STATEMENT by
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

The Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects held in New York
6th – 10th JUNE 2016

Mr. Chairman,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

Since this is the first time the Federal Government of Somalia delegation is taking the floor, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment.

On behalfe of the Permanent Mission of Somalia Allow me to deliver the statement from the Office of National Security Advisor for H.E the President Of the F.R of Somalia.

The illicit trade and misuse of the small arms and light weapons pose a significant threat to global, regional and national peace
and security, as well as to the social and economic development of many countries, including Somalia.

Mr. Chairman,

These uncontrolled small arms continue to fuel and perpetuate conflicts, posing a threat to political stability, disrupting economic activities and hindering development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the Goal no 16 in SDGs is a key and recognises the link between reduction of illicit arms flows, combating all forms of organized crime and Development. The proliferation and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Somalia is compounded by a lack of technical capacity and resources to monitor and control arms flow and prevent their misuse. Additionally, there is a close linkage between the illicit trade in SALW and terrorism, piracy, human trafficking, organized crime and drugs. In particular, given the linkage between the illicit trade in SALW and terrorism, it is clear that we need to enhance cooperation at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, and, where necessary, to assist capacity-building efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

The Federal Government of Somalia has made solid improvements in Weapons and Ammunition Management and compliance with notification, reporting and controls to achieve sustainable peace and security in the country.
In 2014 the Federal Government of Somalia initiated a project aimed at establishing a national framework governing the lifecycle of weapon and ammunition. Under this framework, in 2015 the Federal Government of Somalia, together with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nation Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), UN Mine Action Service in Somalia (UNMAS) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized a series of consultative workshops on "National Frameworks for Weapons and Ammunition Management in Somalia." The series of consultative workshops have directly contributed to the establishment of national coordinating body and facilitated national dialogue and decision-making on weapon management.

Mr. Chairman I am pleased to report that Since 2014, with support from UNMAS, the Federal Government of Somalia has initiated a weapon marking programme, which to date has succeeded in marking more than 6,000 weapons with various National Security Forces in Mogadishu. This programme is currently being rolled out into the regions. UNMAS has also assisted in the destruction of more than 200 surplus weapons. Moreover, with support from Conflict Armament Research (CAR), Somalia has begun documenting and tracing weapons and ammunition that its forces have captured from Al-Shabaab. These three parallel programmes are critical in overseeing the management of both licit and illicit weapons in Somalia. However, more support is needed.
Mr. Chairman,

As for International Cooperation and Assistance it is my belief that the fight against the proliferation and illicit trade in SALW needs concerted efforts from both within and outside Somalia.

Given the ease with which small arms cross borders from one country to another and across different regions, the failure of one country to control illicit arms flows has implications over wider geographical and political boundaries.

Therefore, collective effort through regional cooperation and international assistance is imperative as no country alone can eradicate the illicit proliferation of small arms single handedly. Only coordinated action can solve the problem in a sustainable manner.

Specifically, the Federal Government of Somalia would welcome international assistance in the areas of physical security and stockpile management to strengthen our ability to safely and securely store weapons and ammunition. The Federal Government of Somalia would also welcome capacity building support from the international community to strengthen the Office of the National Security Advisor’s ability to oversee, coordinate and operationalize weapons and ammunition management.

Mr. Chairman,
Our national efforts in the fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons would not have yielded any result without the cooperation of a range of international actors and partners.

In addition, the Federal Government of Somalia requires significant international technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument as mentioned in our national report.

In this occasion, we would like to extend our gratitude to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, United Nation Assistance Mission in Somalia, United Nation Mine Action Service in Somalia, UN Development Programme, Conflict Armament Research, Regional Centre on Small Arms, Small Arms Survey, AMISOM and other partners whose support has been indispensable in building national frameworks and capacity for Weapons and Ammunition Management in Somalia.

Lastly, the Federal Government of Somalia, in cooperation with Finland and international partners, are organizing a side-event in the margins of this Conference on tomorrow Wednesday 8th June to share the progress made in weapon and ammunition management in Somalia, including challenges and opportunities in moving forward in this area.
To conclude Mr. Chairman, The Federal Government of Somalia remains committed to the National reporting obligation on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument, which we have demonstrated over the past few years by submitting national reports on a regular basis in line with the reporting period. I wish to reiterate the Federal Government of Somalia’s commitment to continue to work closely with you and with other Member States in order to achieve a positive outcome from this Conference.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

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