STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 3RD UN CONFERENCE TO REVIEW (REVCON3) 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 19-23 MARCH 2018

a) Thematic debate 1- (Monday 19th & Tuesday Morning 20th March):

Preventing combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national, regional and global level

Amb Jean-Claude Brunet, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for Revcon3,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you and the bureau on your election to steer this very important preparatory meeting. I thank the UN Secretary General and Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs for their continued commitment and support to member states towards the implementation of the UN Program of Action.

Kenya associates itself with statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group and, the distinguished representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We hope that the deliberations under your guidance this week will lead to a successful Conference in June 2018.
Mr. Chairman,

Continued proliferation in small arms and light weapons poses a huge threat to international peace and security. This is of great concern to Kenya as it continues to contribute to conflicts especially in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and other parts of world.

Across the world, conflict has become increasingly asymmetric. Terrorist groups are changing their tactics, including through capturing and holding on to territory. Small arms and light weapons are their weapon of choice.

Most humanitarian crises today include people freeing their homes as internally displaced or refugees to escape from conflicts where small arms and light weapons are a constant feature.

Enforcing political agreements through ceasefire provisions are more difficult to implement due to the flexibility and convenience of small arms and light weapons in case of any misunderstanding.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya is committed to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We expect the Conference will reinforce the imperative for all states to adopt, strengthen or establish national laws, regulations and institutions to enhance the management and control of arms in their respective jurisdictions.

In 2014 Kenya enacted into law, Security Laws Amendment Act, established a Firearms Licensing Board and is in the process of implementing a National Action Plan on the management and control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Currently, we are also in the process of conducting the 2018 National Arms Survey with collaboration from Small Arms Survey of Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation values the role of international cooperation and assistance in ensuring the successful implementation of the UN Programme of Action. Therefore, we expect the Conference to reaffirm that our collective actions in this endeavor must be nationally owned, regionally anchored and internationally supported. The value of south-south and triangular cooperative arrangements and initiatives is self-evident and need not be overemphasized.
Nationally, the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons is involved in various programs towards implementation of the UN Program of Action. These include mapping out possible arms proliferation routes along the common borders, promoting community resilience on security matters through civilian led reporting and tracing at community level, public education and, sensitization and training law enforcement officers on best practices on physical security and stockpile management. In addition, we have completed marking over 98% of state owned small arms and light weapons.

Kenya appreciates the international assistance it has received in implementing its national action plans against small arms and light weapons. We believe that there is a lot more we can do together. More so, regarding provision of technical assistance to enable our law enforcement authorities acquire modern surveillance and other technological equipment for timely detection of arms.

Mr. Chairman,

Regional initiatives to promote a balanced implementation of the UN Program of Action is the best way forward and need to be reaffirmed by the Conference. If one country in a Region successfully implements the UN program of Action and most of its neighbours have not, it amounts to nothing.

Kenya is a member of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) and has benefitted from many of its projects that are funded by various donors including acquisition of Arms Marking machines, arms management and control programs.

We continue to embrace information sharing and cooperation including through mutual legal assistance in narrowing the operating space for transnational crime, including terrorism, poaching among others. We call on the UN and the international community to continue supporting national and regional initiatives in the fight against illicit trade in arms.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to working with you during this Preparatory Committee as we strive for a successful 3rd Review Conference in June 2018.

I thank you.