



STATEMENT BY

**THE HEAD OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION TO THE FIRST UN REVIEW
CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION
TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS
AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.**

Mr. President, my delegation congratulates you on your election to preside over this historic conference. We have every confidence in your ability to guide us to a successful outcome.

Mr. President, my Delegation supports the proposals you made on the Draft outcome of this meeting as outlined in your non-paper dated May 18th 2006. Although the proposals are modest particularly on Transfer Control Guidelines, they are nevertheless, a significant stride in our quest for a stronger and more effective implementation of Programme of Action. It is with this in mind that Kenya and the United Kingdom, co-hosted an International Conference in April 2006 in Nairobi to build consensus among like-minded States on Transfer Controls as an issue critical to arms at the global level. The Transfer Control Guidelines developed at the conference, are compatible with the Best Practice Guidelines developed and approved by the member states of the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region.

My delegation has taken the liberty to share the conference outcome document. We have requested that this be circulated as a working paper. We hope that its content will be considered for inclusion in the final outcome document.

Mr. President, information collated from the National Reports of the two previous biennial meetings, indicates substantial progress has been made in implementation of the UNPoA. At global level, an instrument on Marking and Tracing has been concluded. Visible measures are also underway to comprehensively address Arms Brokering. However, I believe there is plenty of room for improvement based on the gaps in the programme of action, highlighted in the National Reports. I reaffirm Kenya's firm commitment to the spirit of the UNPoA. We would however wish to see elaboration on specific areas touching on transfer controls during this Review Conference to enhance its effectiveness.

Mr. President the problem of SALW is a matter of great concern to Kenya. This is particularly in reference to the economic, social and political burden it continues to impose on countries within the great lakes region. In acknowledging that no single state can individually address this problem, the states parties to the Nairobi Protocol have continued to collectively work under the guidance of the Regional Centre on Small arms (RECSA) on SALW issues. I am convinced that the Regional Centre model provides a useful framework that could be replicated by other member states for the coordination and implementation of UNPoA. I strongly reaffirm the Kenya Government's commitment to continue to support and work within this regional arrangement.

At the Regional level, Kenya fully associates with the African Common Position as agreed upon in Windhoek Namibia in December 2005 and ratified by the Heads of States Summit held in Khartoum, Sudan in March 2006.

Mr. President, despite global concern over armed violence, precipitated by illicit arms movement and use; there are still visible covert arms transfers to non-state actors in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region. These transfers fan violence, erode human development and seriously undermine peace efforts that the region has heavily invested in.

The situation in Somalia is an example of how material and financial support to non-state actors undermines consolidation of peace and security by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. My delegation appeals to this conference to take note of the consequences of such activities and their impact on regional security and stability especially in the context of transfer controls and support to non-state actors.

Over the last five years, States, International and Civil Society Organizations have carried out a number of studies. The link between small arms related violence and development is incontrovertible. The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, agreed upon on 7th June 2006 provided a road map on the manner in which small arms issues can be integrated into National Development Plans. I would also wish to acknowledge efforts towards this end through the International Conference on The Great Lakes Process.

Mr. President, the oversight, representative and legislative roles of Parliamentarians in tackling SALW's are crucial. In May 2006, the Kenyan National Assembly successfully hosted the 114th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly. The Assembly passed a watershed resolution on *"The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening the Control of Trafficking in Small arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition"*. Kenya calls for the strengthening of National and Regional Parliaments to facilitate the necessary domestication and legislation of the provisions of the UNPoA.

Mr. President, Kenya, as the current chair of the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), recognizes the need to assist Somalia reconstruct its security and governance structures, if the Transitional Federal Government is to be a peace partner to the rest of states in the region and beyond. My delegation urges states to support the Somali people. We strongly believe that in the absence of institutions of Governance in Somalia, security in that country remains a pipe dream. Our position is that technical and financial assistance should be channeled through the TFG of Somalia.

Recent cases of piracy along the 3300 km Somali coastline have internationalized the fragility of the security situation along the Somali coastline. This has increased the vulnerability of states beyond the region. It is our very earnest plea that the international community urgently steps in

and with resolute commitment to support the restoration of peace and stability in Somalia. The long absence of a strong central authority in Somalia has brought about a new dimension of crime and violence in the high seas and is likely to fuel terrorism and interfere with international trade and travel.

Kenya notes the establishment of the Contact Group on Somalia, but emphasizes the need to ensure an inclusive partnership that consolidates initiatives, which Kenya has already put in place in the past. Indeed, in her commitment to strengthen the stabilization of Somalia under the Transitional Federal Government, the Kenya Government, using her own resources, has commenced support to internal security agencies through training support to the Somali Police. 200 officers are currently undergoing training in Kenya Police Institutions.

Mr. President, terrorism remains an omnipresent threat to international peace and security. We must reaffirm our common resolve to combat the terrorism threat. It is therefore necessary to address the problem by strengthening national capacities to monitor the use of explosives and other devices, which can be diverted to undesirable uses. Capacity for security surveillance and checks at the airports and important installations should be enhanced to disrupt potential terrorists from succeeding with their heinous plans. International support to vulnerable states, financially and technically, is thus a critical area that this review conference should accord due priority.

Finally Mr. President, I recognize and commend the important role civil society continues to play in implementation of the PoA. The technical and financial partnerships with states have indeed facilitated the development of our Action Plans, awareness creation and advocacy. They are crucial elements in the campaign against illicit small arms and light weapons. At the National level, Kenya we are indebted to Saferworld for support in National Action Plan development and implementation, Saferfrica and Security Research Information Centre for technical support in the National Action Plan development, Oxfam GB for technical and financial support to the National Focal Point, Africa Peace Forum for awareness creation, Norwegian Church Aid and UNDP for support in arms destruction and development interventions.

As we pursue our collective objective of implementing the PoA, we look forward to an enhanced partnership with all stakeholders to create an enabling environment for human security and development and in this way achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

I thank you.