



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

245 East 49th Street • New York, NY 10017

*STATEMENT*

*by*

**Mr. Lawrence L. Bassie**  
Chief of Staff, Office of National Security

*at the*

**Fourth Biennial Meeting 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**

**New York, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

*Check Against Delivery*

**Mr. Chairman,** my delegation congratulates you on your election as Chair for this all important 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of States to stem the illicit Trade in Small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We also congratulate the bureau and friends of the chair for the series of consultations. Sierra Leone wishes to associate with the statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group delivered by Nigeria and remains poised to tackle the proliferation of small arms and light weapons across its borders fully cognizant that three out of the four Mano River Union States namely Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire have gone through conflict.

**Mr. Chairman,** as a post conflict state which suffered the brunt of the abuse of small arms and light weapons we continue to be committed to all global efforts to deal with this scourge. The state of Sierra Leone remains committed to the UNPoA and firmly engaged with the ECOWAS framework for conflict mapping, prevention, resolution and peace consolidation. We have continued to demonstrate our support for this framework by fully implementing key provisions of the ECOWAS convention on small arms and light weapons their ammunition and other related materials.

Sierra Leone is beneficiary of technical and financial assistance from the ECOWAS small arms control programme (ECOSAP) to review obsolete small arms legislation and more importantly

establishing a fully functional commission on small arms and light weapons.

Bearing in mind that the UNPoA is a multilateral approach to dealing with the menace of small arms and light weapons, Sierra Leone has established the Sierra Leone National Small Arms Commission (SLeNCSA) by a statutory instrument that will stand the test of time.

**Mr. Chairman**, within the UNPoA normative framework it is incumbent on member states to promulgate and enact national legislation that will regulate weapons in civilian possession. This aspect of the UNPoA has been given the priority it deserves and in this regard a review of the obsolete 1955 national legislation has been done and a new legislation that reflects contemporary security challenges as it relates to small arms proliferation is being enacted.

If we are to take forward the implementation of the UNPoA our discussions over the next five days at this 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial meeting of states have to be frank and a firm level of commitment shown by all member states in our collective effort to deal with this menace of small arms and light weapons proliferation.

A seemingly grey area which needs to be addressed is technical and financial assistance with a view to regulating flow of weapons and lowering armed violence in societies. This underscores the need to have civil society and private sector

complement the efforts of Governments' as the veritable instrument for awareness raising and public education.

Sierra Leone remains firmly committed to the UNPoA Process, the Instrument on Marking and Tracing and the Arms Trade Treaty and you and your bureau are assured of our utmost cooperation.

I thank you ***Mr. Chairman.***