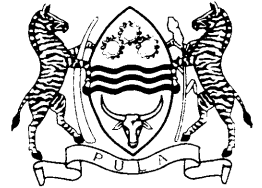


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
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REMARKS

BY

**MR. KENNY KAPINGA
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BOTSWANA POLICE SERVICE**

**AT THE FOURTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO
CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF
ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE ILLICIT
TRADE IN LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL IT'S ASPECTS**

ON

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

15 JUNE 2010, NEW YORK

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Mr. Chairman,

1.0 Allow me to express my delegation's congratulations to you for your election as Chair of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States. We assure you of our full support in steering this meeting towards a fruitful and successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

2.0 My delegation believes that cooperation and assistance measures remain critical and primary in determining the success or failure of national efforts in implementing all aspects of the Programme of Action. In this respect, it would be useful for us to consider how the limited resources from various donors can be effectively utilized to attain concrete results.

3.0 Botswana is of the view that one of the ways of ensuring efficiency in the utilization of available resources is to place emphasis on regional approaches. It is important for States in different regions to harmonize their efforts in addressing critical issues such as border control, stockpile management, marking, tracing, specialized training, information sharing and development of legislation.

4.0 For her part, Botswana has put in place strict legal provisions governing the possession of firearms and prohibiting the possession of handguns and automatic firearms by private individuals. However, criminal activity reveals that these illicit weapons are accessible from other countries and this call for greater cooperation to stem this illegal flow of weapons.

5.0 Botswana also participates in sub-regional law enforcement operations under the auspices of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, carried out on a quarterly basis, specifically targeting illicit firearms, drugs and other contraband.

Mr. Chairman,

6.0 Botswana supports the suggested measures to be adopted to enhance International Assistance and Cooperation, in particular, the encouragement of donors to provide technical and financial assistance to facilitate technology transfer and assistance for the implementation of regional agreements.

7.0 Botswana also supports the development and enhancement of follow up mechanisms so as to ensure effective coordination as well as instill a greater sense of urgency in addressing the problem of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

8.0 In that regard, Botswana fully endorses the initiative of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System which seeks to match the needs of States with resources for the purpose of promoting the goals of the Programme of Action.

9.0 We believe that such an initiative opens up a new channel of facilitating and expediting International Cooperation and Assistance.

10.0 Botswana would welcome the strengthening of this PoA - ISS initiative, including the convening of meetings where potential donors could meet directly with potential beneficiaries.

Mr. Chairman,

11.0 Botswana has submitted a request for assistance through the PoA - ISS under the thematic area of Marking, Tracing and Record Keeping, the project being the Computerization of the Central Arms Registry of Botswana. Cooperation and support for this project will be highly appreciated.

12.0 In conclusion, we wish to once again emphasize the vital importance of regional and sub-regional structures in the implementation of the UNPoA. The relative success attained in the Southern African region under the umbrella of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization is indeed testimony to the old adage that charity begins at home.

I thank you for your attention.