STATEMENT

BY

MR. ARTHUR S. KAFEERO HEAD OF UGANDA DELEGATION AND CHARGE D'AFFARES A.1 MISSION OF UGANDA TO UN

AT

THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2ND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE 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

New York, 20 MARCH, 2012

Please Check Against Delivery
Madam Chair,

On behalf of the Uganda delegation I congratulate you and members of the bureau upon assuming the responsibility of guiding this Preparatory Committee for the forthcoming Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPOA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its aspects. You can count on our support. Uganda aligns itself with the statements made by Nigeria and Indonesia on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively.

Madam Chair,

The adoption of the UNPoA in 2001 signified the international community's resolve to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms. This review process gives us an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in implementing the PoA, identify the gaps and challenges, and devise more effective strategies, drawing on national, regional and international experiences.

Uganda is party to, and is implementing International and Regional Instruments that address the serious challenges posed by the proliferation of Illicit Arms. These include:

- The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa and bordering States,
- The Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism (CEWARN) Protocol for prevention, mitigation and management of conflict in the Inter Government Authority on Development (IGAD) Region,
In this regard, Uganda established a National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons as the Coordinating Agency on all matters related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). We are also implementing a Policy on Firearms that provides stringent measures for regulation of import, export, transport, transit, brokering, possession, and transfer of SALW. A bill seeking to repeal 1970 Firearms Act is being developed on the basis of this Policy with the aim of enacting a law that takes into account the current needs and challenges.

Madam Chair,

As part of the UNPoA and International Tracing Instrument (ITI) implementation in Uganda, an extensive national Firearms Marking exercise for both State and Non State possession is being undertaken. The exercise is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi Protocol indicating Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA) Code, Country and Institution codes, and firearm serial number.

The Uganda NFP in collaboration with stakeholders is compiling and inputting data into the Central Firearms Registry (CFR) of the verified and marked SALW. This will simplify the ease of tracing of legal SALW and tracking of illicit SALW.

Furthermore, Uganda continues to implement collection and disposal measures on Illicit, redundant and obsolete stockpiles and has to date disposed of over 1300 tons of Explosive Ordinance Devices (EOD) and 97,000 pieces of assortment of SALW.

Madam Chair,

The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) continue to be an integral implementation partner of the strategies to combat the proliferation of illicit SALW in Uganda. They actively participate in public education and awareness raising activities on issues of SALW. CSOs
have also participated in capacity building of District Task Forces formed to implement action at district level.

Madam Chair,

Uganda has conducted a number of specialized training programmes that promote competencies of Law Enforcement Agencies in management of SALW to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the International and Regional Instruments. The following programmes are ongoing:

- Training of Senior Officers and Supervisors as well as Armory officers from the Armed Forces in elements of stockpile management
- Sensitization on threats of Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)

Madam Chair,

One of the major challenges faced by least developed countries in implementing the PoA is lack of adequate resources and technical capacity in some areas. Uganda therefore appreciates the support from all her regional and international partners in this regard.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Uganda’s commitment to the implementation of UNPOA and all regional initiatives directed at preventing, combating and eradicating the proliferation and illicit trade in SALW, in all its aspects. We look forward to a successful Review in August 2012, with concrete measures that will result in accelerated implementation of the PoA.

I thank you Madam Chair,