

INTERVENTION READ BY

MR. LAWRENCE OLUFEMI OBISAKIN

MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UN

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

**_ON 4TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES 4TH BIENNIAL METING OF STATES TO
CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO
PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS
AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, 14-18 JUNE.**

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the African Group, I congratulate you on your unanimous election as the Chair of this biennial meeting. We trust that your various efforts at consultations will guide us to a successful outcome. We equally want to assure you of our unflinching support for which the African Group is known

Considering the negative and destabilizing effects caused by illicit trade in Small arms and Light Weapons in the world in general and in Africa, in particular, we believe that the time has come for various Member States of the UN, regional and sub-regional Groups to redouble their efforts at closer cooperation in order to achieve the dream of a safer world of drastic reduction and eventual elimination of illicit circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

We note with satisfaction that various legally binding instruments have already attained some levels of implementations in different Groups of Africa. In various national and regional reports, encouraging records of success are being received from Africa. Perhaps, harmonizing these instruments with those of other regional groups could be another way of fast tracking the implementation of the Programme of Action on elimination of illicit SALWS.

Mr. Chair,

In deference to your plan of action, we shall be brief and simply stress the need for frankness and broadmindedness in the exchange of views in this Biennial Meeting of States.

Mr. Chair, we thank you and wish the 4th BMS much success.