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**STATEMENT
BY MRS. TREPHINE P. KAMATI, PERMANENT SECRETARY
OF THE MINISTRY OF SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
AT
THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW
PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND
ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

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NEW YORK

Mr. President,

1. I congratulate you on your election as President of the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. I also congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election. Kindly be assured of our support and cooperation.
2. My delegation aligns itself with statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group. We will make a few comments in our national capacity.
3. Namibia has long shared concern over the illicit trade, transfer, and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Their accumulation and uncontrolled use in many parts of the world, including in Africa and specifically in Namibia has been high on our agenda since our emergence into peace over 28 years ago.
4. Small arms and light weapons must be seen for what they are: one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. Indeed, in the southern Africa region, the illegal firearms trade continues to threaten national stability and security. In April this year, the Ministry of Safety and Security of Namibia noted that our situation faced old guns from past conflicts mixed with a threat presented by new arms which were being smuggled into the southern African region across porous borders and due to poor international coordination.
5. Namibia therefore, attaches great importance to the role of the United Nations Plan of Action and the International Tracing Instrument as crucial mechanisms devoted in ending the illicit flow of Small Arms and Light Weapons.
6. We greatly appreciate efforts by Member States and regional organizations to implement the Plan of Action and we call for the full implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), in order to enable States to reliably identify and trace illicit flows of small arms and light weapons. It is imperative that we establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms. We call on this Conference to urge all States to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments, or to entities which are duly authorized by the Governments of recipient States.
7. We must send out the message across the world that weapons are illicit if they are transferred without a license or authorization by a competent national authority.

Mr. President,

8. Cooperation is our guiding word. Thus, our Government, through the custodian Ministry of Safety and Security on small arms and light weapons, continues to cooperate with relevant stakeholders at international and regional levels, especially in the area of information exchange. We submit regular reports on the implementation status of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on the Control of Firearms and Ammunition. Namibia further submits reports to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on the implementation status of the UN Plan of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
9. In June 2017 Namibia was grateful to benefit from financial and technical assistance from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation (UNSCAR) on Regulating Brokers and Brokering Activities in June 2017.
10. We established the National Focal Point (NFP) on SALW to coordinate all national efforts aimed at Arms Control and Management within the boundaries of Namibia. To signal Government's political will on prevention, combating the illicit proliferation, Namibia is at an advanced stage to establish an Inter-ministerial Committee on Arms Control, Management and Disarmament. The main mandate of the Committee is to comprehensively address the issue of excessive accumulation and the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons in the country.
11. As part of the country's statutory obligations, in September last year Namibia chaired and hosted the 14th SADC Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Windhoek.
12. In March this year we participated in the African Union Mapping Survey. This important survey documented the illicit arms and ammunition flows, the extent and nature of the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and further identified emerging trafficking trends and revealed gaps in the control measures.

Mr. President,

13. We are hopeful that this Conference will agree on a more robust and effective international mechanism for the delivery of financial and technical assistance and the establishment of capacity building programmes, custom-made to transfer the necessary technology, equipment, and know-how to developing countries in the area of combating illicit flows of Small Arms and Light Weapons and with regard to tracing their origins.
14. It is our further hope that this Conference will urge all States to mobilize the necessary resources and expertise, as well as provide assistance for the full implementation of the UN Plan of Action.
15. In conclusion, Mr. President, Namibia wishes to reiterate its support for the NAM working paper on the establishment of a UN Fellowship Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons for developing countries, to train relevant officials in areas related to the implementation of the Plan of Action. We call on the Conference to include this noble initiative in the final outcome document of the Review Conference.

I thank you for your kind attention.