informal meeting will be conducted in English.

*Provisional agenda of MGE2*

I have continued to hear strong support for the recommended items for the MGE2 agenda contained in the consensus outcome document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS5) and subsequently affirmed in GA Resolution 69/51:

a) The implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing;

b) Practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments, including ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technologies;

c) The transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
It is my understanding that Member States can agree to retain these three agenda items in their original formulation, and I have reflected this in my revised provisional agenda. Furthermore, I believe that all three agenda items address aspects of international cooperation and assistance and that, as such, international cooperation and assistance is well reflected in the proposed provisional agenda for MGE2.

In the previous version of the provisional agenda, I proposed the inclusion of the additional agenda item “Additional issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument” on the basis of views expressed at earlier informal consultations. Due to the wide expressed in this agenda item, it is retained in my revised version of the provisional agenda.

**Briefings by experts from industry and research organizations; briefings by Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives**

As previously highlighted, Member States are encouraged, at their own discretion, to also include industry representatives within their own delegations, thus possibly allowing industry expertise to be shared at relevant agenda points. As you will see in the provisional programme of work, I would like to propose that each session begins with technical presentations offered by experts, and in order to have a comprehensive regional representation I would encourage interested Member States to consider providing candidates for Chair’s designate consideration to enable us starting these discussions.

As announced earlier, also written technical contributions from relevant industry and research institutes, including within the context of working papers, are encouraged, as I continue to believe such technical information would be valuable to our discussions at MGE2 and will enrich the outcome.

Regarding briefings by civil society representatives, my conclusion from our consultations is that we may invite CSOs to provide statements during one dedicated time slot of MGE2, as is the standing practice with other meetings under the Programme of Action.

**Informal discussion papers from the Chair-designate**

It is my understanding that at MGE1, the Chair tabled, ahead of the meeting, short, informal discussions papers under each agenda item, which aimed to provide some questions to encourage interactive discussions at the MGE. I have heard from delegations that they found such discussion papers useful. I will be happy to do the same at MGE2 and plan to distribute discussion papers in advance of our June meeting.

I thank you for your continued active and constructive engagement in the MGE2 process. I look forward to seeing you or your representative at the informal consultations in May.

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

Vlad LUPAN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations
Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts
under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat
and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms
and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 1-5 June 2015

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement of the Chair.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Introduction to the issue.
6. Consideration of the implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing.
7. Consideration of practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments, including ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technologies.
8. Consideration of the transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
9. Additional issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting.
Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts
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and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms
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Provisional programme of work

Monday, 1 June

10-11 a.m.
Opening of the meeting by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Election of the Chair

Statement by the Chair

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Election of other officers of the meeting

Briefing on the Secretary-General’s report on recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology,
A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/1

11.00-1 p.m.
Consideration of the implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing (session to begin with technical expert presentations offered by delegations)

3-6 p.m.
Consideration of the implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing (continued)
Tuesday, 2 June

10-11.30 a.m. Consideration of the implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing (continued)

11.30 a.m.-1 p.m. Consideration of practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments, including ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technologies (session to begin with technical expert presentations offered by delegations)

3-5 p.m. Consideration of practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments, including ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technologies (continued)

5-6 p.m. Statements by international and regional organizations, followed by civil society representatives

Wednesday, 3 June

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Consideration of the transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (session to begin with technical expert presentations offered by delegations)

3-6 p.m. Consideration of the transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (continued)

Thursday, 4 June

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Consideration of the transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (continued)
3-6 p.m. Consideration of the transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (continued)

Friday, 5 June

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Additional issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

3-6 p.m. Consideration and adoption of the procedural report of the meeting