**SECURITY COUNCIL**

**JOINT STATEMENT**

**Explanation of vote on the resolution on small arms and light weapons**

**Made by H.E. Ambassador Ismael A. Gaspar Martins**

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

**22 May 2015**

Madame President**,**

This statement is made in the name of the three African countries members of the Security Council, Angola, Chad and Nigeria. The African Group also recognizes itself with the contents of the present explanation of vote.

Let me begin by acknowledging the efforts deployed by the Lithuanian Presidency and by yourself, Madam President, with a view of reaching a consensus on this critical resolution.

We note the advancements that the resolution provides by focusing on the human cost of small arms, particularly civilians, women and children; on its devastating impact to development, education, health and its focus on conflict prevention and in avoiding the relapse into conflict. Also, the advancement in positioning the UN better to support arms embargoes and other international obligations such as the UN Security Council support to the Arms Trade Treaty.

Although, in our view, this resolution should, above all, contribute to bring a lasting solution to the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons, namely to theatres of instability and conflict, including a halt to the supply of those weapons to *non-state actors*.

Unfortunately our proposals and concerns regarding the issue of proliferation and access to small arms and light weapons to *non state-actors* were not sufficiently considered in this resolution.

We deployed, with other members of this Council, considerable efforts to address this daunting challenge to the African continent: the indiscriminate supply and illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition which are fueling the spread of several conflicts in Africa and in the world.

Fifteen years ago, by adopting resolution 1540, this Council clearly defined, in a certain context, the concept of *non-state actors*.

Currently, our main concern relates to *non-state actors* to whom small arms and light weapons are supplied to fuel conflicts, destabilize countries and promote policies of regime change, with the tragic consequences we witness today, were despicable crimes against humanity are committed.

As a country which has gone through a very painful experience, it would be politically unacceptable not to seize the opportunity which the discussion of this resolution provides to address the problem of the supply of weapons to *non-state actors*.

Our position of non support to the draft resolution is fundamentally based on the assumption that the supply of weapons to *non-state actors* amounts to a threat to international peace and security, which this Council must consistently address.

Al-Qaeda, Boko Haran, Al-Shabab, militias in Libya, Syria and Iraq, insurgents in Mali, CAR, DRC, South Sudan, and others, are the *non-state* *actors* to whom large amounts of weapons were supplied, which once out of control, are the main promoters of terrorism, instability and armed conflict in many parts of the world.

In the search for a compromise, during the negotiations of the resolution we accepted a definition mentioning *non-state actors* as terrorists, armed groups and criminal networks. Additionally, we proposed to explicitly mention in the resolution, the exemption of armed private contractors, and similar, engaged in the accomplishment of security missions. Unfortunately, all this effort was without avail.

Finally, we remain engaged with the Council towards the adoption of a resolution which deals with the problem of the spread of small arms and light weapons, without leaving such an important question as a loophole for the future.

I thank you Madam President.