STATEMENT BY

MS. SALOME KAGOSHA

OF

THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ON AGENDA ITEM 90 (Y)
ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

FIRST COMMITTEE
61ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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(Please Check Against delivery)
Madam Chair,

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continues to be the cause of millions of deaths in the world today, particularly in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. Development and security is further impeded by irresponsible use of small arms and light weapons.

Kenya has taken great efforts in establishing a comprehensive and sustainable regime to prevent, reduce and combat illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. These include development of a National Action Plan, Drafting of a National Policy, setting of Provincial and District Task Forces, destruction of illicit arms, strengthening of the National coordinating structure and ensuring participation of the civil society in all processes.

Madam Chair,

At the regional level, Kenya together with ten other countries is signatory to the Nairobi Protocol for Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.

Kenya also signed a joint disarmament initiative with Uganda in 2005, to facilitate disarmament of the pastoral communities in the common border.
Kenya’s efforts in seeking sustainable solutions to the conflicts in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa are never-ending. These include the successful negotiation and consequent formation of a Transitional National Government in Somalia, and the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan.

Despite these efforts, Kenya continues to bear the brunt of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Currently, we are faced with the challenge of large influx of refugees from Somalia which has been aggravated by the irresponsible use of small arms and light weapons.

We therefore acknowledge the fact that there is an urgent need for an international code to control arms trade, as arms transfers transcend states and regions. Such an agreement will ensure that standards for arms control are applied universally, therefore leading to the safety of many lives, international peace and security, respect for the rule of law, and sustainable development for all.

_Madam Chair,_

Kenya is greatly encouraged by the wide support the draft resolution entitled “Towards an Arms Trade Treaty: Establishing Common Standards for the Import, Export and Transfer of Conventional Arms”, is receiving, and strongly urges all states to support this initiative.

_I Thank You!_