



**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 UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES  
TO CONSIDER 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**

**UNITED NATIONS**

**TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

Tanzania associates itself with the statement made by the Nigeria delegation on behalf of the African Group and joins others in congratulating you for assuming chairmanship of this important biennial meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Addressing the pervasive impact of the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons is a responsibility we cannot afford to fail. We see this meeting as an invaluable opportunity to measure our collective progress, consider lessons learned and most importantly renew our efforts to target the many areas that need reinforcement.

In the Sub-Saharan region many countries have been ravaged by internal armed conflicts that have been fuelled by illicit arms. Currently, more than ten countries are in conflict while others are just emerging from one form of conflict or another. These conflicts have had profound adverse security and development consequences to the countries and the region as a whole.

Countries in conflict divert much of their national resources from development to acquire and stock a large amount of weapons. In most cases through illicit trade. The proliferation of SALW fuels conflicts and further exacerbates the already acute poverty conditions among the population in the countries and concerned regions. Because of insecurity, populations are displaced within and across borders, and economic and social activities are disrupted throughout the region.

There is a breakdown in law and order as armed gangs and organized crime engage in widespread criminality. As governments fail or are unwilling to protect their citizens, violations of human rights lead to serious crimes of war, crimes against humanity and even genocide.

Civil wars also frustrate and discourage both domestic and foreign direct investment in economic activities, increase hunger, disrupt social services such as schooling, health services and lead to a general decline in social conditions, especially of women and children. Illicit Trade and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons have a short and long term negative impact in Africa; they threaten human security and are a major obstacle to sustainable development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In view of the above, the United Republic of Tanzania attaches great importance to and supports the United Nations Programme of Action to address and reduce current stocks and proliferation of SALWs through the establishment of national, regional and international instruments. We also underline our firm support to the United Nations Fire Arms Protocol that just came into force and hope it will be a States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit SALWs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our national implementation report shall be submitted separately in accordance with the standardized format that you had proposed. However, we wish to use this opportunity to highlight some of the specific achievements in brief and where possible try to share some of our experiences.

Tanzania established in July 2001 the Arms Management, Disarmament and Funding Committee but the activities to coordinate and control the illicit proliferation of SALWs officially started earlier in November 1997. We also established the National Action Plan (NAP) only a month from the time the UNPoA was passed by the General Assembly, and by August 2001 we had launched the five year NAP in partnership the Center for Tanzania Peace and Economic Development (CEPEDE), the Tanzania Maritime Foundation (TMF), Safer Africa of South Africa, and Safer World of the UK, as well as establishing the National Focal Point Committee.

Members of the National Focal Point Committee are drawn from different government ministries and departments including Police, Immigration, Customs, Military, Security/Intelligence, Refugees, Defence, Foreign Affairs, Energy and Minerals, Natural Resources and Tourism, Legal and Constitutional Affairs, civil society and non governmental organizations. It is this firm foundation, including regional efforts and international cooperation support from other partners that has acted as a springboard and catalyst to the modest achievements which we have recorded in this area so far.

With regard to the review of National Legislation, important measures have been taken through an appointed Special Committee that monitors implementation of our obligations under the UN Protocol, UN Programme of Action, the Bamako Declaration, the SADC Declaration, and the Nairobi Declaration/Protocol. The Committee has reviewed the national Legislations for the purpose of harmonizing the existing legislations with the international declarations and protocols to which our government is a signatory.

During Phase one and two of the National Action Plan, Tanzania managed to accomplish the following:

- a. Development of National Policy, Bill on regulations and administrative procedure on all matters related to Firearms, ammunition, explosives and related materials for promulgation through the Tanzania Parliament.
- b. Development of a training curriculum and material for designated Firearms Officers in the country.
- c. The establishment of National NGO Network extending to all regions of the country.
- d. Collection and destruction of a total of about 6,547 illegally owned firearms so far and the exercise continues.
- e. Ratification of the Nairobi Protocol.
- f. Participated in several sub-regional, regional and international workshops and seminars.
- g. Has set a good precedence within SADC, the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa, in unpacking the UN Plan of Action on SALWs and developing the National Action Plan, thus providing useful experience to other member states within the three regions.
- h. Digitalized the existing paper data of up to 37,865 records out of the current 83,485, and the work is still in progress.
- i. Attracted support from a number of international partners and enjoys a sizable level of technical assistance in this field.

In conclusion, Tanzania firmly believes that taking action is the only way forward for the African Continent to successfully deal with the problem of SALWs and stands ready to team up with willing international partners to assist other African states through the experience and knowledge gained in implementing the UN Programme of Action.

Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons must be considered as part of the broader context of international peace and human security, including initiatives to strengthen peace-building and conflict prevention. To this end, we need to have an agreement on an International Arms Trade Treaty to prevent illicit trade in weapons by suppliers and standardization of arms exports. This new international instrument will reduce considerably the human cost of arms proliferation in terms of life and impaired development in Africa.

We share the view that although success in implementing the Plan of Action in this respect will come from joint efforts and a shared responsibility between the countries in Sub-Sahara Africa and our development partners, it is of utmost importance that the countries in the region themselves must take ownership and leadership of the process to ensure a well coordinated implementation strategy. Equally important is the fact that there should be linkage between National Plans and Programmes and the strategies for the achievement of relevant MDGs in each country.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman**