



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY
AT THE 695th MEETING OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

**IN REPLY TO DR. PATRICK MCCARTHY, THE COORDINATOR OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SMALL ARMS CONTROL STANDARDS (ISACS)**

17 October 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

I would also like to welcome Dr. Mc Carthy to the FSC and thank him for his interesting presentation on ISACS. We appreciate this occasion as an added-value in our efforts to implement the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW and to revise Best Practice Guides. On behalf of my Delegation I would also like to thank the Macedonian FSC Chairmanship for arranging this presentation today.

The proliferation of conventional weapons is a cause of serious concern for Turkey. The excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons pose a significant threat to peace and security.

It also affects the social and economic development of many countries and there is a very close and disturbing relationship between the illicit trade in arms and terrorism. Therefore, in the context of fighting against terrorism, Turkey attaches great importance to the prevention and eradication of illicit trade of SALW and elimination of their negative security and safety implications.

We believe that while developing necessary tools and implementing certain practices to prevent and eradicate illicit trade in SALW, our approach should be comprehensive. That is to say, the measures should include the whole series of steps that start with manufacture and ends with seizure and destruction.

Turkey remains committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its Aspects.

We believe that international cooperation and assistance are fundamental to the successful implementation of the POA and other relevant documents and measures.

Turkey also supports the efforts of the international community in the framework of the UN to establish a legally binding regime on arms trade which would cover a wide range of issues also pertaining to proliferation, uncontrolled accumulation and unauthorized use of small arms and light weapons. Hence, a comprehensive set of solutions could be brought to this problem that poses a significant risk and even a threat to human security and safety in the 21st century.

In line with our position we welcome and support all efforts in this field both on global and regional level. We also believe in the importance and contribution of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) in this regard.

Keeping all the reference documents up to date is also another important aspect of the efforts in this field. Therefore we share and support the ideas on enhancing cooperation with other regional organizations including OSCE and the update of OSCE plan of action in the hope that all efforts would increase the level of success in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

In line with our national approach to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation matters, we will continue to contribute to the efforts within the UN, the OSCE and other fora to foster international and regional cooperation and, when necessary, the adoption and implementation of additional norms and rules.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.