



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE

OF THE

FIRST COMMITTEE

OF THE

63RD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2008
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

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Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Committee. I also congratulate members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of the support and co-operation of my delegation.

We align ourselves with the statements by the distinguished delegate of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation and I, are delighted to contribute to this General Debate on Disarmament and International Security.

I would like, at the outset, to reaffirm Kenya's commitment to efforts aimed at strengthening disarmament. General and complete disarmament must be our ultimate goal. We must not give up our efforts to rid the world of nuclear and biological weapons. Despite the pessimism that generally accompanies discussions about disarmament, Kenya firmly believes that disarmament is a viable tool for reducing the likelihood and dangers to conflict. We support a multilateral approach to disarmament.

It is our conviction the three main provisions of the Non-Proliferation-Treaty: disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy by all States, are the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. They must be given equal and balanced treatment on the basis of non-selectivity.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament and development are inextricably linked. Weapons seriously impede development. Disarmament is an important ingredient in the construction of sustainable development which is essential to promoting human security and human rights.

Security cannot be guaranteed by individual states in isolation. It requires our collective efforts. It is for this reason that multilateralism must be given priority by the international community.

In this regard, Kenya underscores the important role of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as the single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament treaties. However, we are concerned at the lack of progress at the Conference for close to a decade. It is our hope that the tremendous efforts made by the P-6 Presidency at the 2007 Session will soon bear fruit. It would give impetus to substantive negotiations on a programme of work based on the principle of balance

I thank you!

Finally, I urge all delegations to work together in a spirit of co-operation so that we can achieve our collective objective. The stakes are high but together we can succeed. Kenya will lend its support.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the report submitted to the General Assembly by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) entrusted with examining the feasibility, scope and the parameters of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Kenya is committed to an open process with involvement of all States, which we hope, will lead to a legally-binding Arms Trade Treaty. It is our conviction, an Arms Trade Treaty would ensure responsible trade in small arms and light weapons.

I am pleased to inform the Africa Regional Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, International Transfers and Development was held in Nairobi on September 3rd and 4th, 2008. The Outcome Document will be presented shortly to this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya will continue playing an active role in contributing towards addressing this problem of proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The efforts by the Regional Centre for Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSEA), in harmonizing and co-ordinating the activities of Member States in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region in reduction of small arms and light weapons, are commendable. We appreciate the support provided by partner States to the Centre.

Kenya reiterates her support 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. We welcome the report of the Working Group of Government Experts on Illicit Brokering.

Conventional weapons continue to have devastating impact especially in developing countries. They fuel civil wars and other conflicts, causing harm to millions of people, particularly in Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya joins the call for the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament.

and non-selectivity.