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STATEMENT

BY

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*AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE**

OF THE

**FIRST COMMITTEE**

DURING THE

61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, October 3, 2006  
New York*

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*Madam Chairperson,*

I congratulate you on your appointment to preside over this important Committee. My delegation has every confidence in your ability to meet this challenge. We look forward to working closely with you with a view to realizing positive results to our deliberations. We thank the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs for his thoughtful presentation on the numerous challenges that confront our vital work on disarmament today. We share his assessment on all issues, especially on the disappointing climaxes to both the 2005 NPT Conference and the 2006 Review Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

*Madam Chairperson,*

Kenya associates herself with the statement presented by the Distinguished Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the Distinguished Representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Union. Kenya attaches great importance to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its Objectives. Kenya supports all efforts aimed at addressing the pending issues of disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. We urge all States Parties to the NPT to fully co-operate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and fulfill their obligations under the Treaty. We also encourage those States not party to the Treaty to join the Convention so as to secure a wider support in authenticating the Treaty's goals of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, nurturing a culture of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and promoting general and complete disarmament.

*Madam Chairperson,*

The negative effects that the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons has in our region and elsewhere in the world is well documented. Kenya has been unequivocal in the battle for a comprehensive, sustained effort towards preventing, combating and eradicating the trade in Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects. We attach great importance to reducing the demand for small arms both internally and in the region. Kenya has taken deliberate measures in addressing the problem of illicit small arms including a National Policy and Plan of Action, establishment of provincial and district task forces, destruction of arms, strengthening of national co-ordination structures, participation of civil society and integration of those efforts in community development programmes.

*Madam Chairperson,*

Kenya continues to ascribe great importance to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects (UNPOA). The Programme of Action provides a roadmap to address the problem of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The programme however, needs to be backed by clear global principles governing arms transfers. These principles, if adopted, can provide a sound basis for a global legally-binding instrument. Although, this may appear ambitious, in several regions of the world a great deal has already been achieved at sub-regional and regional levels in terms of development of common criteria to deal with international transfers of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Examples include the Best Practice Guidelines on the Implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms

and Light Weapons (2005), the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Material (2004), the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports (1998) and the Common Position on the Control of Arms Brokering (2003).

There are clear areas of commonality amongst major regional and multilateral initiatives and there is consensus on a number of specific criteria that effective Small Arms and Light Weapons transfer controls should cover.

What is lacking are "Global" standards. We need to exert ourselves more and we need to have the political will and courage to build on the progress that has already been achieved regionally to produce a set of international Small Arms and Light Weapons transfer control guidelines that will be applicable globally. Section II, Paragraph 11 of the UN Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme of Action (SALW POA) provides the ideal institutional basis for such an accord. We therefore, urge States to seize the opportunity to make substantive progress on this issue.

*Madam Chairperson,*

Last July, Kenya expressed her deep disappointment at the inability of the Review Conference to evolve a basic Outcome Document. We then pledged, with others, that we would pursue a more suitable way forward during the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Today, with others, Kenya is a co-author of a draft resolution in the First Committee that seeks to establish an effective international instrument that would regulate the international trade in conventional arms so as to prevent, combat and eradicate those sales or transfers of arms likely to promote conflict, crime and terrorism. We will work closely with all delegations to bring this to fruition. We urge all delegations to grasp this historic opportunity and travel with us in evolving such an important outcome.

*Madam Chairperson,*

On October 7, last year, Kenya noted that multilateral solutions to disarmament were under stress. We welcomed and supported the proposal on initiating work on certain priority disarmament and non-proliferation issues, in an effort to re-energize disarmament diplomacy at the Conference on Disarmament. Six nations including Kenya, drove this initiative, but held back, when new developments stopped the process. We are willing to explore this initiative during this Session, if the perception and reality of a "consensus veto" continues to frustrate our progress.

*Madam Chairperson,*

I conclude by reiterating my delegation's commitment to the objectives of disarmament enshrined in the *raison d'être* of this First Committee.

*I Thank You!*