



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY
MRS. GRACE MUJUMA
MINISTER COUNSELLOR OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE

**2006 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT
TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

NEW YORK, JUNE 27, 2006

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE
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Mr. President,

The United Republic of Tanzania joins other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau for your election.

The United Republic of Tanzania associate itself with the statements made by Zimbabwe, on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

As we assess progress made during the last five years of implementing the UN Programme of Action to Prevent and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, it is our view that although we are still faced with numerable challenges, we also have made encouraging steps in several aspects that provide a fertile ground for even further advancement and improvement.

Mr. President,

In 2001, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons set a number of implementation benchmarks at the national, regional and international levels for us all. In implanting the Programme, Tanzania has achieved modest progress. After undertaking an assessment on the magnitude of Small Arms and Light Weapons problem in Tanzania, with the assistance of partners, we formulated the National Action Plan, the Focal Point Committee and the Provincial Task Forces. Components in the National Plan include institutional framework, review of legislations, stockpile management, civil

society participation, capacity building and regional cooperation. The Focal Point Committee draws representatives from all stakeholders.

During the same year in 2001 Tanzania broadened its efforts and expanded the cooperation with other countries at the regional level. We signed the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol in 2001 and the Nairobi Protocol in 2004 and ratified them in 2002 and 2005 respectively. The SADC Protocol is a legally binding instrument to control Firearms and Ammunition and other related materials. On its part the Nairobi Protocol is meant to prevent, control and reduce Small Arms and Light Weapons in Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. These mechanisms coordinate practical measures on regional co-operation regarding legislative measures, operational and capacity building. The mechanisms also look into arms control and tracing, collection and destruction, public awareness, record-keeping as well as distribution and information exchange. In 2003, Tanzania reviewed its Fire Arms and Ammunition Act of 1991 to make it comply with the UN Programme of Action and the newly signed regional protocols.

We also wish to point out that the SADC Nairobi Protocol puts emphasis among other aspects, on the usefulness of having agreed standards on arms control to facilitate efforts to combat illicit arms proliferation. This idea is in line with the most recent transfer control initiative, which we strongly support and encourage other member states and regions to favorably consider.

Mr. President,

Mindful of the existence of a stronger relations between the problem of small arms and light weapons and peace, security and development in the region, we have committed our resources in addressing the problem because it undermines the sustainability of peace agreements, impede the success of peace building, frustrates the efforts aimed at the prevention

of armed conflicts and hinders the provisions of humanitarian's assistance and economic development.

It is in this regard that we also emphasize the linkage between the illegal exploitation of natural resources, illicit trade in such resources and the proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons as one of the factors fueling and exacerbating the same.

Mr. President,

Amidst these challenges we have notable achievements in arms reduction activities, record keeping and public awareness. From 2001 - 2005 for instance, Tanzania destroyed more than 5500 firearms and ammunitions. We have also established an electronic database at the Government's Central Fire Arms Registry and produced Operational Reference manuals for use in 14 countries of the region as well as publishing pamphlets for distribution to enhance public awareness and education on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

In spite of this progress we are keenly conscious that we still have much to do. In our view greater success in tracking the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons would obtain more leverage by the adoption of an international binding instrument. The existence of loose instruments of political nature and character has helped but we need to do more. It would be important to find ways to upgrade these instruments in due course.

In conclusion, we wish thank our development partners for the assistance received. We however believe that it would be more productive if the issues relating with Small Arms and Light Weapons would be included in the development agenda and national development strategies, so that development partners can devote more resources in the implementation of UN Programme of Action at all levels.

I thank you, Mr. President.