



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

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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TUVAKO N. MANONGI,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE FOR 2006 CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE UN
PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT THE ILLICIT TRADE
IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2005

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
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Tanzania associates itself with the statement made by Senegal on behalf of AU during this preparatory conference and joins other delegations in congratulating you for assuming the chair.

This meeting offers an invaluable opportunity for which all peace loving members cannot afford to miss. Thus the preparatory conference is an important spring board from which member states must collectively consider what we must do to fulfill our objectives.

And one of the things we need to do is to emphasize the existence of a correlation between the problem of small arms and light weapons and other related problems of security, conflict resolution, human rights violation, and economic development. For Africa in particular, the problem of SALW constitutes a critical hindrance to poverty eradication and indeed severely impairs the achievement of other millennium development goals.

It is discouraging to note however, that the second biennial meeting of states held in New York last year had been of relatively decimal impact to say the least. Despite the invested efforts so far, proliferation and trafficking of small arms still continues unabated in many parts of the developing countries. The problem feeds on conflicts, civil wars and drug related crimes and is often accentuated by a combination of other factors, including economic weakness and persistent inequality. In turn ease access on these deadly weapons have generated high level of violence and citizens insecurity, for in many cases their abundance fall into play at the hands of some non state actors with criminal intentions.

Mr. Chairman,

On our part, recognizing this interplay, we have strived to put into practice the United Nations Programme of Action. Our National Action Plan which became operational ahead of the United Nations Programme of Action has won the confidence of foreign and national organizations.

We have established a National Focal Point Committee, with members from government Ministries and departments, civil society and law

enforcement institutions. The Committee acts as a command post to oversee Tanzanian efforts in fighting the scourge of small arms and light weapons. It has proven to be a very effective instrument in support of our national and regional effort against SALW.

Our strategic plan has been directed at tackling the problem from its root causes and progressively building on the system toward an efficient legal regime for weapons possession and transfer. This work goes hand in hand with enhancing operational capacity to combat illicit arms trafficking, their confiscation and surplus destruction. Measures are also taken to develop education programmes, foster regional cooperation and in this regard enhance the capacity of relevant institutions. Once again we are proud to note the important facilitating role played by our partners, like the Tanzania Peace and Economic Development, Tanzania Maritimes Foundation, Safe Africa and Safer World of the United Kingdom.

Encouraging achievements are clearly evident in the regional context and beyond. For example, the Nairobi declaration of 2000 and now the Nairobi Secretariat, the Bamako Declaration and most recently the African Common approach. These frameworks provide important fora for practical measures on regional co-operation and co-ordination, legislative measures, operational and capacity building, arms control and tracing, collection and destruction, public awareness, record-keeping as well as distribution and information exchange. Obviously, we have not exhausted all meaningful ways and means in this fight nor are we contented by any way on the achievements made thus far, but we are ready to use this opportunity to share with other like minded members to discuss and come up with a more supportive and easily implementable international instrument in this crucial area.

Lastly we welcome the presence of an international delegation of Parliamentarians selected worldwide from eleven different countries. Parliamentarians have a key role to play in bridging governments efforts with those of civil societies. They are one of the important stakeholders. Without relevant harmonized legislation at the national level, it would be difficult to meet the requirement of the UN programme of action and regional instruments regulating small arms and light weapons. The involvement of this delegation and its facilitation by UNDP and Parliamentary Forum are commendable.

In conclusion, we believe that by the best use of the entire human resources and time available under your wise leadership, this preparatory meeting should be able to come out with proposals well focused on how the International community can carry forward the UN Programme of Action.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.