



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT
BY**

**H.E MACHARIA KAMAU,
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE KENYA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE SIXTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO

**Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme
of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in
Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.**

**Conference Room 4
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Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for inviting me to address this Sixth Biennial Meeting of States. I also thank the previous speakers for their insightful remarks.

I note that during this meeting you will consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels and in light of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

This therefore is a very important meeting not only to our collective peace and security agenda but also to human rights and development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents us with a broad and ambitious scope to address the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental, as well as important aspects related to peace, justice and effective institutions.

Sustainable goal 16 in particular addresses the importance of Peace, stability, human rights and effective governance to sustainable development. It calls for the strengthening of the rule of law, promotion of human rights, reducing the flow of illicit arms among other measures as key to sustaining peace and development.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a direct link between disarmament and development especially following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The implementation and achievement of the SDGs is linked to different aspects of UN disarmament goals. The work of the UN disarmament machinery and the wider sustaining peace agenda as espoused in the outcomes of the 3 reviews of UN Peace operations (HIPPO, AGE and global study on resolution 1325) underscore the importance of securing peace for development to occur.

It is important to note that the SDG process showed what can be achieved when there is political will. SDG 16: Promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels remains critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman,

The accumulation of small arms and light weapons undermines economic and social development and the provision of essential services, as huge national resources are diverted from development to address the negative impacts of these weapons.

I wish to share the following thoughts on how the PoA could facilitate the implementation of the 2030:

1. Peaceful and inclusive societies uphold the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice. They protect people from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, and control corruption and organized crime. Decision-making at all levels is inclusive and responsive, and fundamental freedoms are upheld. This is the basis of sustaining peace.
2. We cannot achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development without tackling conflict and insecurity. We have learnt from experience that there was a large gap in the implementation of MDG's between States affected by high levels of violence and other developing countries. Some of the countries that could not meet even a single MDG by the end of 2015, had been affected by high levels of violence in recent years.
3. Peace, justice and effective governance are increasingly seen by people as not only development enablers but development outcomes. In fact, according to '**My World**', a global United Nations survey, protection against crime and violence and an honest and responsive government rank among the top six (6) development priorities.
4. The 2030 Agenda has put people at the core of sustaining peace agenda. Everyone, including those in conflict-affected Societies, should be able to lead peaceful, fulfilling lives, free from violent conflict and insecurity. The international community must now focus on sustaining peace, not mere absence of violence which may often mask latent instability. In order to sustain peace, all States need to reduce the risks of violent conflict and insecurity through emphasis on the primacy of politics. By promoting issues such as dialogue, reducing corruption, equal access to justice and security, political inclusiveness and discarding the mentality of military solutions to conflicts; societies anywhere can achieve lasting peace and development.
5. In addressing the relationship between disarmament and development, it is important to stress the importance of reducing of military expenditure. The principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments calls on all Member States to devote more resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as an imperative to the fight against poverty. Similarly, unmitigated proliferation of small arms and small weapons particularly during conflict exacerbates poverty and human rights violations and long term political instability creating an endemic cycle of poverty and violence.
6. High military expenditures could act as a barrier to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resources spent on economic and

social development and addressing poverty could be diverted to weapons. The current global military expenditure is estimated to be US\$17 trillion. Yet significant funds are required to achieve the New Development Agenda. It is therefore critical to commit more resources to development, alongside non-military measures to achieve peace such as disarmament and arms control.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, it is worth noting that about fifty (50) million people are currently displaced by violence and conflict around the world mainly due to violence associated with small arms and light weapons. As such robust global collective responses to addressing the root causes of violence and insecurity are necessary.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure multilateral action, grounded in development and focused on sustaining peace.

I thank you