Excellency,

Our first open-ended informal consultations on the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7) 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 (BMS7) held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 were highly constructive and well-attended. Our deliberations gave me valuable insights regarding Member States' perspectives on my initial suggestions for an agenda, possible outcomes and working methods of BMS7.

I took good note of the constructive views expressed by States on suggestions contained in my later dated 6 December 2019, including a broadly held preference for a balanced consideration of the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and a call for thorough preparations ahead of BMS7 through open-ended informal consultations.

Revision of suggested agenda

I would like to reiterate that it is my intention to ensure a balanced proposal in line with your suggestions and our mandates and have therefore revised my initial proposal for an agenda for BMS7 as follows:

A. Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level, including considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

B. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including consideration and adoption of a supplementary annex to the ITI.

C. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building and national target-setting.

D. Decision on agenda of BMS8

E. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

I believe that this revision is in line with past practice, with your suggestions raised during the informal consultations and with the mandates which were previously established for BMS7.

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1 Available at [www.un.org/disarmament/bms7](http://www.un.org/disarmament/bms7)
The revised version also ensures that BMS7 is considering the implementation at the national, regional, and global levels effectively.

Given the particular emphasis on the global level with the consideration and adoption of a supplementary annex to the ITI and on the national level with the national target setting, I would like to propose that we also include a *Panel on regional and subregional arrangements and organizations* as part of our deliberations. Such a panel was already organized at the past two PoA meetings (BMS6, RevCon3) and I believe that including it again would ensure that regional and sub-regional considerations are also given sufficient attention during our deliberations.

**Informal consultation schedule**

Understanding that the proposed agenda is ambitious and provides us with a full programme and with a view to facilitate the scheduling and planning of delegations as we prepare for BMS7, I propose that we organize our informal consultations by themes, reflecting the agenda elements above. This approach would enable us to advance common understanding of these themes ahead of BMS7.

Following the thematic discussions, I propose that we have a dedicated session in late April on the proposed agenda, outcomes and working methods for BMS7, with a view to come to a joint agreement on those issues at the time.

I therefore suggest the following timetable for our next informal consultations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 27 February 2020 New York</td>
<td>Initial exchange on the considerations of 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, at the national level, the regional level, including considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 12 March 2020 New York</td>
<td>Initial exchange on the consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including consideration and adoption of a supplementary annex to the ITI.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 2 April 2020 New York</td>
<td>Initial exchange on the consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building and national target-setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 16 April 2020 Geneva <em>(tentatively)</em></td>
<td>Consultations in Geneva on all suggested agenda items and outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 30 April 2020 New York</td>
<td>Initial exchange on decision on agenda of BMS8; Initial exchange on other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument Exchange on and possible adoption of the agenda for BMS7</td>
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</table>
I encourage delegations to actively participate during those consultations to ensure a productive and constructive exchange, so we can reach a broad consensus on an agenda and on a joint understanding on our way forward ahead of BMS7. As such, Member States should feel free to raise additional issues, when needed, so that I can continue to take into account all relevant views in a timely manner.

Based on our initial exchange, I also intend to hold further informal consultations in May and early June, with the aim to make further progress on key issues before BMS7.

Secretary-General’s report and working papers

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/60, a report by the Secretary-General will be tabled ahead of BMS7 which will include the views of Member States on best practices, lessons learned and new recommendations on preventing and combating the diversion and illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorised recipients and to include them, along with views from the United Nations system, in particular those agencies participating in the small arms coordination mechanism, as well as inputs from INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. A Note Verbale (reference ODA-2020-00057)\(^2\) has been sent to Member States inviting them to submit their views by **29 February 2020**.

I would also like to encourage Member States to consider submitting working papers which would facilitate our considerations under the suggested agenda items. They can be submitted to the Secretariat at **conventionalarms-unoda@un.org**.

I believe that the contents of the SG’s report and working papers submitted by Member States will help in our preparations ahead of BMS7 and our discussions during the Meeting itself.

**Bureau**

As per usual practice under the PoA process, a Bureau will be convened for BMS7 consisting of members from all regional groups. I understand the Secretariat will shortly send a request to regional groups to each nominate amongst themselves two members for the Bureau, except for the Africa Group – the Group from which the Chair-designate has been nominated – to which the request will be made for one Bureau member.

**Next Information consultations**

I would like to invite you to our next round of open, informal consultations on **Thursday, 27 February** from **10am** in the **ECOSOC Chamber**. I would be grateful if you could contribute your government’s views and suggestions during the consultations on the considerations of 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, at the national level, the regional level, including

\(^2\) Available at [www.un.org/disarmament/bms7](http://www.un.org/disarmament/bms7)
considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

Let me stress once again that over the next few months, I will be available for bilateral consultations on any issue that may be of concern to you regarding BMS7, as is my team.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signature]

LAZARUS OMBAI AMAYO
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the
United Nations
NEW YORK