STATEMENT BY THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AT THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF THE 3\textsuperscript{rd} REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON SALW AND ITS TRACING INSTRUMENT

Mr Chairperson

Accept Chair Felicitations of the East African Community comprising the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda at being elected to Chair the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Review Conference. Going by the experience of the last two days we have faith and confidence in your leadership towards a REVCON that will meet the intended objectives and enhance stakeholders commitments towards the commitments that were made in 2001.

Chairperson

The EAC Region has made substantial and remarkable progress in ensuring the implementation of the UNPoA and the tracing instrument. However the lethargy over the last few years, specifically after the signing of the ATT threatens to roll back the gains made by the supporting states and partners that have been crucial to the process. The ATT while complementary is not an anti-dote to the SALW problem and hence I would wish to emphasize the revitalization of the linking of the needs to resources program that had hitherto played a crucial support to the nations in need by willing nations.

The East African Community remains committed to both national and regional interventions, the latter ensuring proximate application and implementation of global initiatives. The support to the EAC Forensic Referral Centre in Kampala through EU Support by procurement and commissioning of a state of the art Integrated Ballistics Identification System is one such regional initiative intended to address the dual
challenges of enhancing investigative capacity in arms related offences but also ease in tracing supportive to the tracing instrument. This is one of the flagship interventions under the East and Southern Africa Maritime Security Project intended to among others interdict sea bound illicit trafficking of SALW. The EAC remains immensely appreciative to the EU for this support.

The EAC retains the view that while ammunitions remain a critical in the SALW dialogue, it should be subjected to further and in-depth deliberations to facilitate appropriate and structured response to its role in the SALW process and considering the technical production ease and volumes in production.

On border control, the EAC has had her policies trained at enhancing border controls within an easing of business and people to people interaction through operationalization of a single customs territory anchored on one stop internal border posts that have incrementally been established. Additionally the EAC is in the process to operationalizing a Community Border Security Policy which will provide a formal place to trans boundary community on border security as a panacea to the challenges posed by long and porous borders. These two initiatives are intended to be responsive to SDG 16 and to place SALW proliferation and misuse within a development and human security context.

Chairperson.

While the UNPoA has registered substantial achievements since adoption, we must not rest on our laurels. EAC wishes to emphasize the need for continued and sustained technical and financial support at both regional and national level, and fully support the leveraging of these efforts with the initiatives of international specialized organizations like INTERPOL, UNODC and WCO all of which have provided substantial value addition to the process.

In conclusion, Chairperson the EAC wishes to underscore the critical role of the civil society in the effective implementation of the two instruments. SALW is a development concern that requires multi-dimensional approach anchored on effective broad based participation by all gender segments. Due attention to the integration of the provisions of UNSCR 1325 in this regard is central to effective implementation.

I thank you.