STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

THEMATIC DEBATE: “CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS”

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Mr. Chairman,

Kenya associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

The Conventional arms debate has been given a considerable amount of scrutiny this year and rightly so. The 2nd Review Conference to assess the implementation of the UNPOA, under the able leadership of Ambassador Joy Ogwu, following as it were on the intense negotiations of the UN Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty put a spotlight on the problem of illicit flows of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The UN Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty offered us the best opportunity to address one of the biggest challenges we face currently i.e. the unregulated traffic in conventional weapons which results in horrendous consequences. That Conference did not, unfortunately manage to deliver a treaty or if we want to be brutally honest. We did not manage to go past our various fears and phantoms to complete the task which I suspect many of us know must be done.

Therefore it we leave aside all the deep expressions of disappointment and chagrin at the perceived failure of the Conference, we need to take cognizance of the fact that we still have work to do and do it urgently and do it properly this time.

Members are almost universally agreed that the trade in arms simply needs better regulation. Members are agreed that an ATT is achievable.

So let us have the courage to take the next step. Let us build on the tremendous work achieved in July 2012. We had all put a lot of thought and spent considerable energy to come up with the 26 July draft text. We should fine tune it in March 2013 so as to arrive at our collective, desired goal – an ATT that will make a credible difference to the lives of our people.

Mr. Chairman,

The adoption of a consensus outcome at the end of the Review Conference on the UNPOA was a major step in the right direction. Our appreciation and thanks to Ambassador Ogwu of Nigeria for her excellent and wise stewardship of the Conference. It is our hope that members will use this momentum to build upon and energize the UNPOA so as to strengthen its implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to conclude by assuring you of my delegation’s full commitment to support and strengthen meaningful measures aimed at disarmament.

I thank you.