



Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations

Statement by Brig. Gen. Christo Fataki, Head of the Bureau For Community Security and Small Arms Control, Republic of South Sudan at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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

On Agenda item: International Cooperation and Assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including: (a) capacity building, including training and b) Transfer of Technology and equipment.

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Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time in this Conference, please allow me Mr. Chairperson to add my voice to those who preceded me in congratulating you upon assuming the responsibility of guiding this important Conference aimed at considering the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPOA) and International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

I would also like to assure you of my delegation's fullest support. The Republic of South Sudan fully aligns itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group. My delegation is listening keenly to the deliberations and is developing a stronger understanding of the global concerns in the implementations of the PoA and the ITI.

Mr. Chairperson,

South Sudan for the last 56 years has become a theatre of conflict and an established destination for illicit small arms. These uncontrolled small arms continue to fuel and perpetuate conflicts, posing a threat to political stability, disrupting economic activities and hindering development efforts by scaring away investors both local and foreign.

The proliferation and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in South Sudan is compounded by lack of technical capacity and resources to monitor and control arms flow and prevent their misuse.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a young country we have made some efforts to address the problem by establishing national policy and legislation on small arms which include among others: prevention of diversion, stock pile management procedures, marking and tracing requirement, in addition to signing the legally binding Nairobi Protocol which feeds into global instruments such as the UNPoA and International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

Most of the efforts that I have just mentioned, address only the supply and management side of SALW and we see them insufficient or, they have been proven insufficient for restricting or reducing the supply of weapons, for they only address the symptoms and not the root causes of the problem. We need not, only to address the supply and management side of SALW but also the demand side. This is to say remedies must address both the symptoms and the root causes of the problem.

Mr. Chairperson,

As for International Cooperation and Assistance I would like to say that the fight against the proliferation and illicit trade in SALW needs concerted efforts within and outside the country; it is not one country's business.

Given the ease with which small arms cross borders from one country to another and across different regions, the effects resulting in failure to control in one country will have implications over wider geographical and political boundaries.

Therefore collective effort through regional cooperation and international assistance is imperative as no country can hope to eradicate the small arms problems single handedly. Only joint and coordinated action can solve the problem in a sustainable manner.

Mr. Chairperson,

South Sudan requires significant international technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) as mentioned in our national report, in all their aspects.

The current confliction in our country has eroded all the initial gains made in the field of community security particularly controlling the spread and proliferation of small arms among unauthorized users.

As I conclude I wish to reiterate South Sudan's commitment to continue to work closely with you and with other Member States in order to achieve a positive outcome from this Conference.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.