STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR OMBENI Y. SEFUE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS DURING THE FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DABATE ON AGENDA ITEM: DISARMAMENT OF
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

NEW YORK, 19TH OCTOBER, 2010
Mr. Chairman:

Once again, I want to congratulate you and the bureau for presiding over this session and commend you for the job well done to date. My delegation and I associate ourselves with the statement of NAM delivered by Indonesia. I welcome the statement of the Chairperson of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in All its Aspects.

Mr. Chairman:

The United Republic of Tanzania underscores the fact that the Programme of Action on SALWs is, since its inception in 2001, a UN-led process and I wish to emphasize here that there is every reason for Member States to uphold the cardinal and sacred principle of multilateralism under the UN Framework. Member States established the United Nations in the aftermath of two World Wars with the vision of a secure and peaceful world and placed the primary responsibility to guarantee the maintenance of international peace and security under the Organization.

Member States have thus both the moral and legal obligation to support the UN in all its endeavours and to abide by its Charter. In that regard, the words United Nations should not be omitted from the title of the Programme and should therefore read as UNPoA, not PoA.
Mr. Chairman:

My delegation welcomes the inclusion of the item of SALWs on the disarmament agenda. I urge all Member States to work together to eradicate the profound dangers posed by SALWs on humankind.

In the Great lakes Region of Africa, for example, these weapons have been used to kill and maim millions of innocent people. Small and light weapons were used in this sub-region to commit genocide, they were used to cause incalculable suffering to society and they were used to unravel the economic and social fabric of entire societies on a large scale. Small and light weapons precipitated huge internal displacements of innocent people and large exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries, including my own. I believe this is the case in many other parts of the world. We cannot allow this situation to continue. In that regard, my delegation fully supports the inclusion of SALWS on the list of weapons to be included in the scope of the envisaged Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. Chairman:

In consideration of the importance and the need for disarmament of Conventional Weapons, including SALWs and ammunition, the United Republic of Tanzania stands ready to co-sponsor the resolution on SALWs as well as a related resolution to include women in disarmament, as key players. Women have to play a significant role in the disarmament debate and activities in the Great Lakes Region of Africa at all levels because they are major stakeholders in development activities, and because they bear the biggest brunt of war and armed conflict perpetrated using SALWs.

M. Chairman:
In conclusion, I want to reiterate the support of the United Republic of Tanzania to the disarmament of Conventional Weapons, in particular Small Arms and Light Weapons, and their Ammunitions, without prejudice to the envisaged Arms Trade Treaty as an international binding instrument to regulate trade thereof. Armament is caused by human beings; disarmament is doable if human beings so desire. This is the right thing to do. Let us do it. Tanzania pledges to do its part.

Thank You for listening.