

Report of the Republic of Moldova on implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

(This report does not provide information on implementation of the UN SALW PofA in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, currently controlled by a separatist anti-constitutional entity and where the Russian Federation's troops and ammunitions are still deployed in the above-mentioned region, without the consent of the Government of the Republic of Moldova)

A) NATIONAL LEVEL

1. NATIONAL COORDINATION AGENCY

i) Does your country have a national coordination agency or body that is responsible for policy guidance, research and monitoring of efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects?(II.4)

In 2006 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior started the process of establishing the "National Commission for the implementation and monitoring process of activities and engagements of the Republic of Moldova in the field of arms control and disarmament". Presently all necessary documents for this Coordination Agency have been elaborated. The Ministry of Interior, in accordance with national legislation, started to seek advice from relevant state institutions in this regard. After this procedure and through consideration of all relevant proposals regarding the statutory papers of the commission, documents will be sent to the Government for approval. At the moment its tasks are implemented jointly by the relevant departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Economy and Trade.

2. NATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT

i) Does your country have a national point of contact to act as liaison with other States on matters relating to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action? (II.5)

The National Point of Contact for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Department for Multilateral Cooperation, Division for NATO and Political-Military Cooperation (Tel. + 373 22 578-248, 578-236 email. dnato@mfa.md)

3. LEGISLATION, REGULATION, ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Since gaining its independence in 1991, the Republic of Moldova has developed an extensive legislative and regulatory framework governing SALW control. This framework can be divided into legislation that governs internal SALW controls (the production, trade and use of firearms by civilian and state actors within the Republic of Moldova) and transfer controls (legislation that governs the transfer of military and civilian SALW into and out of Moldova). However, since the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova is not yet under the control of the Moldovan Government, this framework cannot be applied there.

The following laws and regulations govern civilian possession and internal civilian trade in SALW in the Republic of Moldova:

Law on Individual Arms adopted on the 18 of May 1994 and by the Governmental Decision adopted on the 18 of January 1995 “**on the measures for implementing the**

Law of the Republic of Moldova nr. 110-XIII from the 18 of May 1994”, the present legislation grants the private property right on arms of small calibre and ammunition to physical person that have reached the age of 18 years old, that do not have medical limitations in handling arms, have not committed criminal offences or whose criminal record was extinguished in the established way and reside on the territory of the country.

Governmental Decision No. 44 (18 January 1995) on “**The Regulations on Selling, Procuring, Stocking, Carrying, Using and Transporting Individual Arms and their Ammunition**”, which details the mechanisms for implementing the Law on Individual Arms,

Government Decision No. 1173 (19 December 1997) on the “**List of Individual Weapon and Ammunition Models to be Entered into the State Weapons Inventory**” adopts the State Arms Inventory, which defines the firearms that can be traded in the Republic of Moldova,

Government Decision No. 126 (15 February 2000) on “**Approving the List of Weapons and Ammunition that can be Sold to Individuals and Legal Entities**”, stipulates which arms can be entered in the State Arms Inventory and hence traded in Moldova.

Government Decision No. 465 (16 May 2000) on “**The Approval of the Republican Commission for Evaluation, Price Estimation and Scrapping of Personal Firearms**”,

Government Decision No. 1635 (December 2002) on “**The Registration Regulations**”. Department of Standards, Metrology and Technical Auditing Decision No. 647-STM (04 November 1999) on “**The Provisions for the Technical Checking of Individual Arms**”,

The “**Law on Private Activity as Detectives and Guards**” (Law No. 283-XV, dated 04 July 2003),

The “**Law on the Control of Export, Re-export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods**”, (No 1163-XIV of 26 July 2000), which outlines the system for controlling transfers of strategic goods,

The “**Law on the Licensing of Some Types of Activity**” (No. 451-XV of 30 July 2001), which regulates activities which are subject to licensing,

Government Decision No. 606 “**About the National System of Export, Re-export, Import and Transit Control of Strategic Goods in the Republic of Moldova**” (15 May 2002), which implemented the Law 1163-XIV and introduces three supporting documents:

“**Regulation of the Interdepartmental Committee for Control of Export, Re-Export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods**”, which defines both the role of the committee and its decision-making mechanism “**Regulation on the Control Regime of Export, Re-export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods**”, which details the rules and principles governing the licensing process; “**Control List of Strategic Goods**”.

