



**KENYA 'S STATEMENT ON PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE
DURING THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES HELD IN NEWYORK
ON THE 16th JUNE 2010**

H. E. The President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Kenya reaffirms its commitment and obligation to provide peace and security to its citizenry. The government has remained steadfast in promoting tolerance, peaceful co-existence and respect for sanctity of human life. Following the Kenya reform agenda under the Medium Term Plan and Vision 2030, Kenya s peace and security pillar provides for a framework on peacebuilding, conflict management, community policing and small arms control. A holistic-integrative system of programme implementation has been undertaken for peace.

To this extent, the GOK has developed national policies on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Community Policing to address strategic areas on social, cultural, economic aspects for peace in Kenya and its neighbours. Noting that sustainable requires multiplicity of approaches, the GOK has borrowed best practices from international instruments and regional frameworks within the East African community, IGAD

Region, RECSA states alongside traditional best practices. Coordination of this processes has been by the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms And Light Weapons (SALW) alongside the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission. These bodies build synergies towards peaceful coexistence of Kenyans. While inculcating the peace culture among Kenyans initiative and programmes development include;

The Draft Policy on SALW and Strategic Plan on Arms Control and Management has put in place modalities to address demand and supply of SALW through complementary livelihood programmes, arms marking exercise for state owned firearms, collection and destruction of illicit SALWs by burning of confiscated illicit firearms among civilians, stringent regulations for transfers imports and exports as well as conducted disarmament exercises and public education and awareness raising of the public. This has been in tandem with the community dialogue processes, and peace dividends (development) measures.

Fundamental to the national peace architecture, the government has put in place programs that have seen Kenya set pace in the region through the establishment and streamlining of peace structures at the provincial, district and location level, partner with provincial and district task forces on arms control. These structures are mandated to facilitate community peace dialogues and oversee dispute resolution processes through traditional systems. Owing to the ownership by the

communities, their success has been immense over the years among pastoral communities in Eastern and North Eastern provinces as well as urban areas in the recent past.

The Government has committed itself to engage various legislators and ministries to promote peace by way of mitigation through service delivery and advocacy. Other strategies have been;

- Integration of peace education in curriculum at various levels targeting administrative officers, law enforcement agencies, academic institutions and other actors. The Ministry of Education has taken lead at primary and secondary through peace clubs ,festivals, and tournerment
- Transformation of inter-intrastate situations through community meetings, dialogue and development programmes. Communities along the borders of Kenya Uganda, Ethiopia and Somali have jointly undertaken activities and projects; this is facilitated by the IGAD and National Rapid Response fund for timely action and response.
- Development of A Peace Award framework to honor and motivate individuals and institutions to promote peace culture. While this is in the pilot phase, it is envisioned that it will serve to inspire people and create further interest in involvement of peace work at various levels. Going by the design, the framework will target stakeholder thereby entrenching a peace culture in all sectors of our economic and social sphere.

- Under the conflict early warning and response framework, the government has responded accordingly in foreseen conflict situations in the Somali cluster and Karamoja cluster. Kenya has developed a national framework to address conflicts and small arms flow in the country. The mechanism has facilitated consultations at national, and crossborder levels among community and state agencies .Notability under this programme peace monitors and peace structures have been facilitated with basic tool kit, ICT equipment and funding to foster information sharing with relevant agencies.
- The government has also tapped from the professional linkages among the pastoral communities. This has resulted to the peace caravan model that preaches peace, and calls for voluntary disarmament by the communities. the caravan model has been successful in rift valley, Eastern and parts of North Eastern provinces in Kenya.
- Kenya recognizes research and documentation as being critical to programme planning and implementation. Through its agencies and partners, the government have conducted baseline surveys on conflict mapping to in a bid to identify the hot spots regions and work out appropriate mitigation programmes. Analysis and mapping exercise has also been conducted to measure peace level and take relevant actions. In addition, peace process among communities and state leaders have been documented for information, sensitization and replication of best practices.

As a signatory to various international instruments, Kenya abides by the principles of state sovereignty, non interferences, good neighborliness and non use of force. In promoting peace culture with its neighbors, the government has embraced diplomacy for amicable resolution of disputes. Peace and security frameworks have been put in place by the regional bodies in which Kenya is member to. Framework that have informed sustainable peace in the region have included the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanism, (CPMR) the Early Warning Mechanism, Regional Small Arms and Light Weapons policy, regional measures to combat cattle rustling, and other strategies to combat piracy and terrorism. Noteworthy, joint trainings, planning and operations in implementation of programmes under these mechanisms has promoted peace in Kenya and the region.

In all its endeavors, the government partners with the media houses in advocacy and highlights on ongoing peace and small arms initiatives . In all its endeavors, the Kenya government affirms that peace and dialogue are the yardstick towards sustainable development and prosperous Kenya.

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