

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The topics that the Republic of Paraguay will present to the General Assembly are the following: (I) Controlling and Limiting the Use and Impacts of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) and (II) Addressing the Rampant Issue of Transnational Crime through Intergovernmental Cooperation. The Republic of Paraguay commits itself in achieving cooperation with the international community, accessing comprehensive solutions that will highlight Combatting the Illicit Trade in SALWs and Eliminating Transnational Crimes.

I. Controlling and Limiting the Use and Impacts of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs)

The use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) have greatly contributed to a number of human rights violations, and often times a factor in a forced displacement of civilians. Through this, the General Assembly has adopted The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (A/RES/70/49) that stressed the importance of the continued implementation of both the PoA SALW and International Tracing Instrument, the former discussed the importance of the submission of National Reports whilst the latter focused on the inventory of monitoring instruments among Member States.

The Republic of Paraguay gives importance towards the control on the flow of SALW, by being one of the first States within the Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR) bloc to establish a SALW control mechanisms. One of these mechanisms is a Joint Registration Mechanism that allow for the extensive monitoring and inventory of materials under SALW, another is the MERCOSUR Security Information System that includes the following: (i) a register of individuals and legal entities to buy, sell, exchange, import, export and distribute firearms; (ii) a register of ports of shipment and importation, including intermediate points; and (iii) national registers of individual and institutional firearms owners. Moreover, Paraguay is currently participating in The Lima Challenge , which aims to assist Member States in disarmament, Paraguay was able to disarm 96 tons of ammunition and explosives whilst improving the security of weapon facilities within its territory.

The Republic of Paraguay urges the international community to see the prime importance of intensifying measures to control and limit the illicit aspects of SALW, through this Paraguay recommends the following; (1) a Progressive Cooperation Agreements (ProCoA) that are trans-border cooperation agreements among Member States concerning the progressive intensifying of supervision and control of transfer and distribution of SALW and its respective routes; (2) a Mutual Cooperation Mechanism (MuCoM) National Reporting Framework that primarily focuses on garnering overall participation within the State in submission and further promotion on the utilization of National Reporting; (3) a Regional Security Information System that will take into account parameters and related aspects under SALW storing in an database system; and lastly, (4) a systematic tracking system that will monitor the flow of SALW between borders and other trading routes. The Republic of Paraguay calls on the international community for the intensification of collaborative efforts in addressing the illicit aspects of SALWs.

II. Addressing the Rampant Issue of Transnational Crime through Intergovernmental Cooperation

As stated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), transnational organized crime generates an estimated \$870 billion each year, threatening peace and human security which leads to human rights violations and undermines economic, social, cultural and political development of societies around the world. In response to the rampant issue of transnational crime, the United Nations initiated the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/55/25) a testament in the fight against transnational organized crime and the need to foster collaborative international efforts in order to tackle

these problems.

Accordingly, the Republic of Paraguay highlights the relevance of increasing the efficiency and responsiveness of all Member States to fight against combined threats of illicit drugs, trafficking, and transnational organized crime. As such, Paraguay has allocated budgetary support amounting to an estimated \$10 million which has been used to strengthen security at the national and regional levels to alleviate transnational crime worldwide. Moreover, in order to reinforce cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism, the Paraguayan troops had trained with several service members from the U.S Army Special Forces. This training strengthened intelligence operations in the fight against so-called Paraguayan People's Army (EPP), drug trafficking and other organizations that perpetrate criminal acts. Paraguay underscores the importance of intensifying the efforts towards responsive actions concerning issues of elimination of illicit drugs and transnational organized crimes.

The Republic of Paraguay reiterates the significance of addressing the emerging threats of transnational crimes. With this, Paraguay urges the international community to continue its efforts in increasing the response towards combating the threats posed by transnational organized crimes and recommends the following; (1) Adoption of a Three Phase BluePrint System (3PBS) that allows Member States to re-evaluate and enhance their respective policies and frameworks under transnational crime; (2) Establishing a National Situationer that will allow the government and other sectors to better formulate policies catering to the specific needs of their respective States; (3) Capacity Building Methods that assist Member States in improving their border security procedures and skills to help build national capacities in leading and assisting future operations. The Republic of Paraguay fosters the international community to intensify collaborative efforts in addressing the emerging threats in relation to transnational organized crimes.