In 2006 a new draft of a law on “arms, munitions, materials and explosive substances regimes” has been developed by the Ministry of Interior and national relevant institutions. This project already passed all necessary internal procedures. It is expected that in the nearest future, the draft will be sent to the Government and Parliament for approval.

i) What national laws, regulations and administrative procedures exist to exercise effective control over SALW in the following areas? (II.2)

Production:

In the Republic of Moldova there is no manufacture of arms, ammunition or other military goods. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova contains provisions for sanctioning illegal possession, manufacture and trades of arms, explosive substances and ammunitions, the criminal liability for committing such offences: deprivation of liberty up to 10 years.

Export controls

In the Republic of Moldova the import and export of military equipment, armaments and other military-technical equipment is regulated, chiefly, by two documents - The 2000 "*Law on the Control of Export, Re-export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods*" (No.1163-XIV of 26 July 2000) and the 2002 Governmental Decision No. 606 "*About the National System of Export, Re-export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods in the Republic of Moldova*" (No.606 of 15 May 2000), which includes the *Control List of strategic goods*. On the other hand, the civilian possession of fire arms and ammunition is regulated in Moldova by the 1995 "*Law on Individual Arms*" (No.110-XIII of 18 May) that is currently redrafted, and two Government Decisions (of 18 January 1995 and, respectively, No.126/2000).

These documents define the principles and procedures in use at the national level for controlling the export, re-export, import of strategic goods. Consequently, the national control system for strategic goods incorporates, *inter alia*, the following principles: *Compliance with the basic guidelines of the Moldovan foreign policy; protection of national security interests; fulfillment of international commitments with regard to strategic goods used for military purposes; fulfillment of international commitments to which Moldova is a party; verification of end-use of strategic goods and participation in international cooperation aimed at controlling the export of strategic goods.*

The main objective of the Moldovan arms control system is to prevent exports of arms that might be misused in interstate or internal conflicts or for human rights violations, as well as exports that might result in undesirable spreading or unauthorized re-exports of arms, including SALW.

The arms control system involves a two-tier licensing process whereby an arms exporter must apply for a license to trade and then for authorization to export a specific consignment. The *Division on Dual-use Goods Trade Control* at the Ministry of Economy and Trade is the licensing authority responsible for issuing licenses for the export, import and transit of strategic goods in the case of both state to state and commercial transaction and for issuing delivery verification certificates. This Division works in conjunction with the *Interdepartmental Control Commission on Export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods*. The Interdepartmental Commission is entitled, among others, to suspend the issued authorizations in those cases where authorization holders violate the existing legal provisions in a specific area or infringe upon provisions, which derive from international agreements and from national policy with regard to the control movements of strategic goods. All licence applications are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking strictly into account the above mentioned principles.

4. LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINALIZATION

i) What national legislation or other measures exist to make the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of SALW criminal offences under domestic law? How have these measures been implemented? (II.3)

In the Republic of Moldova, any kind of illegal circulation of guns carries administrative liability up to ten years. National legislation regulating the use and possession of SALW include *Law on arms adopted on the 18 of May 1994 and by the Governmental Decision adopted on the 18 of January 1995 “on the measures for implementing the Law of the Republic of Moldova nr. 110-XIII from the 18 of May 1994”, the “Law on the Control of Export, Re-export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods”, (No 1163-XIV of 26 July 2000)*, which outlines the system for controlling transfers of strategic goods.

Moldovan laws, regulations and procedures related to the ownership, use, trade and transfer of SALW are published in the ‘Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova’ (*Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova*). The offenders are punished by imprisonment or fined.

ii) What national measures have been taken, including legal sanction or administrative mean, against activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations? (II.15)

In regard to the implementation of arms embargoes or other sanctions regimes imposed by the UN Security Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration regularly informs all competent Moldovan authorities on the provisions and requirements of the relevant resolutions with a view to ensure full compliance. As emphasized above, the main objective of the Moldovan arms control system is to prevent exports of arms that might be misused in interstate or internal conflicts or for human rights violations. The same is true when it comes to the implementation of arms embargoes or other sanctions regimes imposed by the UN Security Council. In particular, there is currently in use a specific list of undesired destinations that are subject to sanctions by the Security Council, developed and reviewed, on a regular basis, by the Moldovan Government.

5. STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

i) What national standards and procedures exist for the management and security of SALW stocks held by armed forces, police or other authorised bodies? (II.17) How often this stocks are reviewed? (II.18)

Weapons and ammunition belonging to Moldovan Armed Forces and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are stored and kept in accordance with Regulations and instructions in place. *Inter alia*, the following requirements and regulations must be taking into account while planning locations for storage facilities:

- *the ground conditions must be proven to be geographically stable (maximum angle varies within 2-3 degrees) and the surface must be such that the facility is accessible all the times and during all weather conditions,*
- *the location must have a natural camouflage preventing storages from air and ground observation and providing appropriate ventilation from any direction,*
- *the location must be away from areas susceptible to flooding and factories eliminating gases and steams into atmosphere that can harmfully affect arms and ammunition stockpiles and therefore reducing their lifetime,*
- *located close enough to roads and sources of water and electricity,*
- *the locations planned for storage facilities that would contain artillery ammunitions must be located 10-15 km. away from populated areas.*

The transfer of weapons constituted the States property for the purpose of possession and use by the Ministry of Defence, the National Security Service, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and by other official organisations is established by the Government. The operational orders define the inventory control as well as requirements for proper and secure storage of weapons and ammunitions in the National Army, Minister of Interior and National Security Service.

Inventory control is based on specific procedures and aims to ensure accountability. Although automated system is used at certain degree, the inventory control in the National Army is mostly done manually. To

ensure accountability and tracing records of the weapons are kept specifying the type of weapon, its serial number and its category. The Rocket and Artillery Armament Section (RAAS) of the General Staff is in charge of inventory control and manages the information on holdings, stocktaking and transfer of weapons and ammunition in the National Army. The data can be kept at the RAAS for the period of 5 years before being transferred to the military archive. The inventory control periodicity is determined by the chief of RAAS in annual plans and approved by the Chief of General Staff.

6. COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

i) Please give details of any national programs that have been established and implemented for the responsible disposal of surplus stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorised bodies? (II.18)

With the exception of the territory under the control of the separatist entity, Moldova does not have any significant stockpiles of SALW.

It is the stocks of surplus SALW and ammunition held by the separatist armed structures and by the Russian Federation's troops that are still deployed in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, without the consent of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, that are of most concern.

ii) What methods/means are used to dispose of such stocks? (II.18,19)

The destruction procedures for surplus stocks will be the same as the ones implemented on the voluntary surrendered and confiscated ones.

iii) What national measures exist to safeguard such stocks prior to their disposal? (II.18)

The same Regulations apply as does to all stocks of arms and military equipment. This includes regulations on the maintenance of safety measures, fire prevention and environmental standards.

iv) Subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph II.16 of the UN PoA (legal restraints associated with the preparation of criminal prosecutions), are all confiscated, seized or collected SALW destroyed? (II.16)

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is the main national institution involved in the coordination and managing the activity of SALW retrieved from civilians. During the year 2006, at 57108 owners of self-defence weapons, 90268 verifications were performed. Accordingly, 8237 owners were brought to administrative responsibility. Five special campaigns "Arsenal" were performed by the police authorities aimed at detection and sanctioning of breaches of legislation on arms. As a result of undertaken activities, territorial subdivisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs have confiscated 5044 units of fire weapons, 8437 units of different ammo, 92 grenades and mines, in 120 cases explosive materials were confiscated and 201 units of fire weapons in illegal possession.

Among them:

- 5044 arms were confiscated on temporary basis due to the owners' failure to respect the regime of storage of weapons, after they were brought to administrative responsibility and liquidated the invoked breaches the arms were returned to them ;
- 95 units of arms were given up voluntary;
- 78 units of arms were found without owners;
- 96 units represent *corpus delicti*;
- 184 units are sequestered and confiscated arms.

Seven cases of arms with structural modification were detected. These 7 units were taken out from use and transmitted for destruction.

In 12 cases of arms confiscation, to their owners criminal procedures were instituted.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs in cooperation with National Centre for Approval Guns and Ammunition performed a technical check up of arms in a number of districts of the country and 1162 units of arms were withdrawn from circulation as unusable.

Also, the Ministry of Internal Affairs assisted by the South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) in the first semester of 2007 will destroy (smelt) an additional lot of confiscated weapons.

Within 2006, 1875 self-defence weapon pieces were imported as follows: 1041 from Russian Federation, 261 Czech Republic, 142 Austria, 187 Germany, 236 Ukraine and 8 Italy.

7. EXPORT CONTROLS

See Section A3 on legislation, regulations and administrative procedures.

8. BROKERING

i) What national or administrative procedures exist to regulate the activities of those who engage in SALW brokering within national jurisdiction and control? (II.14)

There are no arms brokers based in the Republic of Moldova. Presently there is no law regulating the questions of brokering and there are no specific controls on brokering.

