**Executive Summary report on the implementation of the UNPoA.**

The problem of small arms and Light weapons is a global problem that requires a global approach solution. It is against this background that countries decided to adopt in July 2001 the UNPoA to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in its all aspects.

This country report covers the activities carried out by the Government of Rwanda since the last BMS held in July 2008 in the following areas:

1. **Public awareness and education programme:** Sensitization campaigns were carried out in media especially at some events such as public destruction of firearms and they are still going on.

2. **Disposal of surplus, seized, confiscated, obsolete small arms and unexploded ordinances:** A total of 30,266 firearms and 266 tones of ammunitions have been destroyed during the period under review.

3. **Development of 5years National Action Plan on Arms Control and Management:** This was developed and adopted by the Cabinet in May 2009.

4. **Development of adequate national legislation on firearms and ammunitions:** Law concerning firearms and ammunition was revised and it is in its publication phase.

5. **Arms marking:** Firearms registry in the police has been able to mark 3000 police owned firearms and the exercise is still underway. Also a firearms marking machine was handed over to the RDF.

6. **Record keeping and tracing:** Electronic central firearms registry for the administration and maintenance of national police data base was established in 2007 and it is now fully operational. This registry covers also those firearms owned by private security company and licensed civilian. Each Government institution that uses firearms has its own firearms data base.

7. **Stockpile Management:** Stockpile Management has been greatly improved.

8. **Operational Capacity:** Provincial and District Task Forces have been established and training is scheduled to take place in the near future.

9. **Cooperation with the civil society:** There is a strong partnership with the civil society and have done a commendable job in awareness campaigns on the dangers of illicit arms within our communities.

10. **Import, Export and Transfer of SALW:** Rwanda has no arms and ammunitions industries. The ministry of Defense is responsible of importation of arms that the army uses while the Ministry of Internal security controls the importation of arms for the police and other licensed institutions and explosives used in mining industry.
11. International Cooperation and assistance: Rwanda supported all regional and international efforts aimed at fighting illegal proliferation of SALW. Also, Rwanda benefited from international cooperation especially in the field of marking, destruction of obsolete firearms and none exploded ordinances.

12. Challenges:

- Inadequate funding for the implementation of priority projects.
- Lack of adequate equipment and qualified personnel for the destruction of bigger caliber weapons.
- The problem of porous borders and persisting conflict situation in the great lakes region.
- The continued presence of Interahamwe Militias and Ex-FAR in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo that constitutes a major threat for the security of Rwanda.
National progress report on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

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<tr>
<td>BMS</td>
<td>Biennial Meeting of States</td>
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<td>DTFs</td>
<td>District Task Forces</td>
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<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<td>&quot;Ex- Forces Armées Rwandaises&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda&quot;</td>
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<td>NAP</td>
<td>National Action Plan for Arms Control and Management</td>
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<td>National Coordination for Small Arms Management</td>
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<td>Provincial Task Forces</td>
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<td>RECSA</td>
<td>Regional Centre on Small Arms</td>
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<td>SALW</td>
<td>Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<td>UNPoA</td>
<td>The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>WRA</td>
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0. INTRODUCTION

Among many political, social, and economic achievements that the Government of Rwanda recorded in the reconstruction efforts after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, it is imperative to mention a range of remarkable measures that the country undertook in order to implement the UNPoA to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects as well as the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States. This report will cover the period from the last BMS held in July 2008 to date and will focus on the implementation of key areas of the UNPoA.

1. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME

During the period under review, sensitization campaigns on the dangers of illicit small arms were carried out through print, electronic Medias and radios particularly at the occasion of some events such as public destruction of firearms.

Further, following the successful DR Congo – Rwanda Joint Military Operation "Umoja Wetu", thousands of returnees among them former FDLR members and other armed groups operating from the Eastern DR Congo came back home.

In April and May 2009, a sensitization and education campaign on crime prevention and voluntary disarmament was carried out in five District of Western Province and targeted community policing members, demobilized soldiers, former combatants and members of local defense forces at District and Sector Level.
This education programme bore fruits since more returnees came back home after being convinced by their colleagues who were sensitized and two firearms de type AK 47 were surrendered to security services in Nyabihu District.

2. **DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS, SEIZED, CONFISCATED, OBSOLETE SMALL ARMS AND UNEXPLODED ORDINANCES**

In addition to 7500 small arms which were publicly destroyed by burning in 2005 and 2006 in Eastern and Southern Province respectively, a total of 30,266 small arms have been destroyed by cutting by December 2009 and the disposal is still ongoing.

In regard to the destruction of unexploded ordinances, a total of 266 tons of ammunitions were destroyed by between July 2008 and December 2009. It is however important to note that despite this remarkable achievements, quantity of none exploded ordinances still need to be destroyed taking into account the historical background of the country. International technical assistance is required in order to be able to destroy bigger caliber obsolete light weapons and training of more qualified personnel in arms and ammunitions destruction techniques.

