Sixth Biennial Meeting of States
to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action
to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade
in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Closing Remarks

Mr. KIM Won-soo

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

10 June 2016, New York
Mr Chairman Ambassador Rattray,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you come to the close of five days of intensive and extensive deliberations under the BMS6, I come here to commend you all for achieving a successful outcome. I wish to congratulate each and every delegation for the efforts that have led to the adoption of the outcome document.

You have dealt with many issues of great importance. Your efforts will step up the implementation of the UN Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument. I know it has not been easy to satisfy the wishes and needs of every Member State, but compromises have been made. I salute all delegates for displaying the very nature of multilateral diplomacy. The give-and-take that you have accomplished constitutes the strength of these instruments.

BMS6 has charted the way on a number of important issues which include, among others: how Member States should deal with the technological developments and how the UN programme of Action and the ITI can contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. You have also examined the best ways and means of implementing the UN Programme of Action alongside other binding obligations. I note that even where there has been no consensus, such as on the question of the inclusion of ammunition, you have had a robust and healthy exchange of views. I am sure such exchanges will pave the way to the Review Conference in 2018.

You have also agreed on a number of assignments which we at the Secretariat should undertake. I wish to assure you of our commitment and diligence in discharging these mandates.

Last but not least, BMS6 has witnessed the enthusiastic attendance of representatives of international, regional, sub-regional organisations and civil society. All of you have made important contributions to this process through your interventions in plenary meetings or through the side-events. I salute you all.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

Let me close by thanking once again all delegations and in particular you the chairman, for your outstanding leadership, patience and persistence, as well as your team and the members of the secretariat for the dedication and long hours of work. I have been a personal witness to these efforts. I have seen you Mr Chairman together with the bureau and secretariat spend so much time late at night for the last several days at the ODA meeting room on the 31st floor. BMS6 has been, by all measures, a major success thanks to your efforts and investments.

I thank you all and wish those delegations that come from afar, a safe journey home.