9. MARKING, RECORD KEEPING AND TRACING

i) Does your country require licensed manufactures of SALW to apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each weapon as an integral part of the production process and does this marking identify the country of manufacture? (II.7)

There are no factories of arms, ammunition and other military goods production on territory under the control of the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

10. DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)

i) Please describe any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes your country has developed and implemented, including the effective collection, control, storage and destruction of SALW. (II.21)

Since the last reporting there has been no DDR programmes in the country. None the less in 2006 the Ministry of Interior elaborated the project of a new Governmental decision "Regarding some additional measures of control and evidence of firearms circulation illegally retained by the citizens". In accordance with this document, the campaign begins in the second semester of 2007, after the approval by the Government (the result of this action will be reflected in the report for 2007). Present initiative also makes references to the country citizens with the permanent residence in the transnistrian region of Moldova.

Moldovan Government and international community undertakes all possible legal measures to resolve the political conflict, no solution has been yet achieved. The existence of negative phenomenon on the left bank of the Nistru river – transfer, production and illegal trafficking of arms, inclusive conventional, existence of big stockpiles, belonging to the separatist regime and Russian Federation troops (stationed on the national territory by violating the international law principles) do not aloud the Government of the Republic of Moldova to develop and implement any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes in the transnistrian region of Moldova, including the effective collection, control, storage and destruction of SALW.

ii) Please describe how your country has addressed the special needs of children affected by armed conflict, in particular the reunification with their family, their reintegration into civil society, and their appropriate rehabilitation. (II.22)

No special programs were developed.

iii) Please describe any DDR programmes or activities that your country has supported. (II.30, 34)

None

11. AWARENESS-RAISING

i) Please describe any public awareness and confidence-building programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed and implemented? (including the public destruction of surplus weapon and voluntary surrender of SALW) (II.20)

Moldova has conducted publicity campaigns to raise the awareness against SALW proliferation, working through the mass media and in public meetings between the police and public to discourage the illegal manufacture, possession or trade in SALW. All normative acts in the field of arms control are published in the Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, thus allowing all citizens to get familiarized with the legal requirements in force.

B) REGIONAL LEVEL

1. MORATORIA AND ACTION PROGRAMMES

i) Please give details of any support your country has given moratoria or similar initiatives on the transfer and manufacture of SALW, and/or regional action programmes to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects (including cooperation with States concerned in the implementation on these initiative) (II.26)

The Republic of Moldova supports and attends meetings of the Regional Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Southeast Europe (SEESAC). The establishment of the Clearinghouse is the realisation of the Stability Pact Implementation Plan on Combating the Proliferation of SALW, formulated and adopted by the Stability Pact countries in November 2001. The Stability Pact Implementation Plan provides a framework of approaches and measures to tackle SALW issues that can be adopted by the countries of the region and supported by international organizations and bi-lateral donors.

Also, Moldova is involved in another successful Stability Pact project the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC). This cooperation helps to fulfil the objective of building confidence and security in SEE region.

2. REGIONAL COOPERATION

Being a part of the South East Europe, the Republic of Moldova has agreed to tackle the proliferation of SALW throughout the region under the umbrella of an array of international agreements sponsored by the EU, NATO EAPC, OSCE and the UN. Moldova fully supports UN, OSCE, EU and NATO initiatives to restrict the uncontrolled manufacture, accumulation and spread of SALW.

C. GLOBAL LEVEL

1. INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AGAINST TERRORISM AND CRIME

i) What existing international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organised crime has your country ratified or acceded to? (II.38)

The Republic of Moldova opposes and condemns the terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supports the multilateral efforts aimed at strengthening the international anti-terrorist legal. Moldova is a State-Party to all international treaties in the field of terrorism fighting adopted at the global level:

- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 1988 (The Law of the Republic of Moldova nr. 192 – XVI of 28 July 2005);
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, Rome, 1988 (The Law of the Republic of Moldova nr.193 – XVI of 28 July 2005);
- Convention for the Suppressions of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988) and to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Self (1992)
- UN Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970)
- UN Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts committed on Board Aircraft (1963)
- UN Convention for the Suppression on Unlawful Acts against the safety of civil aviation (1971)
- UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents (1973)
- Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979)
- Convention on the Physical protection of the Nuclear Material (1980)
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports serving international civil aviation (1988)
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988)
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1992)

- Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (1991)
- Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing (1997)
- Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999) entered into force on 10 April 2002.

