



**Press Release**

***Pakistan Calls for Investigation into Acquisition of  
Sophisticated Arms by Terrorist Groups***

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Pakistan has expressed grave concern over the acquisition and use of modern and sophisticated small arms by terrorist groups, such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a UN-listed terrorist organization.

Addressing the Fourth Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) at the UN today, Ambassador Munir Akram, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, made a powerful demand for an investigation into how terrorist groups and criminal organizations acquire such sophisticated weapons.

Highlighting the need for a concerted campaign to recover all weapons from terrorist groups like the TTP, the Pakistan UN envoy stated that it is the responsibility of all States and the UN at large to take measures to prevent the illicit trade, transfer, and diversion of these arms.

“Terrorists and criminals do not manufacture these arms. They acquire them from illicit arms markets or receive them from entities that want to destabilize a particular region or country,” Ambassador Akram emphasized.

He drew the world's attention to how the illicit proliferation, excessive accumulation, and misuse of SALW are exacerbating conflicts, fueling terrorism, threatening peace and security, and undermining sustainable development globally. He also identified the advent of new technologies, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and drones, as deepening challenges in combating the proliferation of increasingly lethal small arms.

Ambassador Akram described the UN Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) as representing an enduring international consensus and a structured framework to address the challenges associated with the unauthorized and illicit trade and trafficking of SALW.

He reiterated Pakistan’s steadfast commitment to the PoA and ITI, stating, “We have strengthened our legislative frameworks, enhanced transfer controls, and implemented robust measures to prevent the diversion of SALW to unauthorized users.”

Pointing out the limitations of a supply-side approach to tackling the SALW challenges, he called for more strenuous efforts and resources to be deployed to resolve and end conflicts in various regions and sub-regions, end terrorist activities, and eliminate organized crime.

Commenting on the revised draft outcome document (Draft-1) for addressing the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), Ambassador Akram highlighted several key points:

- Building consensus on the scope of the Programme of Action.
- Utilizing new technologies to combat the illicit trade of SALW without impeding technology transfer to developing countries for legitimate purposes.
- Restricting arms embargo actions to those specifically mandated by the UN Security Council.
- Avoiding the creation of organic linkages between the PoA and other legally binding instruments to prevent complications.
- Maintaining a balanced approach between the valid concerns over the illicit proliferation of small arms and the legitimate security concerns of all states.

The Pakistan UN Ambassador termed the ongoing conference as a critical step in reaffirming collective resolve to tackle the SALW-related challenges and ensure global safety and security.