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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement  
of**

**H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Cambodia  
to the United Nations**

**at**

**Open Debate of the Security Council on Small Arms**

**New York  
March 20, 2006**

**Mr. President,**

First of all, allow me to most warmly congratulate you upon the assumption of the Chairmanship of the Security Council for the current month. My delegation would like to wish you success and to reaffirm to you our full support and cooperation. I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to speak on this important agenda item on "Small Arms". Though "small arms" carries the word "small" therein, however, it brings big concern and requires long period for us to work in concerted efforts to bring peace and security to individual countries as well as to the whole world. For this reason, the issue of small arms is taken up at a timely manner for open debate at the Security Council today, which I am pleased to share some comments from the perspective of my own delegation.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Secretary General for his Report on Small Arms last January, which put forward 12 recommendations of which the Security Council calls on States to work more on the issue of reduction of Small Arms. My delegation also highly appreciates the Secretary General's observations and conclusions of which my country stands ready to join hands on those issues.

After three decades of war, genocide and conflict, Cambodia is well placed to reiterate its unequivocal commitment to the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in order to cement peace, social security and political stability in the Kingdom. It has developed a number of programmes ranging from law enforcement on Arms control to "the Programme of "Weapon for Development", which led to the destruction of more than 170,000 units of collected and surplus weapons since 1998. My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express its deep thanks to the EU and Japan for their valuable assistance to the programmes.

Being successful in small arms control, weapon collection and destruction, ASEAN has endorsed Cambodia as a Lead Shepherd country-or a country which coordinates among ASEAN on countering Arms Smuggling at the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) in Hanoi in November 2005. Cambodia, accordingly, came forward with the proposal to establish a Resource Center as a coordinating body to facilitate and mobilize efforts and resources to combat the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Southeast Asia. In this regard, we would highly appreciate and welcome support from the international community to realize this important goal of setting up the above Center, which would bring an important contribution to our common struggle against transnational crime and terrorism.

On the international front, Cambodia would like to reiterate its unequivocal commitment to the full implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons by developing national programmes for the control of Small Arms such as a the long-standing plan to curb the illicit small arms trade.

As one of the supporters for the Resolutions on the combating of and preventing the proliferation of "Small Arms" which were adopted at the General Assembly in December 2005, my delegation fully supports the upcoming **United Nations Conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons** to be convened in June/July this year. Despite controversies at the debates of the Preparatory Committee, which led the Chairman to produce only a Conference Room Paper that could not reflect the views expressed, my delegation has full confidence in the upcoming review conference and strongly hopes that it would help us further in the implementation of the U.N Programme of Action. We must not let this important opportunity slip away in our common efforts to make our world more secure with less weapons.

Thank you