

Position Paper for the General Assembly First Committee

The topics before the General Assembly First Committee are: the Illicit Trade in Small and Light Weapons in Africa and Measures to Prevent and Deter Cyberwarfare.

I. Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa

The Republic of Albania recognizes the African Union (AU) as a key organization in the resolution of the problem concerning illicit trade and manufacturing of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). We consider the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position and its development in the AU Strategy, as well as the Kinshasa Convention, effective instruments in the fight against the illegal traffic of SALW. Albania is aware of the negative impact that the unregulated and illicit trade of weapons has not only on states, but also on local communities and single citizens. As stated by the United Nations (UN) Security Council Secretary-General's report S/2008/258, "the issue of small arms cannot be addressed with arms control measures only. It is an integral part of a wider spectrum in which conflict, security, armed violence, crime, trade, human rights, health and development intersect." We are conscious that the issue is further worsened by the lack of effective border security and that it is strictly connected to the problem of organized crime. Therefore, we fully endorse and respect the guidelines of the UN Programme of Action, while strongly affirming the necessity of a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty. Albania is also a party of many multilateral agreements concerning the issue in question, such as the Organization for Security and Development in Europe (OSCE) and the Stability Pact with its SALW Regional Implementation Plan. With regard to the problem of SALW illicit manufacturing and trading, in Africa and worldwide, our delegation stresses the importance of a complete traceability of weapons through marking and national databases, the use of standard end-use certificates, the creation of global guidelines to be respected by the international community and the real and complete national implementation of the already-existing protocols and resolutions. We also encourage the cooperation and coordination among states, regional organizations, such as the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) and the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS), as well as numerous non-governmental organizations contributing to the cause. Illegal possession of an excessive number of small arms and explosives by the civil population was common in Albania in the past years. With the help of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), we launched a series of projects called Weapons in Exchange for Development encouraging voluntary surrender of weapons in exchange of development projects. By these projects we were able to collect a significant amount of weapons, but most of all we managed to educate our citizens towards the respect of the law enforcement officials and towards the importance of a culture of peace and non-violence. We encourage the African States to implement similar UNDP projects, while recommending the international community to provide to the states in need more financial and technical assistance in combating illicit trade of SALW, in order to reach all together the Millennium Development Goals.

II. Measures to Prevent and Deter Cyberwarfare

Albania recognizes the growing importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), combined with the strong necessity of adopting corresponding measures of protection from cyberwarfare and cybercrimes. We align with the strategies concerning this issue adopted by the United Nations (UN), the Council of Europe (CoE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the European Union (EU). Albania has also joined the ITU-IMPACT coalition and NATO's Cyber Defense Management Authority. Moreover, we have fully agreed to various resolutions of the General Assembly (GA), such as A/RES/64/211, A/RES/63/37, A/RES/56/121 and A/RES/55/63, which all concern cybersecurity and the enforcement of national laws on this issue, and we are working on implementing our national laws within the framework created by these resolutions. Albania is a member of the Council of Europe and has signed and ratified its Convention on Cybercrime, CETS n.185, and its Additional Protocol Concerning the Criminalization of Acts of Racist and Xenophobic Nature Committed Through Computer Systems, CETS n.189). We strongly encourage all non- Member States to align to this position, since this treaty is today the only legally binding international document on the subject. In order to concretely apply the agreements taken on a multilateral and international level, Albania reformed part of its legislation, introducing in 2008 the Electronic Communications Law based on the 2000-2003 EU Regulatory Framework. Keeping in mind the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, our target is to create a digital Albania by the end of 2012. To achieve this goal, we have more than 100 projects at work that already made the internet system available in all schools and post offices, and are aiming at building an e-Government infrastructure in which all services are digitally available to our citizens. We have become the first country in the world to have 100% e- procurements. We are aware of our growing necessity to protect both our citizens and our own infrastructures from cyberattacks. In order to guarantee it, we have started a one-year cooperation program with an international agency, the 2011 Albanian Cybersecurity Program, focused on the creation of a computer security incident response team, and on implementing guidelines on how to prevent and act in case of cybersecurity incidents. Considering the double implications of this topic on ethics, freedom of speech and thought and politico-military matters, as stated in Article 2 and Article 51 of the UN Charter, Albania deems essential that all states create standardized and compatible laws that can reinforce the international cooperation on cybersecurity in their national legislation. Our delegation also stresses the importance of information-exchange between local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) and Internet Service Providers (ISP) in the fight against cybercriminals, as well as between State Parties. Thus, we further reiterate our effort in the solution of the problem of cybersecurity through international cooperation.