Also, Moldova ratified the UN Firearms Protocol to the 2001 UN Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime and has agreed to be bound by a number of European antiterrorist legal instruments, as follows:

Relevant Council of Europe Conventions	Signed	Ratified
European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (ETS 90)	4/5/1998	23/9/1999
Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (ETS 190)	15/5/2003	10/3/2005
European Convention on Extradition (ETS 24)	2/5/1996	2/10/1997
Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (ETS 86)	26/6/1998	27/6/2001
Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (ETS 98)	26/6/1998	27/6/2001
European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ETS 30)	2/5/1996	4/2/1998
Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ETS 99)	26/6/1998	27/6/2001
Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (ETS 141)	6/5/1997	30/5/2002

The Republic of Moldova has demonstrated its political will to combat the terrorist activities through concerted efforts with other countries in the framework of various regional organizations, including OSCE, Council of Europe, Black Sea Economic Cooperation GUAM, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and, presently, is part to the following multilateral agreements:

- Agreement of cooperation among the states parties to Black Sea Economic Cooperation regarding fight of criminality, in particular its organized forms (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine), signed on 02.10.1998 and its additional Protocol, signed on 15.03.2002;
- Agreement of cooperation of the CIS countries in fighting terrorism, signed on 04.06.99;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Government of Romania and the Government of Ukraine regarding cooperation in fight against criminality, signed on 06.07.1999;
- Agreement of cooperation of states members of GUUAM in combating terrorism, organized crime and other types of grave delinquencies, signed on 20.07.2002.

2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

i) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance mutual legal assistance and other forms of cooperation in order to assist investigations and prosecutions in relation to the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects? (III.13)

Moldova does not have any specific bilateral agreements with other states specifically tailored for this purpose. This specific issue is regulated by international treaties on mutual customs assistance. Also, Moldova participates in several regional initiatives dealing with issues of cross-border illicit trafficking and organized crime. These initiatives include Interpol, the South Eastern Europe Co-operative Initiative (SECI) Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime, the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization (BSEC) and the Central European Initiative (CEI).

The Republic of Moldova supported the initiatives undertaken at the regional level aimed at establishing several mechanisms to better tackle cross-border crime in South Eastern Europe. These included: nominating specialists to negotiate agreements for the prevention and combating of cross-border criminality; creating a Regional Information Link Office (RILO), designed to maintain permanent operational contacts with the SECI Centre; and, agreeing the detachment by the Customs Department of a liaison officer to the SECI Regional Centre in Bucharest. In addition, Moldova has been an active participant in the SECI Centre's operation 'Ploughshares' (2003), and the ongoing operation 'Safe Place', in which states exchange information about SALW trafficking.

ii) Please give details of your country cooperation with Interpol for the purpose of identifying those criminal groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects? (II.37)

The Republic of Moldova is a state member of the INTERPOL. The Moldovan Office of Interpol provides assistance to the Ministry of Internal Affairs aimed at countering international organised crime and identifying individuals involved in illicit trade and arms smuggling. However, this relationship cannot be fully exploited because the Ministry of Internal Affairs does not have adequate systems for conducting effective and timely information exchanges between the INTERPOL Office and other departments. Cooperation and information exchange with regional and international organisations is however much improved in comparison with previous years, with regular submissions now being made to organisations such as the UN, OSCE and INTERPOL.

iii) Please describe any steps your country has taken in cooperation with other States, or regional or international organizations, to develop common understandings of the basic issues and scope of problems related to illicit brokering in SALW? (II.39)

The Republic of Moldova supported the General Assembly Resolutions 59/86 and 60/81 aimed at establishing a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on brokering, which should be convened as soon as possible after the UN SALW Review Conference. Moldova associated itself with the EU common position on brokering and encouraged the GGE to make full use of its mandate to "consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering" in SALW. Also in 2006, Moldova voted in the favour of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) UNGA resolution among over 152 states and will participate in the elaboration process of the treaty and signing.

3. TRAINING, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND RESEARCH

i) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to enhance cooperation and exchange of experience and training among competent officials, including customs, police,

intelligence and arms control officials, at the national, regional and global levels in order to combat the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. (II.39)

The Moldovan Government have long advocated international and regional co-operation to strengthen border controls, advocating various measures such as the placement of international monitors along the borders. After one year of success, on the 5 of February 2007, Moldovan authorities requested to extend for the next 24 months the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). It is hoped that, with the EUBAM's help, the order and control on state border with Ukraine on the Moldovan side, controlled by the Transnistrian separatist entity, which made it highly vulnerable for illegal crossing of people, goods and illicit trafficking of arms, in particular SALW, will be restored eventually and the illicit trafficking of people, goods and arms, including SALW will be stopped. This process is a common investment in the regional security and our future environment.

Chisinau, 30 April 2007