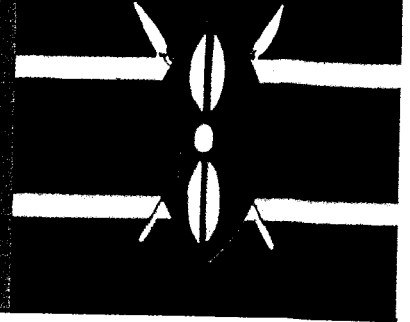




REPUBLIC  
OF  
KENYA



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**STATEMENT BY**

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ADMINISTRATION AND INTERNAL SECURITY, OFFICE  
OF THE PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF KENYAN  
DELEGATION TO THE**

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

**JULY 11 – 15, 2005, NEW YORK**

Allow me, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Kenyan delegation, to convey our congratulations to you for being entrusted with the important task of stewarding these deliberations. I believe that your background and experience will enable this gathering appreciate the varied intensity of the impact of the small arms problem, the steps nations are taking to address the same and appreciate the challenges faced. I also believe that this meeting will provide a forum to synthesize other options in the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons in a consistent and sustained manner.

Mr. Chairman may I at this juncture, on behalf of the people of Kenya, join the rest of the world in condoling the victims of the recent acts of terrorism that were witnessed in the UK. Kenya has witnessed these acts previously and understand the impact such acts have on the lives of ordinary peace loving people. Even as we gather here to report on the progress we have made in various fronts, it is imperative that we bear in mind that illicit small arms and light weapons remain the weapons of choice for terrorists and that we must remain united in facing these threats as no democratic free country is insulated against acts of terror.

The importance that Kenya attaches to this Conference cannot be overemphasized. The Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa Region, in which Kenya is situated, has in the recent past witnessed disproportionate violence and displacement of people. However it is gratifying to note that in recent times, peace initiatives have reduced the level of violence and heralded peace upon which stability can be built. These have all been achieved through commitments by states in the sub region to implement the UNPoA through the Nairobi Protocol. Over the last year, through sustained efforts by Kenya, in a broader effort to reduce demand for illicit arms, two landmark peace deals have been brokered in Sudan and Somalia both of which have given people hope and confidence in a secure future. To achieve these, the people of Kenya made great sacrifices. Peace and stability in these countries will reduce the flow of arms into Kenya as well as remove safe havens for terrorists who have in the past taken advantage of the civil strife. Our appeal is to the international community to provide support in both material and financial terms needed to consolidate these gains.

While the UNPoA provides a basic roadmap to addressing the secondary factors in the illicit small arms matrix, it is important to note that in the sub Saharan region, issues of development, political marginalization, competition over natural resources, unemployment and ethnic/religious cleavages still remain primary demand driving factors that must be addressed through appropriate developmental interventions.

Mr. Chairman, in this respect, over the last two months, Kenya and Uganda have jointly been working on disarming communities living in the common border through a community based disarmament process. This activity also acknowledges the need to put in place appropriate developmental interventions

by the two countries to address demand. The two countries have developed a joint work plan whose implementation has already commenced. We will in due course be inviting international support to complement our efforts. We further remain open to extending this bilateral arrangement to other neighbouring states in the quest for peace.

Having noted the likely long term consequences and impact of the continued presence of illicit small arms and light weapons would have on regional economies, the implications in terms of regional peace and security, the Kenya Government remains committed to a collective and regional approach through the implementation of the provisions of the Nairobi Protocol which shares all "basic features of the UNPOA". In this regard, a number of specific measures to address the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons in all its aspects have been put in place since the last biennial conference. These include:

- i. Development of a comprehensive National Action Plan (NAP) on Small Arms and Light Weapons which sets out a detailed three-year strategy for tackling the Small arms problem in Kenya;
- ii. Establishment and training of members of the Provincial and District Task Forces. These are local structures mandated to coordinate and implement NAP at Provincial and local levels.
- iii. Training members of civil society organizations with a view to enhance their understanding of the Small Arms and Light Weapons problem and earn their support and participation. This has resulted in a number of the organizations mainstreaming issues of small arms and light weapons in their work plans;
- iv. Development of a draft national policy on small arms and light weapons in line with the objectives of the NAP and various regional and international legal instruments governing small arms. The Draft is soon to be submitted to stakeholders for comments and validation.
- v. Review of the existing legislation to provide for stiffer and deterrent penalties on illicit small arms possession offences. The proposal is under active consultations among different agencies before it is presented to stakeholders for input.
- vi. Adoption of nationwide community policing as a strategy meant to involve communities in crime detection and management. The strategy was launched in May 2005.
- vii. Disarmament-over the last two months the Kenya Government has been undertaking a major mopping up exercise of illicit arms from communities

living along the Kenya /Uganda border and North Eastern region. To date over 1700 illicit arms have been recovered from the Samburu, Turkana, Somali and Pokot Communities.

- viii. In April 2005 Kenya initiated formation of a Joint Ministerial and Technical Task Force with the Ugandan Government to jointly address the problem of SALWs among the Karamoja, Turkana and Pokot Communities who live along Kenya/Uganda boundary. One Ministerial and a Technical level meeting have already taken place in Entebbe, Uganda and a second Ministerial one is scheduled for August in Nairobi. The joint effort addresses gradual disarmament and development interventions among the common border communities.
- ix. The Government, through the Provincial Administration, with the support of the Civil Society and other stakeholders has been in the forefront in creating awareness on issues related to illegal ownership and handling of small arms urging them to give up weapons as a measure to restore order and security.
- x. Destruction-The Kenya Government continues to remain steadfast on the need to remove out of circulation any recovered illicit arms. To this end 3839 assorted arms were destroyed in public on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in Nairobi to promote awareness, transparency and confidence among those surrender.
- xi. At the regional and international level, Kenya has actively participated in a series of meetings and workshops intended to develop common principles and positions in this realm and ratified all protocols that pertain to small arms and their parts.

Kenya remains astute in its support for the creation of a Regional Center for Small Arms (RECSA) for the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa and will continue hosting it as requested by the States Parties to the Nairobi Protocol.

These are just but some of the measures that have been instituted.

At this juncture, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to a number of our partners who have always supported us in this worthy course. These include Oxfam GB, UNDP, Safer world, Norwegian Church Aid, Security Research and Information Center (SRIC), Africa Peace forum, Safer Africa amongst others who in one way or another have supported the Kenya Government in its war against illicit arms. Being the Regional hub for peace work and hosting such international activities like the International Conference on the Great Lakes, we shall continue providing leadership where we can in achieving sustainable peace and security in our Region.

As we have all learnt, the fight against illicit arms is contingent upon the integration of all stakeholders. On this note, the Kenya government continues to acknowledge the critical role the civil society organizations plays in this process and is committed to nurturing the on-going interaction between various stakeholders in the implementation of this Action Plan.

In conclusion, I would wish to reaffirm Kenya's resolve to deal with the problem of illicit arms decisively through measures outlined in the UNPoA. Recent consensus on an International Instrument on marking and tracing has given us new hope in the commitment of the international community to ensuring transparency and accountability in arms transfer, a critical ingredient in the war against dumping.

It is our hope that as we look forward to the review conference next year, we shall continue exploring other options, including a possible International Arms Trade Treaty, that would further strengthen existing arms transfer regimes.

**Thank you.**

