

[agenda item 97 - "General and complete disarmament"]

**Effective international control over the import, export and transfer of conventional arms**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991 entitled "Transparency in armaments", 55/33 U of 20 November 2000 entitled "Transparency in armaments", 56/24 V of 24 December 2001 entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", 60/69 of 8 December 2005 entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology", and 60/82 of 8 December 2005 entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms",

*Recognising* that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Reaffirming* the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Acknowledging* the right of all States to manufacture, import and retain conventional arms for self defence and security needs, and in order to participate in peacekeeping operations,

*Recalling* the obligations of all States to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* our respect for international law including international humanitarian law and in particular the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977,

*Welcoming* and encouraging all initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organisations, regional and sub-regional organisations, non-governmental organisations and civil society to enhance cooperation, improve information exchange and transparency and implement confidence building measures in the field of responsible arms trade,

*Deeply concerned* that the unrestrained sale and transfer of conventional arms greatly increases the potential for conflict, crime, terrorism, and displacement of people,

*Also deeply concerned* of the negative impact that the unrestrained sale and transfer of conventional arms has on peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development,

*Mindful* of the growing support, across all regions, for an international treaty to establish common standards for the global trade in conventional arms,

*Decides* that an effective international instrument establishing high standards of regulation in the international trade of conventional arms would help to prevent, combat and eradicate those sales or transfers of such arms which would be likely to increase crime, conflict and terrorism and displacement of people.

*Requests* the Secretary General to establish a group of governmental experts, within available resources, and on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, commencing no later than 2008, to examine the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to transmit the report of the group of experts to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-third session;

*Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the group of governmental experts with any assistance and services that may be required for the discharge of its tasks;

*Decides* to include in the provisional agenda for its sixty-second session the item entitled “Effective international control over the import, export and transfer of conventional arms”.

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