



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by

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**Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

at the

United Nations Security Council Open Debate

on

The impact of the diversion and trafficking of arms on peace and security

**22 November 2021
New York**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for organizing this important open debate which provides opportunity to share insights and experiences of different actors on how to address the destabilizing accumulation, illicit transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in fueling and exacerbating armed conflicts. Slovakia associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. We would like to make some additional remarks in national capacity.

Mr. President,

The diversion, illicit trade and unauthorized use of SALW and their ammunition constitute a serious impediment for peace, growth, development, and security in the world. Illicit small arms are fueling armed violence and organized crime, global terrorism and conflicts. They destabilize entire regions, states and their societies, and increase the impact of terrorist attacks.

In this regard, Slovakia welcomes the successful outcome of the 7th Biennial Meeting of States of the UN Programme of Action and the 7th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. We need to further strengthen international cooperation aimed at effective implementation of UN arms embargoes and prevention of the illicit international transfer of SALW to unauthorized recipients.

The collection of small arms and light weapons used in the context of armed conflict, violent crime and drug trafficking and the establishment of their illicit origin are also important steps towards promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, in line with Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President,

Slovakia very much appreciates the role of the UNSCAR in implementation of relevant international instruments on arms regulations and promotion of increased sustainability through more predictable sources of funding. I am pleased to say that Slovakia has made a financial commitment to UNSCAR for 2021.

Mr. President,

We appreciate that the UN Security Council has played an important role in developing initiatives to address the SALW issue. The UN SC needs to continue advancing solutions under a common global approach in this area.

Slovakia welcomes the UN SC role in mandating some peacekeeping missions to deal with the issues of SALW as part of "disarmament, demobilization and reintegration" (DDR) process and support host states in addressing the threat posed by the illicit transfer, accumulation, and misuse of SALW.

Slovakia also welcomes a stronger role of formal and informal subsidiary bodies of the UN SC regarding a formulation of adequate responses to the evolving challenges posed by the unrestricted flows of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. President,

I thank you.