

*In the name of God, the most beneficent, the most merciful*

**The Revised “pre-draft” of the report of the OEWG  
fourth informal virtual meeting 1-3 December 2020  
Intervention by Delegation of the Islamic Republic of  
Iran  
3 December 2020  
On  
General Comment on pre-draft 2**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I would like to begin my comment by acknowledging that the conduct of Switzerland in this informal meeting is a testament and reflection of its global status as a symbol of neutrality. Consequently, we expect the distinguished OEWG Chairman to present a road map for the next OEWG’s continued deliberations as part of its report to the 75<sup>th</sup> UN GA.

This adds to the difficulty of holding the chairmanship, and I suppose presents itself as more challenging in light of yesterday’s developments where our distinguished interlocutors have considered the POA proposal as taken for granted, giving no reference to the effectiveness and implication of the newly adopted resolution in the First Committee.

As we have previously given our general comment on the RID, the next few years have been decided so far with regard to the new resolution, whether we like it or not, to

further deliberate and examine and review all proposals substantively and comprehensively thereby leading to an all-encompassing outcome.

Therefore, in our view, the reductionist approach of those who are dissatisfied with the new resolution and newly established OEWG does not serve our purpose and, rather, makes consensus-building more problematic.

This OEWG report should not be converted due to hasty political recommendation to dissolve and overshadow the new resolution establishing the newly OEWG's extended mandate. Such impulsive political action without allowing for the POA's proposal, along with other options and proposals to be examined in detail, would not be a constructive contribution to our work in this OEWG while ignoring the views of others. We have come to the table of this OEWG to genuinely present our views and comments through statements and interventions in the OEWG substantive, along with this virtual session, and by written submission which have all been filed.

To be honest and frank, our distinguished interlocutors should accept this logic that the POA proposal has a lot of ambiguities, weaknesses and shortcomings that must be impeccably and thoroughly reviewed. One size does not fit all.

The context as well as the scope, technicality, dynamism and complexity of the ICT are far from identical

and incomparable to narrow the scope of the POA for UN Small Arms and Light Weapons. The more we compare, the less we come to the grips of this fact that the ICT should be action-oriented with the same prescription.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that presenting this proposal shall not dominate and diminish the content of your draft report this forthcoming March, and the Secretariat, in its reflection in the final report, should consider the views, comments and proposals of others. Otherwise, emerging consensus decision-making would be a painstaking process, dare we say it could perhaps be impossible. Of course, if there is a will, there is a way.

We still recommend to our friends that the newly established OEWG is the best venue to come together and continue constructively as well as genuinely to review this plan along with other proposals.

Moreover, it is not accepted for this Group to make any recommendations in its report on the implementation of existing commitments; so far, no undertaking has yet been formed and agreed upon under the UN. That may be the political will of those states or group of states to have some arrangement between them, however, it is not under UN umbrella.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.