



**Permanent Mission of  
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO CONSIDER  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
PROGRAM OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT, AND  
ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND  
WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

**NEW YORK, JULY 12,**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**Mr. Chairman**

**At the outset, allow me to congratulate you for the assumption of the chair of this meeting. It is my confidence that under your leadership we will be able to make significant progress in achieving consolidated steps for the outcome Review Conference in 2006.**

**Let me also congratulate and at the same time associate myself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**The widespread availability of SALW is one of my country's biggest challenges and it constitutes a burden on the Angolan Governmental strategy as the country emerges from 3 decades of civil war, with SALW-related violent crime on the increase and a continuing spread of instability and insecurity throughout the country. It is clear, though, that with the end of the war and as this initiative advances, crime is also giving way to more order and reduced crime in society.**

**Indeed, the necessity of controlling the flow of SALW remained a problem in Angola in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol of November 1994, later restated by the Luena Accord of 2002 between my Government and UNITA that ended the war in the country.**

**The Republic of Angola participated in the UN conference on the illicit trade of small arms in June 2000, at a time that the war had reached alarming proportions with unpredictable consequences for the population of the country and the**

region. It was at that conference where the Plan of Action whose implementation we are now reviewing was adopted.

According to the Agreement signed on April 4, 2002 one of the fundamental tasks before the Government was to demobilize the excess soldiers from the rebel Armed Forces, to globally disarm this force, to collect and store all weaponry, and to socially reintegrate the former soldiers, who numbered 181,332 demobilized soldiers and 350,825 civilians. The action is being carried out by the Institute for the Social and Professional Reintegration of Former Soldiers, which is currently implementing the General Demobilization and Reintegration Program.

Since 2003 my Government has been more increasingly active in its effort to reduce the numbers of SALW in circulation. In March 2003, the Government established a National Commission for the Disarmament of the Civilian Population, under the Public Order branch of the National Command of Police. This National Commission conceptualized and designed a national strategy for weapons collection.

In addition, a Presidential Dispatch No 8/04 of July 23, 2004 established a National Commission to review the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Illicit trade in SALW, and with the involvement of three civil society organizations, which has enhanced the co-operation between national/local government and civil society organizations.

This strategy comprises three main phases of indeterminate duration, namely:

A) Sensitization phase (public awareness),

B) Voluntary surrender phase (which itself has three elements):

- 1. voluntary surrender guns that can be handed over to police, traditional leaders and church leaders.**
- 2. Capture of guns involved in criminal activities.**
- 3. Capture of guns by denunciation.**

**C) Coercive method (focused searches by the authorities).**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**The National Police have a central role in implementing the above strategy to fight the illicit flow of SALW and has the principal responsibility to recover all weaponry in possession of unauthorized civilians. This process culminated with the recovery of 14,120 fire arms of several calibers and 2,658 mines of different types.**

**In connection with the Civilians Disarmament Program, 75,323 fire arms of different calibers were recovered by the National Police from April 2002 to April 2005, 15,213 of which were small weapons, and 15,240 were ammunition of different sorts.**

**During the period from February 2003 to February 2005, the Angolan Armed Forces collected 60,110 fire arms, 17,854 of which from members of the Civilian Defense and 42,256 from civilians.**

**In the disarmament of UNITA forces, all small arms, artillery, mortars, ammunition, mines, missiles, engineering equipment and other military equipment were recovered by the Government, and subsequently stored and properly monitored, and obsolete weapons were destroyed in due time owing to the danger they represent.**

**Among other actions, the Program of Activities of this Committee features awareness campaigns on the danger posed by small arms, their trade and illegal possession, aimed at the civilian population.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Finally, for the successful implementation of the National Programme of Action on SALW the Government of Angola thanks the continuing support and legal assistance from all concerned UN agencies, donor countries, and international community. Angola will continue to strive and create appropriate mechanisms to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.**

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman**