



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

**PRESENTATION**

**BY**

**ZIMBABWE**

**TO**

**THE CONFERENCE 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**

**PRESENTED BY THE CHIEF DELEGATE OF ZIMBABWE ON ARMS  
CONTROL COL T. J. DUBE**

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**Check against Delivery**

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations – 128 East 56<sup>th</sup> street. New York, NY. 10022  
Tel. (212) 980-9511 – Fax. (212) 308-6705  
E-mail: [zimbabwe@un.int.org](mailto:zimbabwe@un.int.org)**

THE CHAIRPERSON  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

ALLOW ME TO JOIN OTHER COUNTRIES IN  
CONGRATULATING THE CHAIRPERSON FOR  
DELIGENTLY CONDUCTING THIS CONFERENCE.

WE IN ZIMBABWE CONSIDER THE SUBJECT OF  
ERADICATION OF THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS  
AND LIGHT WEAPONS AS A VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT.  
WE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY  
PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND ALL  
GATHERINGS THAT DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. WE ARE A  
SIGNATORY TO THE ARMS CONVENTION AND WE  
SHALL ALWAYS PLAY OUR ROLE TO EFFECT THE ARMS  
CONTROL.

ON THE CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN  
GOVERNEMENTAL EXPERTS ON SMALL ARMS AND  
LIGHT WEAPONS HELD IN WINDHOEK IN DECMBER 2005,  
WE CAME UP WITH AN AFRICAN COMMOM POSITION  
WHERE THE MEETING AGREED THAT, IN SOLVING THE  
CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE ILLICIT TRADE IN

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AS EXPRESSED IN THE UNPOA AND THE BAMAKO DECLARATION, IT IS PARAMONT TO REAFFIRM THAT THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WITH COORDINATION AND IN A MULTIFACETED MANNER.

AT THIS CONFERENCE, IT WAS AGREED TO PRESENT THE AFRICAN COMMON POSITION IN ALL RELEVANT MEETINGS LEADING TO THE 2006 REVIEW CONFERENCE ON PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE UNPOA TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ASPECTS AND ALL MEMBER STATES AGREED TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE AND DEFEND THIS POSITION IN RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS DURING 2006.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF NATIONAL INITIATIVES BY INTER-ALIA, DEVELOPING NEEDS, MOBILIZING RESOURCES AND PROMOTING THE RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION JOINTLY WITH CIVIL SOCIETY.

IN OUR COUNTRY, WE HAVE THE POLICE SERVICE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HOME OR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT. MAY YOU ALLOW ME TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF OUR WATER TIGHT MEASURES IN THE CONTROL OF ANY MOVEMENT OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ZIMBABWE.

### WEAPONS REDUCTION AND CONTROL

IF ANY INDIVIDUAL HAS TO ACQUIRE A SMALL ARM, BE IT FOR SELF PROTECTION OR SPORTS, THE PROCESS IS VERY STRICT THAT ONLY A DETERMINED INDIVIDUAL WOULD EVER GO THROUGH THE THOROUGH VETTING SYSTEM.

A NUMBER OF OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT IN WHICH A SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF FIREARMS WERE CONFISTICATED FROM DECEMBER 2004 – MARCH 2006, 60 UNREGISTERED FIREARMS WERE RECOVERED BY THE POLICE. SOME OF THE WEAPONS HAVE NO TRACEABLE RECORD. OUR POLICE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 90% OF WEAPONS USED FOR MURDER, ARMED ROBBERIES AND OTHER VARIOUS CRIMES.

## ILLICIT TRADE OF FIREARMS

WE STRICKLY ADHERE TO THE END USER CERTIFICATE FOR BOTH IMPORTER AND EXPORTER. IT IS NOT EASY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO ACCESS ANY ARMOURY WITHOUT GOING THROUGH A VERY STRICT VETTING PROCESS. OUR CONTROL SYSTEM HAS PROVEN THAT NO ARMS CAN BE TRAFFICKED INTO THE COUNTRY WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL PERMIT. ZIMBABWE HAS BANNED THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF SELF-LOADING RIFLES TO INDIVIDUALS AND SECURITY COMPANIES.

## CONCLUSIONS

MR PRESIDENT ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE BY SAYING ZIMBABWE HAS RATIFIED THE SADC PROTOCOL ON FIREARMS, AMMUNITIONS AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS. IN LINE WITH THE SADC PROTOCOL AN IMPLEMENTATION NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2006 – 2009 IS NOW IN-PLACE.

THE SADC REGION HAS TASKED THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL POLICE CHIEFS CO OPERATION ORGANISATION (SARPPCO) AS ITS IMPLEMENTING AGENT.

DONORS HAD TAKEN A LEADING ROLE IN  
ARTICULATING THE UNPOA, BAMAKO DECLARATION  
AND THE SADC PROTOCOL, WE HAD SAFER AFRICA AND  
THE INSTITUTE OF SECURITY STUDIES.

THE REGION HAS TO MOVE AS ONE, THERE IS NEED FOR  
TRAINING IN RECORD KEEPING AND MANEGEMNET,  
MARKING OF FIREARMS, DESTRUCTION OF FIREARMS  
AND REGIONAL HARMONIASATION OF FIREARM LAWS.

THERE IS ALSO A DRIVE TO HAVE BEST PRACTICE  
IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES.

AS ALREADY MENTIONED WE SHALL CONTINUE TO  
RESPECT AND ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE ARMS  
CONVENTIONS AS LONG AS WE REMAIN A MEMBER  
STATE.