



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MR ARTHUR ANDAMBI**

**CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, a.i**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS,**

**NEW YORK**

**DURING THE**

**OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON:**

***'THE HUMAN COST OF ILLICIT TRANSFER, DESTABILIZING  
ACCUMULATION AND MISUSE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS'***

**13<sup>TH</sup> May, 2015**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON: THE HUMAN COST OF ILLICIT TRANSFER,  
DESTABILIZING ACCUMULATION AND MISUSE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT  
WEAPONS**

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**Madam President,**

On behalf of my delegation I wish to congratulate you for assuming the Presidency of the Council for the Month of May, 2015 and applaud the manner you have steered the Council as President. At the outset, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to you for convening today's open debate and providing us with a detailed concept note to guide the debate. I am also grateful to the Secretary General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for their detailed briefings on the matter. I also wish to thank all the previous speakers for their insightful remarks.

**Madam President,**

My delegation has taken note, with appreciation, the Council's continued attention to Small Arms and Light Weapons as a threat to international peace and security through its various resolutions, high level meetings, the Arms Trade Treaty of 2014 and other thematic efforts on addressing the destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons particularly during armed conflict.

In this regard, we wish to reiterate our support to Security Council Presidential Statement 2007/24 and Resolution 2117(2013) and its recommendations. Kenya has taken important measures to fully implement the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPOA) on Small Arms and Light weapons. My delegation looks forward to fully participating in the UN open ended meeting of government experts on Small Arms and Light Weapons in June 2015.

**Madam President**

The effects of small arms availability and misuse have for long been felt throughout the Kenyan society. By virtue of its geographical location, Kenya has suffered immensely from the effects of illicit transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) which have caused monumental human suffering. This is evident from the various terrorist attacks that have been witnessed in the country in recent times. Similarly, unprecedented high levels of illicit small arms and light weapons among the pastoralist communities in northern parts of the country has been associated

with persistent insecurity and criminal activities such as cattle rustling, poaching and armed robberies.

**Madam President,**

Kenya continues to strengthen its policy and legislative measures to address loopholes in law that make it difficult for the government to deal with insecurity. In 2014, we passed the Security Amendment Act 2014 which amends 22 pieces of legislation aimed at enhancing the security of the country. The Firearms Act is one of the legislations which was amended to tighten controls on flows of Small Arms and Light Weapons and costs of non-compliance. However, national policies alone will not suffice unless stability in the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia is fully restored. This informs Kenya's deep involvement in regional peace and stabilization efforts including being an integral part of the AMISOM mandate in Somalia and the IGAD led mediation effort for South Sudan.

**Madam President**

My delegation recognizes that proper management of Small Arms and Light Weapons national stock-piles is essential to reducing the risk of diversion of weapons to the illicit trade, illegal armed groups including terrorist organizations. Kenya continues to destroy recovered illicit weapons to prevent the risk of diversion and is now in the process of initiating the marking of civilian licensed weapons but strongly believes that marking at the point of manufacture can have a huge impact in improving traceability of the weapons.

To strengthen the implementation of the International Tracing instrument, Kenya is taking measures to improve national marking, equipment acquisition, coordination, record keeping and training capacities of entities involved in the interdiction of small arms and light weapons.

**Madam President**

Kenya is keen to foster regional cooperation with her neighbors to reduce continued transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons in the region particularly by criminal groups and other illegal armed groups. In this respect, we are actively involved and progressively cooperating with various UN agencies, the

Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, The East African Community (EAC) and other regional efforts and programmes to deal with the menace including stockpile management and tracing programmes. The country has been at the forefront of initiatives to enhance information exchanges and intelligence sharing with neighboring states on illicit activities and the actors involved.

Similarly, Kenya has been conducting maritime operations to curtail trafficking in illicit small arms and light weapons.

**Madam President,**

Despite the measures taken and the achievements highlighted, Kenya faces challenges in implementing the National Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Instability in Somalia and South Sudan and lately Yemen continues to pose the risk of undermining current efforts. Kenya's long and porous borders with Somalia predisposes her to illicit inflow of small arms and light weapons irrespective of current efforts and initiatives to mark the deployed national stockpiles. The country also has limited forensic and ballistic technological capacity to profile weapons, which has impeded its ability to effectively monitor the use of small arms and light weapons in criminal activities.

In conclusion, let me assure you of my delegation's continued commitment to support the implementation of measures and efforts to eradicate proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons for the best benefit of the global community in the interest of maintenance of international peace and security.

**I thank you.**