



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the  
United Nations, New York  
Security Council - 2021-2022

**SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT  
WEAPONS:**

**ADDRESSING THE THREAT POSED BY ILLICIT FLOWS OF SMALL  
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN CONTEXTS OF PEACE  
OPERATIONS**

**6 OCTOBER 2021 (10:00 A.M)**

**STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE**

1. I thank Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Lt. Gen. Badreldin Elamin Abdelgadir and Mr. David Lochhead, for their insightful briefings.
2. The continued proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons is worsening conflicts; sparking refugee flows and internal displacement; strengthening threat on terrorism; undermining the rule of law; complicating conflict resolution efforts; threatening and frustrating peacekeeping operations; and generally, fueling a culture of violence and impunity.
3. They may be small and light. But that is exactly what makes them more dangerous especially when placed in the wrong hands. By their very nature, small arms are easy to acquire, easy to use, easy to transport and easy to conceal.
4. The destructive global impact of illicit small arms and light weapons and their ammunition makes it an issue of international peace and security concern. Indeed, their impact transcends contexts of peace operations which is our focus today, to other contexts of concern to this Council including the protection of civilians, counter-terrorism and children in armed conflict, among others.

5. Against this backdrop, Kenya welcomes the biennial report of the Secretary General pursuant to resolution 2220. From this report, it is eminently evident that the Council must remain actively seized of this matter.
6. We note that a lot of work has been done since the previous report. But we have had to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic related complications to peace efforts globally.
7. Of critical importance is that the Secretary-General's report details several conflict situations under this Council's purview where peace efforts have been undermined by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.
8. We therefore wish to underscore the following imperatives in our collective efforts to address this challenge including within the context of peace operations:
  - a. **First**, there is need for a comprehensive architecture, built by collaboration and coordination among the relevant UN organs and agencies, regional and sub-regional organisations as well as civil society. This emerged clearly during the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and

light weapons in all its aspects, which Kenya had the privilege to chair.

- b. **Secondly**, the strength of regional initiatives as exemplified by RECSA is undeniable. The initiatives of regional organisations including the African Union's initiative to silence the guns by 2030 as well as those of several regional, sub-regional and national institutions on relevant aspects such as securing storage of weapons and ammunition as well as sensitisation and collection and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons, should be supported.
- c. **The third** is the imperative of strengthening of Council mandates. Besides the reporting by the Secretary General, the Security Council should lay emphasis on support to governments in affected areas for enhanced capacity in monitoring proliferation trends, undertaking security sector reforms and the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in a coordinated manner.
- d. As the **Fourth point**, we call for the strengthening of the capacity of UN missions and governments in

weapons and ammunition management which is critical to the prevention of diversion and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

- e. As a **final point**, there is a need for the Security Council to consider the issue of small arms and light weapons in the Council's preventive efforts so as to preempt the outbreak and escalation of conflict.
9. In conclusion, I re-emphasise Kenya's support for continued discussion on this subject with a view to seek effective ways of supporting peace operations. We ask members of the Council to keep a hold of areas of convergence from today's briefing and use them to build consensus as we look to possible consideration of this matter in the days ahead.
10. The impact of illicit small arms and light weapons across the files in this Council is undeniable. It is critical that we take it up.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**