REFERENCE: ODA/25-2016/SALW

The Office for Disarmament Affairs presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution 70/49 entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects” adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2015.

In this context, reference is also made to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

By operative paragraph 14 of resolution 70/49, the General Assembly:

“Encourages States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action, notes that States will submit national reports on their implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument), encourages those States in a position to do so to use the reporting template made available by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, and reaffirms the utility of synchronizing such reports with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means of increasing the submission rate and improving the utility of reports, as well as contributing substantively to meeting discussions;”

The Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to receive the above-referenced national reports on implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action through www.un-arm.org/smallarms/reporting/. Submissions are kindly requested by 31 March 2016.¹

The countries’ unique user account name and password to log in the website can be requested by their Permanent Missions or national point of contact on small arms, through conventionalarms-unoda@un.org.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs also recalls that at the informal consultations on the upcoming Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6, 6 – 10 June 2016), the standing practice was informally reaffirmed that the BMS6 will not include a “General Debate” session and, therefore, States may wish to use their national reports to convey their general views on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument.

¹ If the secure Web-based filing of reports poses technical difficulties to a Government’s national point of contact, please contact the Secretariat at: conventionalarms-unoda@un.org.
The Office for Disarmament Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations for their support and to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

8 February 2016

T. C. H.