

**Statement of Tech 4 Tracing  
Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8)  
Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons  
29 June 2022**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Distinguished delegates and members of international organizations and civil society,

Tech 4 Tracing, or T4T, is a partnership between arms control experts and new technology professionals whose objective is to incubate, test, and help deploy new technologies for enhanced arms and ammunition control in advancement of international agreements and in support of law enforcement, human rights investigations and the protection of peacekeepers.

T4T is pleased to see reference to technological developments in small arms and light weapons manufacture in the current BMS8 Outcome Document draft. It is essential for States to advance considerations of how to address polymer and modular weapons--and 3D printing--in the context of the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) and the Programme of Action. For a sense of the urgency around the challenges that 3D printing alone present, we urge delegates to check their Twitter feeds to witness the diversity of plans and schematics now freely available for 3D printed small arms and light weapons, and--arriving any day now--3D-printed munitions.

At the same time, the specific developments noted in the draft BMS8 Outcome Document only scratch the surface of the technological revolution underway, which affects not only small arms and light weapons, but munitions and other

explosive ordnance, and extends to drones, semi-autonomous weapons and other systems. The evolving ways that arms and ammunition are manufactured, distributed, and deployed will have enormous consequences for States' ability to control illicit flows and misuse.

In fact, the international community stands at something of a crossroads in meeting the control challenges this revolution present. Today, well into the 21st century, arms and ammunition management and illicit arms monitoring is still conducted in many contexts with the equivalent of paper and pencil, and padlock and key. We believe that control methods must also innovate, and in ways that bridge the technological divide that exists between States, so that States most affected can most benefit. The good news is that foreseeable advances in new technologies can not only enhance the effectiveness of arms control, but lower the costs of doing so.

But to make such tools available, they must first be conceptualized, developed, field-tested, deployed, and assessed, and this will require investments. What principles should guide priorities for investments? What technologies are promising and feasible? Where and how can they best be deployed? Tech 4 Tracing will introduce and start to unpack some of these questions, starting in today's side event, 'New Tech for Arms Control: Enhancing Authorities' Ability to Detect Diversion and Misuse' hosted by the Permanent Missions of Belgium and Mexico, at 1:15pm, down the hall in Conference Room 11. To be successful, these ongoing discussions will need to hear from and be responsive to States' needs, so we look forward to delegations' inputs and contributions now and in the months ahead as T4T continues to foster a dialogue on new tech for arms control.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to make this intervention, and I wish you and your team success in the remainder of this week's discussions.

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