STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

DURING

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION (UNPoA)
AND INTERNATIONAL TRACING INSTRUMENT (ITI)
2ND REVIEW CONFERENCE

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST 2012
UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
Madam, President, Ambassador, Professor Joy Ogwu

At the outset, allow me to take this opportunity on behalf of the Kenyan delegation to extend to you our warmest congratulations for your election as the President of the United Nations Programme of Action Second Review conference. We strongly trust you that with your able leadership and rich experience in the field of Diplomacy as well as appointments to senior positions both in government and other organizations. Similarly I also wish to thank the Organizers of the review conference for the good work they have done in making this conference possible.

The United Nation Programme of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its aspects, is particularly important Instrument for Kenya in the implementation of all programmes and activities related to the control and management of SALW.

SALW poses a big challenge and threat to the lives and economic wellbeing of the people of Kenya and those in the great Lakes region, Horn of Africa, and bordering States. This forum therefore provides a very useful opportunity to States, to think beyond the achievements so far made in the implementation of the programme and to seek best practices that would be more effective in Prevention, Combatting, and Eradicating the illicit Trade in SALW in all its aspects. We are therefore looking forward for fruitful deliberations and useful outcome.

Madam President,

The Government of Kenya reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), and continues to play a leading role in the fight against the proliferation of illicit SALW Nationally, regionally and internationally. In this regard, Kenya will continue to contribute to the debate on the control of illicit arms including ammunitions by advocating for regulatory measures.

Madam President,

The establishment of Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (KNFP) in 2003 was a clear commitment by the Government of Kenya to curbing the uncontrolled proliferation of SALW and its devastating effects on the people of Kenya.

Through the Kenya National Focal Point, comprehensive arms mapping and surveys have been undertaken which informed the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan and its successor, the National Action
Plan for Arms control and management. The Strategic Plan promotes the local and international participation, with the Civil Society and other actors playing a crucial role to address the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons.

International cooperation remains a very critical element in the fight against the proliferation of illicit SALW. This requires concerted effort from all actors. Therefore Kenya calls upon the international community to support states especially in Africa in implementing the PoA and the ITI.

At the regional and sub-regional level, Kenya has continued to support the provisions of all instruments and best practices which work towards information exchange and information sharing to prevent uncontrolled arms transfers. Kenya has established mechanisms to promote border control by building the capacity of the law enforcement and customs agencies to enhance security, and to prevent transfer of illicit weapons into the country.

Provincial and District Taskforces on Small Arms and Light weapons have been put in place which work closely with the District Peace Committees in addressing the problem of illicit small arms at the community level. This is an approach that promotes security by encouraging cooperation between Law Enforcement Agencies and Community members under the Community Policing framework.

**Madam, President,**

Alongside the provisions of the PoA and ITI, Kenya has ensured that appropriate administrative procedures are in place to address unregulated transfers of small arms and light weapons. Key to this is the development of a draft Policy on Small Arms and the ongoing review and harmonization of legislation on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The draft policy was developed along the provisions of the PoA and seeks to operationalize legislative, institutional and regulatory framework on Control and Management of SALW in Kenya in order to achieve Kenya’s economic development plan called Vision 2030 and provisions in the 2010 Kenya Constitution.

The draft policy on Small Arms and Light Weapons is very explicit on gender and more so the participation of women in line with the provisions of our constitution and United Nation security council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security. In this regard, Kenya has ensured that gender is mainstreamed in all its Small Arms activities and Programs.

Systematic planning and programme management practices that support long-term implementation of safe and secure stockpile management for small arms and related ammunitions and explosives have been put in place. These arms
are kept and used under strict supervision, and plans are underway to install an electronic register to enhance record keeping and record management of all state owned firearms and Ammunition.

Kenya has put in place standard procedures for the security, safety and disposal of seized, recovered or surrendered firearms using internationally approved best practices. So far 25,179 assorted SALW, 500,000 rounds of ammunitions, 36,000 old ordinance explosives have been destroyed by burning from the year 2003 to 2010.

**Madam President,**

Socio economic development remains central in addressing the challenges of illicit SALW in a society. Kenya recognizes that approaching the Problem of Small arms through development lenses will eventually address the root causes of armament among communities. In this regard, the Government of Kenya in collaboration with UNDP(K), is implementing a number of development projects that would reduce the Gun culture, through a peace dividend concept to consolidate peace efforts while providing avenues for voluntary disarmament. This is being done by providing infrastructural development which is intended to expand alternative livelihood opportunities for Pastoral communities in Kenya.

**Madam, President,**

On implementation of the ITI, Kenya commits herself to achieve the full and effective implementation of the same. To this end, Kenya has embarked on a process of marking all State owned firearms under the custody of the relevant Law Enforcement agencies and the Defence Forces.

To date, over 75% of State Owned firearms have been marked and the exercise is in progress.

**In conclusion,**

Every State has a stake in the outcome of this conference, and that is the reason why Kenya is pleased to have hosted the Regional Review preparatory conference that took place from 14th to 15th August 2012 in Nairobi-Kenya whose aim was to think beyond the achievement so far made in the implementation of the programme of action, and to work with others to ensure broad participation in the process towards having agreed common position.

**Finally,**
Let me reiterate Kenya’s commitment towards the implementation of the UNPOA and the ITI. I also wish to assure you of my delegations full support and participation with openness and flexibility that the conference requires in order to achieve a multilateral agreed common position. Iam confident that this mix will result in a wonderful conference report from which all States will benefit greatly as we continue the fight against the illicit proliferation of SALW.

Allow me Madam, President to renew to you our unwavering support in the effort with which you are going to continue in steering the conference. I wish all of us fruitful deliberations.

Thank you

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