



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

STATEMENT

BY

AMB. KOKI MULI GRIGNON

AMBASSADOR/DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

THE

**FIFTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF
STATES TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT
AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT
WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

Thursday, June 19, 2014
United Nations, New York

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Kenyan Delegation to join others in congratulating you for your election as the chair of the 5th Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects. I would like to assure you of our full participation for the successful outcome of this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

It is important to note that the illicit trade in SALW has continued to pose serious threats and challenges to International peace and security. Since the last Biennial meeting, the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW continues to cause concerns among the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Neighboring States. In particular, Kenya continues to experience the effects of proliferation of illicit SALW as manifested in Terrorism, Piracy, Transnational Organized Crimes such as Human Trafficking, Smuggling of immigrants, drugs, trafficking in firearms, violent inter-communal conflicts, Livestock rustling among other related crimes. The adverse effects of the proliferation of illicit SALW has been noted in loss of life, destruction and loss of property and displacements which have undermined the Government's ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), public safety and security including other development priorities.

In this regard the Government of Kenya reaffirms her commitment to the implementation of the UN Program of Action (UNPoA) with special emphasis to the coordinated agenda for action as developed through the Nairobi Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya remains committed to the UN Programme of Action and its full implementation. The Government has a clear Legislative and administrative procedures of arms management and control which are provided in various laws. In addition a Policy framework has also been developed in line with the provisions of UNPoA that provides guidelines on legislative, institutional and regulatory measures for control and management of SALW. Kenya has

an elaborate centralized Stockpile Management system for purposes of accountability.

Kenya has made remarkable progress in ensuring that the International Tracing Instrument is fully implemented and appropriate measures have been put in place to ensure marking, tracing and record keeping of all State owned SALW. In this respect, over 80% of State Owned Stockpiles have been marked.

As a Country, Kenya is committed to regular collection and destruction of illicit SALW. This gesture promotes confidence among communities prone to proliferation of illicit SALW. It also serves as a strategy for public awareness and sensitization of the dangers of proliferation of illicit SALW in the society.

The Country's porous international borders have necessitated, stringent protective measures to be put in place. To this end more initiatives have been undertaken in consultation with the neighboring States through Bilateral and Multilateral cooperation as a means to enhance security at all the border points. Similarly a National Strategy on border security has also been put in place.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya values Regional and International cooperation as a critical pillar in the fight against illicit trade in SALW. At the Sub-regional level, Kenya cooperates closely with participating States under the auspices of Regional Centre for Small Arms in the Great lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Neighboring States (RECSA) in developing effective measures in areas of marking, tracing and record keeping; stockpile management and security, monitoring as well as harmonization of legislations. Kenya is host to RECSA secretariat and commits to the full implementation of the Nairobi protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya has continued to actively participate in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Processes, which propose a multifaceted approach to Peace, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region as well as establishing bilateral, multilateral and tripartite arrangements with neighboring countries in order to cooperate in the

effective prevention, Combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW and other security concerns. International Cooperation and Assistance is therefore critical in this area.

Monitoring of the UNPoA remains a very critical aspect in ensuring that its implementation is carried out effectively. In this regard, the Government of Kenya has developed a National Monitoring and Implementation framework on the progress of UNPOA. Important to note is the participation of civil society Organizations (CSOs) in monitoring of UNPoA as well as initiating processes aimed at promoting an illicit SALW free society. In Kenya, CSOs are invaluable partners in the fight against illicit SALW, thus are key members of the National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now turn to our expectation for this meeting. We believe that during this BMS, as member States, we will be able to share our progress as well as challenges in implementing the Programme of Action. We should also provide concrete recommendations on how some of these issues should be addressed in order to fully implement the UN Programme of Action, and focus on how international cooperation and assistance should be strengthened for full implementation of the UNPoA.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya believes in holistic approaches in addressing the problem of the proliferation of illicit SALW. These approaches should focus not only on physical removal of the weapon but ensure peace building and conflict management measures and social economic transformation strategies are undertaken. It is our strong conviction that we will be able to adopt the outcome document by consensus. As we put together our collective efforts towards preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW, we renew our commitment towards effective implementation of UNPoA.

Thank You.