STATEMENT BY

Mr. Charles Ulaya, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ministry of Home Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania 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 (BMS-5)

Agenda Item 8: International Cooperation and Assistance For Full and Effective Implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, Including Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology And Equipment

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to commend you as the Chair of this meeting and thank you as well as the Secretariat for the preparatory work done. I also wish to assure you of our cooperation and support as you lead our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

The main purpose of the biennial meeting of States especially under this agenda item should be to assess the implementation of the Program of Action at the national, regional and global levels. In the United Republic of Tanzania this task is mandated to the National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NFP), which was established in 2001. It is a coordinating office within the Tanzania Police Force in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In this regard the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has undertaken measures to address the problem of SALW proliferation, as follows:
(i) Provides training of law enforcement officials on how to investigate crimes related to SALW;
(ii) Hosting regional and subregional workshops and meeting and deliberating on various efforts to address the problem of SALW;
(iii) Sensitizing the general community to voluntarily surrender illicit small arms and light weapons;
(iv) Working in collaboration with various partners to ensure much holistic and concerted efforts are inspired in fighting illicit proliferation of SALW;
(v) Administering destruction and disposal of surrendered, seized and obsolete SALW.

These measures mentioned above have enabled us to make progress in fighting this menace.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania signifies its full capacity possible in implementation of the Programme of Action and other regional instruments which includes the following:

(i) The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects;
(ii) Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons;
(iii) The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa;
(iv) The SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other related materials.
Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the United Republic of Tanzania believes in international cooperation and assistance for full and effective implementation of the programmes of action and the international tracing instrument. However, this should be rendered upon request, without conditionalities, taking into account the needs and priorities of recipient states.

I thank you.