RWANDA NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF ACTION

I. RWANDA NATIONAL FOCAL POINT LAUNCHING

On of the significant achievements towards the implementation of the Programme of Action in Rwanda is the establishment of the National Focal Point on 20th March 2003 with the mandate to plan and coordinate activities aimed at addressing the problem of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons at the national level.

II. RWANDA NATIONAL FOCAL POINT COMPOSITION

The RNFP on SALW in collaboration with Nairobi Secretariat and SAFER WORLD, from 25-26 January 2005 organized a workshop (sponsored by Safer World) on the structure, and dairy management of Rwanda National Focal Point and came up with following:

A. Ministries
1. Ministry of Defense (Coordinator)
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Secretariat)
3. Ministry of Internal Affairs/National Police
4. Ministry of Justice
5. Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning/Rwanda Revenue Authority
6. Ministry of Commerce/Customs
7. Ministry of Gender

B. Civil Society Members
1. SAFER RWANDA
2. CLADHO (Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l’Homme)

III. COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY

The RNFP has been actively involved in various activities on small arms organized by the civil society. Since the integration of civil society in the edifice of NFP, a number of activities on small arms such as the holding workshops and seminars as well as public awareness on the problem of small arms.

IV. RATIFICATION OF NAIROBI PROTOCOL

After signing the Nairobi Protocol on April 2004, the Government of Rwanda has ratified the Nairobi Protocol on 16th November 2004 and submitted the instrument of ratification to Nairobi Secretariat.
V. FIREARMS CONTROL THROUGH LEGISLATION

There has been legislation on firearms in Rwanda since 1964. This legislation was reviewed in 1979 and was recently amended in 2001. The law provides control measures such as registration of firearms owned or carried by authorized persons, procedure relating to licensing and issuing of end-user certificates.

In order to strengthen the existing control measures and as a responsibility that ensues from the Nairobi Declaration and Nairobi Protocol, we are currently reviewing and harmonizing legislation on firearms with members of parliaments of Burundi, DRC and Rwanda, and the proposal will be submitted to the relevant authorities once it is completed.

VI. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF NFP

At present, the Rwanda National Focal Point is engaged with partners and donors (Christian Church Aid, Safer Africa and Safer World) who assisted in the capacity building of the NFP recently. It can now develop effective programmes on small arms.

VII. OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT

The Rwanda National Focal Point has now established an office to better coordinate the follow up activities with the sponsorship of the Norwegian Church Aid. We have also the promise of other donors as Safer Africa to strengthen the capacity of the NFP.

VIII. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

The Rwanda National Focal Point is currently in the process of organizing a Governmental - civil society conference on small arms and light weapons this year as part of the process that will lead to a comprehensive national assessment of the small arms situation in the country and the development of a National Action Plan. Participants to this conference will be drawn from all sectors of our society: senior management practitioners, civic leaders, representatives from various societies (churches, Gender, Youth and NGO's). This will be an important awareness raising opportunity and strategy that will boost the small arms process in Rwanda.

IX. COLLECTION AND DESTRUCTION OF ILICIT FIREARMS

In close collaboration with the Rwanda National Police and the Ministry of Defense, the Rwanda National Focal Point has compiled a list of small arms, which have been collected, and 6000 small arms have been destroyed on April 2005. Before the end of this year, it is planned to destroy a large amount of ammos and ammunitions.
X. STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT

The stockpile management is under the rigorous control of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs/National Police.

XI. IMPORT/EXPORT

It is the Government who is authorized to import the firearms. We don't export any arm because we have no industry or manufacture of firearms in Rwanda. The illicit brokering is under the control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other authorities in charge of the security.

XII. LINKAGES (terrorism, organized crime...)

The Government of Rwanda is party of the international instruments on issues of terrorism, organized crime and trafficking drugs. About the two last issues, the National Police works closely with the national polices of neighbouring countries.
attached report as the country report and to formally circulate it. Usually it is the Mission of the country as attached to the UN that must take the report, write the cover letter signed by the Ambassador, and surrender the country report to the UNDDA with the indication that the report be circulated formally at the BMS as the country position.

Many governments of Africa and Latin America did go to the BMS of 2003 including high level delegations from Capitals including Ministers and they read statements but these do not figure as official UN documents and therefore cannot be reported upon.

So we recommend that the country report go to the Embassy in New York, the Embassy submit the report formally with a cover letter to the UNDDA and request that the document be circulated as the formal position of the country at the meeting. In other words:

| Forward national report to DDA through the government's Permanent Missions in New York |
| UNDDA – New York |
| Room S-3170 K |
| pca-report-submission@un.org |
| Fax: +1 (212) 963 3689 |

If you decide to send it directly to DDA remember to copy the government's Permanent Missions in New York

Also forward an electronic copy of the national report to mercolliano@un.org to be posted on this webpage when you communicate the original reports to the DDA Secretariat