



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



UN Security Council Open Debate on ‘Small Arms and Light Weapons’ 10 November 2025

Greece’s Statement delivered
by Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos

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Thank you Mr. President.

Your Excellency,

My delegation warmly welcomes your presence in today’s meeting. I want to thank Sierra Leone for convening this important debate, as well as the briefers, Mr. Ebo, Dr. Chambas, Ms. Andriani and Dr. Descardes for their insightful remarks.

Mr. President,

Greece takes note of the alarming key finding of Secretary – General’s report on Small arms and light weapons, that “the diversion, illicit transfer, and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) have continued to lead to violence and acts of crime and terrorism, undermining peace and security at the national, regional and global levels”.

I wish to highlight 3 points.

First, we must uphold the existing instruments aimed to prevent the diversion of SALW. Greece views the “UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small arms and light weapons in All Its Aspects” (PoA), as the universal framework to address this threat posed by illicit SALW.

My country remains committed to its implementation and has undertaken the appropriate actions through annual reporting and provision of additional data on arms transactions. Following the successful outcome of the 4th Review Conference on UN Program of Action on SALW, we are now calling all States to implement the political declaration and action-oriented measures for the period 2024–2030, as agreed during the Conference. We also consider the Arms Trade Treaty as an indispensable tool for curtailing the illicit trade of conventional weapons. We call on all States, to ratify or accede to the Treaty without further delay, and on the Parties to comply with their obligations.

Moreover, we actively supported the establishment of the Global Framework for Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management. After the Preparatory Meeting of States held last June, it is important to work together towards an effective follow-up and review mechanism, ahead of the first Meeting of States, scheduled for 2027.

Second, the diversion of SALW has a strong regional dimension. The Caribbean, the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and, coming to our immediate neighborhood, the Western Balkans, are regions that suffering the most from widespread diversion of illicit SALW.

Greece supports regional instruments, processes and regional cooperation to strengthen border security and export and import licensing systems. We commend the valuable work of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control on SALW. Also, we reiterate our support to the implementation of the Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Roadmap.

In Africa, we fully support the African Union initiative “Silencing the Guns” as an indispensable tool for sharing information, enforcing embargos and building the capacity of affected states to combat illicit arms trafficking.

Third, we must address the impact of modern technologies and Small Arms and Light Weapons. As the Secretary General stated in his report, developments in SALW technology, manufacturing and design present pose both challenges and opportunities to prevent and combat illicit SALW.

In this regard, we hope that the newly established open-ended technical expert group to be established under the Programme of Action on SALW and the International Tracing Instrument, will develop recommendations on SALW's manufacturing, technology and design. In particular, on polymer, and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing. We also call upon the Security Council to consider these technological developments, especially when designing the mandates of peace operations.

Moreover, Mr. President,

We stress the need this Council to address the role of SALW in grave violations against children in its resolutions and deliberations, including through the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which Greece is honoured to chair.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

As an elected member of this Council, Greece will continue to work constructively and inclusively towards strengthening the unity and effectiveness of the Council in ensuring the effective control and management of SALW and thereby to promote peace and security worldwide.

I thank you.