



UGANDA

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**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO THE 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, 9-20 JANUARY 2006**

**UGANDA MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW
YORK**

**STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER RICHARD NABUDERE
DELEGATION OF UGANDA TO THE UN PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE**

**THEMATIC DEBATE, CLUSTER III
SUPPLY AND DEMAND**

*New York
January 17, 2006*

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Mr Moderator,

Uganda believes that the UN PoA provides an important starting point for vital efforts to address the excessive accumulation, misuse and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons. We wish to take this opportunity to highlight the progress that Uganda has been making in this regard and to express our support for additional efforts to assist States in implementing their commitments and responsibilities in this regard.

Mr Moderator,

Uganda believes that comprehensive strategies to address the accumulation, misuse and uncontrolled spread of small arms must address those factors behind both the supply and the demand for small arms. With regard to supply, Uganda supports the development of international guidelines on transfer controls, which will assist States in implementing their commitments with relation to the PoA and international law. Uganda recommends that the PrepComm mandate the drafting of such guidelines prior to the Review Conference in July, so that they might be considered and adopted at that conference.

Mr Moderator,

Uganda's commitment towards addressing both the supply and the demand for small arms is demonstrated by the fact that, with support from Saferworld and SaferAfrica, Uganda has developed a comprehensive National Action Plan on small arms control. This National Action Plan recognizes the importance of reducing the demand for small arms through initiatives aimed at enhancing development within our country. The National Action Plan, therefore, commits Uganda to a number of steps including promoting community – police relations, strengthening mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution, and weapons collection, all these driving at reduction of demand for arms. The significance accorded to small arms control in relation to development initiatives in Uganda is also shown by the inclusion of small arms control as a central element of Uganda's National Poverty Eradication Action Plan. Uganda recommends the

development of similar projects in other affected regions as a means of addressing the demand for small arms.

Mr Moderator,

Uganda wishes to emphasize the importance of prioritizing issues relating to the demand for small arms at the Review Conference in July 2006. We recommend that the outcome document of the Review Conference should emphasize:

- the need for National Action Plans and other national strategies on small arms and light weapons to be integrated into national ^{security} strategies and poverty reduction frameworks
- the development and implementation of weapons collection and disarmament processes which are fully inclusive and designed in collaboration with affected communities

We recommend further that the Review Conference encourages further research into the relationship between small arms proliferation and development and insecurity.

I thank you.