REGIONAL CENTRE ON SMALL ARMS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION,
THE HORN OF AFRICA AND BORDERING STATES
(RECSA)

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

19th June 2014

BY
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Mr. Chairman
On behalf of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) let me begin by joining others in congratulating you on your election as chair of this Biennial Meeting of States.

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the UNPoA and the ITI within the Nairobi Protocol framework in the RECSA sub-region which currently comprises of 15 Member States. This has been made possible with financial support from EU, Japan, USA, Netherlands, UK, Germany, and Norway among others.

Mr. Chairman
As far as stockpile management is concerned, destruction of obsolete and collected SALW is on-going in RECSA region with support of various partners. RECSA has directly supported the destruction of over 300,000 firearms, and over 2,000 tonnes of UXOs in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Mr. Chairman,
In support of the ITI, RECSA has purchased and distributed 36 arms marking machines in its region and 12 in six ECOWAS countries. Marking is on-going in nine of the RECSA countries and two in ECOWAS. To enhance record keeping and tracing, RECSA developed a regional customized software that has so far been rolled out in three countries. The marking of State owned firearms is already bearing fruits in accountability, speedy prosecutions and traceability.
Mr. Chairman,

Despite the above achievements, there are still large stocks of UXOs that need destruction and firearms in unsafe storage facilities that need improvement or construction where there are none; there is still inadequate awareness on the dangers of SALW especially among the youth, weak national and regional institutions mandated to control SALW proliferation and inadequate baseline data to measure progress and effectiveness of interventions. In addition failure to appreciate the link between SALW control and development is yet another challenge.

Mr. Chairman

We wish to align ourselves to earlier statements calling for strengthening of regional organizations and national institutions dealing with SALW matters.

Mr. Chairman

I would finally like to restate RECSA’s strong support for your Chairmanship and meaningful outcome of this Biennial Meeting.

I THANK YOU