3. **DEVELOPMENT OF 5 YEARS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON ARMS CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT (NAP)**

A General Population Attitude Survey on SALW was conducted in October 2008 and was preceded by a countrywide sensitization workshops at Provincial and District levels of Law enforcement agencies, government officials, Youth and Women organizations and civil society in general. Based on the findings of the survey, a team of national experts assisted by other from the RECSA met in Kigali in March 2009 and drafted the NAP. As per the requirement, this document was adopted by the Cabinet in May 2009 and its implementation has now started.
4. DEVELOPMENT OF ADEQUATE NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON FIREARMS AND AMMUNITIONS

The Law No 13/2000 of 14/06/2000 modifying the Decree – Law No 12/97 of 7th May, 1979 concerning firearms and their ammunitions was revised in conformity with the requirements of regional and international instruments on small arms and light weapons that Rwanda is part to. Currently, the Draft Bill was adopted by the Parliament and its promulgation is underway.

5. ARMS MARKING

In December 2008, the Government of Rwanda received two modern arms marking machines from RECSA. After the training of 20 Army and Police officers on the use and maintenance of these machines, the Police Central Firearms Registry has been able to mark 3,000 police owned firearms to date. The marking exercise started with Police firearms in Kigali City District Police Units and will be extended to Province and District Police Units countrywide. The marking exercise will also target firearms held by Prisons guards, national parks game rangers, private security companies and civilian licensed firearms.

6. RECORD KEEPING AND TRACING

In 2007, an electronic Central firearms registry for the administration and maintenance of National Police database was established. The records will include police, licensed civilians, and private security company’s firearms. The National Police SALW electronic database was established with the support of RECSA. It is important to mention that the Army, the National Police, prisons and national parks game rangers have each its own data base and record system. In regard to the explosives used in mining industry, the Ministry of Internal security has the record of imported explosives.

7. STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT

The Government of Rwanda in its continued efforts to implement the UNPoA puts a lot of emphasis on the improvement of stockpile management. A general assessment of the current state of army and police armories has been recommended. It is in that spirit that in 2008, Rwanda Defense Forces
renovated the munitions and explosives stores in Gabiro School of Infantry in Eastern Province and built a central demolition site for munitions and non exploded ordinances. In the same line, procedures to improve the safe and secure storage of all stockpiled weapons and munitions were developed. There is need for assistance in building a central storage for explosives and blasting materials and renovation of the existing ones as well as for the renovation of army and police armories in general.

8. OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

One of the requirements for an efficient implementation of the NAP on arms control and management is the establishment of PTFs and DTFs on SALW. These PTFs and DTFs have been established. Training workshops for the Provincial and District Task Forces members are scheduled to take place in all provinces and Districts very soon. The training will focus on their roles, functions and responsibilities and the working relations between the Task Forces and the national coordination of small arms management.

9. COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

The National Coordination for Small Arms Management has continued to work hand in hand with civil society organizations in all actions related to fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Civil society has been particularly instrumental in awareness campaigns on the impact of illicit SALW and in advocacy for voluntary surrendering of illegal firearms. The advocacy work is carried out through sport and drama activities as well as boosting economic development of local communities in order to prevent them from relying on arms for their survival.

10. IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF SALW

The Government of Rwanda has no arms and ammunitions industries. The Ministry of Defense is responsible of importation of arms that the army uses while the Ministry of Internal Security controls the importation of arms for the Police, other licensed public and private institutions and licensed civilians in conformity with the Law No 13/2000 of 14/06/2000 modifying the Decree – Law No 12/97 of 7th May, 1979 concerning firearms and their ammunitions.

In regard to the import, transport, trading and using explosives in mining industry, infrastructure development activities and public events such as fireworks this
required an authorization given by the Minister of Internal Security on request by the Minister in charge of mines and quarries.

11. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

The problem of the circulation of illicit small arms and light weapons is transnational and requires combined efforts at regional and global level. During the period under review, the Government of Rwanda benefited from regional and international cooperation for the implementation of some areas of the UNPoA and the Nairobi Protocol. It is worthy to mention the assistance received from the USA Government through the US Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) for the funding of the Project: “Conventional Weapons Stockpile Destruction in Rwanda”. Under this project, a destruction by cutting of 30,266 small arms was carried out at Kanombe Military workshop and 266 tones of ammunition and unexploded ordinances were destroyed in Gabiro School of Infantry, in the Eastern Province.

The East African Community (EAC) - GTZ Small Arms Project provided substantive financial assistance for the procurement of adequate equipment for the establishment of an electronic SALW database. Under the same funding, a number of police officers were trained for its maintenance and management.

12. CHALLENGES

The Government of Rwanda has achieved remarkable progress in the implementation of the UNPoA and the Nairobi Protocol. However, numerous challenges are still hampering the speedy implementation of some interventions that include but not limited to:

- Inadequate funding for the implementation of priority projects in general and the National Action Plan on Arms Control and Management in particular.
- Lack of adequate equipment and qualified personnel for the destruction of bigger caliber weapons, etc.
- The problem of porous borders and the persisting conflict situation in the Great Lakes Region.
- The continued presence of Interahamwe Militias and Ex - FAR in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo that constitutes a major threat for the security of Rwanda.