



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

MR. LAWRENCE OLUFEMI OBISAKIN
MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

ON

**REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL MECHANISM PREVENTING,
COMBATING AND ERADICATING ILLICIT TRADE IN
SALWS ACROSS BORDERS, INCLUDING TRANS-BORDER
CUSTOMS COOPERATION.**

JUNE 14, 2010, NEW YORK.

Mr. Chair,

Since this is the first time that my delegation is speaking in her national capacity, please allow me to congratulate You on your unanimous election to chair this biennial meeting and to express appreciation for your various consultations aimed at facilitating our works. We believe that your diplomatic background should enable us reach a fruitful outcome. My delegation will like to assure you of Nigeria's traditional support and unalloyed cooperation. We equally congratulate the bureau and the friends of the chair for their valuable presentations of today. We associate ourselves with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of NAM and that made by my delegation on behalf of the African Group.

The need to urgently control and ultimately eliminate the illicit circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons cannot be overemphasized. Indeed the havoc perpetrated by these so-called small arms are so enormous, considering their high mobility and lethality rate and availability even among relatively less endowed social groups, that last April at the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, that President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria, described them as our Weapons of Mass Destabilization, WMD.

Regional And Sub-Regional Mechanism Preventing, Combating And Eradicating Illicit Trade In Salws Across Borders, Including Trans-Border Customs Cooperation.

It is gratifying to state that for about three decades Nigeria had taken the initiative of organizing joint inter-agency border patrols with her neighbours with considerable success recorded at recovery and prompt destruction of smuggled weapons. The trans-border cooperation efforts and mechanism of Nigeria and her neighbours and indeed of the sub-region have been boosted by the ECOWAS convention ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS, THEIR AMMUNITION AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS, Article 22 which stipulates as follows:

Strengthening of Border Controls of Member States, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, shall:

- a) Strengthen sub-regional cooperation among defence and security forces, intelligence services, customs and border control officials in combating the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons techniques and upgrading of equipment and resources.

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- a) Strengthen sub-regional cooperation among defence and security forces, intelligence services, customs and border control officials in combating the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons techniques and upgrading of equipment and resources.
- b) Enhancing the capacity of national defence and security forces, law enforcement and security agencies, including appropriate training in investigative procedures, border control and law enforcement

However in order to ameliorate the performance and expansion of the success so recorded Nigeria is calling on various partners for assistance in the areas of surveillance technology and improvement of transportation of troops and other agencies.

Mr. Chair,

I thank you.