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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE

FIRST COMMITTEE

ON

ALL DISARMAMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

DURING THE
60TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York
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Mr. Chairman,

Warm congratulations on your election as Chair of the First Committee for the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. You have Kenya's full support.

Kenya associates itself with the statements of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Nigeria's on behalf of the African Union.

Mr. Chairman,

Our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Indonesia following the terrorist bomb attack last weekend in Bali. For us, it underscores two points: **First**, it conclusively illustrates that these terrorist attacks will occur anywhere and affect everyone. **Second**, that the patent inability of the multilateral system to definitively address this and other disarmament-related matters, will lead some to resort to unilateral measures, thus weakening the multilateral infrastructure, which we in Kenya wholeheartedly embrace and seek to replicate.

Mr. Chairman,

With multilateral solutions to disarmament issues obviously under stress, the inability of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document to point us in any meaningful direction on disarmament and non-proliferation matters was a major disappointment. Coupled with the Disarmament Commission's inability to hold any substantive meetings in 2005; failure of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to reach agreement on any substantive issues last May; the deadlock at the Conference on Disarmament, even to agree on an agenda; and the delay of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; a disarmament diplomacy malaise is setting in, and new carefully thought-out initiatives become even more attractive.

The First Committee bears some of the responsibility for this impasse. We can however, become more relevant by revitalizing our work and reasserting our *raison d'être* by thinking creatively about new solutions. In this regard, Kenya welcomes the initiative by some Member States to re-energize disarmament diplomacy at the Conference on Disarmament by forming Working Groups on various issues that would cease as soon as the Conference on Disarmament begins its work. This approach will help. We believe that political will, carefully calibrated to produce the most desirable results for all, is the silver bullet that will turn the tide.

Mr. Chairman,

Our disappointment in the obvious lack of progress on some issues before this Committee cannot overshadow a growing sense of optimism that some real progress has been made on the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The positive progress we have seen in our region in confronting this problem, taken together with the international multilateral process that gave birth to a new instrument on marking and tracing, are positive signs we should pursue. We should proceed carefully bringing all delegations onboard to achieve full consensus.

Just before the General Debate began, H.E. President Mwai Kibaki of the Republic of Kenya, on September 17, 2005, called on the Secretary-General to study the matter of evolving an Arms Trade Treaty. Other ideas have been floated including requesting the General Assembly to authorize an Intergovernmental Group of Experts to explore ways of codifying co-operation on illicit sale of Small Arms and Light Weapons. We note that others support minimum common international controls on Small Arms and Light Weapons transfers and provisions on ammunition to be included in the United Nations Programme of Action and discussed in the January 2006 Prep Com and the June 2006, Review Conference.

Whichever direction we take, let us not lose the momentum to entrench real gains on this troublesome disarmament subject. The Secretary-General's report A/60/161, amply crystallizes the emerging consensus on this matter. Our efforts should propel this issue to fruition.

Mr. Chairman,

Our region is a trailblazer in combating the illicit circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. We have moved from debating to implementation of clear road maps, incorporating the twin principles of ownership and partnership. Since the First Biennial Meeting of States in July 2003, the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa have made significant achievements in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA). This has primarily been executed through the implementation of the Co-ordinated Agenda for Action adopted in November, 2000, the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as the Nairobi Protocol for Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa.

The Third Ministerial Review Conference of the Nairobi Declaration was held on June 20 and 21, 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. All eleven Member States signatories to the Nairobi Declaration and Nairobi Protocol were represented. The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, though not a member, attended the Conference and was admitted as the twelfth member of the sub-regional initiative. The Conference approved the following documents:-

- Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) to co-ordinate the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and Nairobi Protocol in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa to **succeed the Nairobi Secretariat.**

- The Ministerial Declaration for practical implementation of small arms action in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa.
- The Best Practice Guidelines and Minimum Common Standards on key issues in the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol including Stockpile Management; Import, Export and Transit; and Marking, Tracing and Brokering.

We expect that these Best Practice Guidelines will be domesticated into the National Legislatures of Member States by the end of April 2006. On capacity-building, the Regional Centre with the technical support from civil society partners has developed a training curriculum for Law enforcement Agencies, civil society and senior management. This training curriculum has been pre-tested in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya and found workable.

Mr. Chairman,

The Third Ministerial Review Conference of June 2005, also welcomed the International Workshop on Global Principle for Arms Transfers held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania in February 2005, the progress made towards creating consensus on the need for global principles for arms transfer controls and the agreement on the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol which are consistent with the principles of the idea of an Arms Trade Treaty, which we support. In extolling the virtues of this successful regional effort, the solid external assistance it has received, should be mentioned. We encourage more of the same. We look forward to the January 2006 Prep Com and the June 2006 Review Conference to deepen the normative environment on this important disarmament agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, headquartered in Lome, Togo, operates on the basis of voluntary contributions from Member States and some resources from the Secretariat. We note with concern the Secretary-General's disquiet about the uncertainty of operations owing to a relentless drop in voluntary contributions. Although projects are being implemented, such as the Small Arms Transparency and Control Regime (SATCRA), it is clear that the Centre's dire financial situation ought to be addressed more vigorously.

Kenya encourages the Department of Disarmament Affairs to continue in its efforts in identifying ways of ensuring the Centre's operations, taking into account our needs in Africa, as well as the issues of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The conclusions reached by the Secretary-General in his report A/60/153 of July 22, 2005, need to be carefully implemented in order to enable the Centre realize its mandate addressing Africa's needs in disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction was successfully held in Nairobi, from November 29 to December 3, 2004. The resounding positive international expression of commitment by the States Parties in achieving the Convention's objectives marks another key success for disarmament diplomacy. Our resolute efforts must be to ensure that the Nairobi Plan of Action is implemented to its fullest extent, realizing finally our vision of a totally "mine-free world". The plight and painful picture of our fellow human beings afflicted by these "weapons of small destruction" must come to an end.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on Thursday, September 15, 2005. Kenya's desire, with the international community, to prevent the commission of terrorist acts by use of radioactive material, goes to the heart of our important agenda in this Committee.

International terrorism remains one of the most serious challenges to global peace, security and stability. In this technological era, it has become imperative to ensure that weapons of mass destruction including nuclear and radioactive material do not end up in the possession of persons or groups intend on committing acts of terror. Kenya therefore, welcomes the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and is among the countries that recently became signatories. Kenya is also party to the already existing 12 Treaties in the subject and the African Union Convention Against Terrorism. We hope consensus on the outstanding issues in elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism will be achieved to facilitate its conclusion, if possible, within the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

Our task is huge, our political will must be revived because the States are so high. This Session must break the mould and propel us to reach real progress on disarmament.

I thank you!