REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC
IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN 2013-2014

I. INTRODUCTION

This report is being submitted pursuant to the request from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and reflects the efforts of the Angolan Government in the continuing implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA) as the country's contribution to the implementation of this program, which was adopted in 2011.

In this connection, we would like to mention the implementation of a number of initiatives during the year 2014, most notably the following:

1. The compulsory weapons collection (already mentioned in the last report) has gained a new momentum, taking into account the ever-present need to ensure the best living conditions for populations, in particular those that live outside of urban areas;

2. Arrangements to inspect weapons collected to be returned to the Angolan Armed Forces and the National Police have become more dynamic and use better techniques.

As we have communicated in a previous occasion, and in the context of the national treatment of the UNPoA, the Angolan presidency appointed a Multisectoral Commission in 2012, which is in charge of the monitoring and proper treatment of the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The Republic of Angola voted in
favor of this Treaty, which was adopted in New York on April 3, 2013 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and signed it in September 2013.

II. NATIONAL COORDINATING BODIES

In this domain we reiterate that as a result of the adoption of the new Constitution, there is no longer a Prime Minister of the Republic, which, among other functions, coordinated the National Commission for the Disarmament of Civilians (CNDPC). Thus, the Minister of the Interior was appointed to maintain the coordination of the CNDPC.

The CNDPC, as well as the Provincial and Municipal Committees have continued their normal activities, culminating in the collection of a substantial number of weapons during the reporting period.

III. LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- A new law on private security companies was approved for the purpose of limiting the use of weapons of war by these companies;
- The overhaul of legislation on the use and possession of firearms, as well as hunting and recreational weapons remains ongoing;
- Legislation on the marking and remarking (tracking) of weapons is being created;
- Changes in the functional regulation of bunkers and armorers of the Army and the National Police are being implemented;
- The campaign to moralize and bring awareness to citizens to refrain from the possession of weapons is still being promoted under the motto "IF YOU'RE MINDFUL... TAKE WEAPONS OUT OF YOUR MIND!"
IV. COMPULSORY COLLECTION OF WEAPONS FROM THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

According to the Programme of Action, the process of collecting weapons must be done in 4 stages (awareness, voluntary surrender, compulsory collection and more effective control of the weapons collected).

During the implementation of these four phases and despite the success of the disarmament campaign in 2008 - 2014, there continues to be a spectrum of proliferation of weapons, characterized by the existence of:

• Firearms in the hands of reluctant civilians;
• Weapons stash houses;
• Weapons of war in possession of Private Security Companies and Self-protection Systems.

Moreover, in late 2013 it was noted that the number of crimes committed with the use of firearms by criminal groups indicates that there are still some weapons in the hands of citizens.

Thus, following recommendations of the National Commission for the Disarmament of Civilians, the General Command of the National Police intensified unannounced and targeted operations to compulsorily collect weapons still in illegal possession of civilians, focusing its actions on the following:

1. Stepping up the search and processing of information about weapons that are still in possession of the civilian population;
2. Promoting research to identify the origin of the weapons that are in possession of criminals;
3. Investigate the origin of firearms in possession of Private Security Companies;
4. Undertake the collection of unlicensed and inorganic weapons held by the police and the military;
5. Conduct searches based on information gathered about citizens in illegal possession of firearms;
6. Conduct targeted searches in order to collect weapons and arrest individuals who engage in criminal practices;

7. Conduct periodic road traffic stop operations on cars and motorcycles in localities and national roads in order to collect illegal weapons in possession of drivers, motorcyclists and other occupants;

8. Prosecute all citizens found in possession of illegal firearms.

The actions above involve all police forces, as well as military and information services, with great recourse to intelligence services.

RESULTS FROM COMPULSORY COLLECTION

From September 2013 to April 2014

- Miscellaneous weapons ............ 2,296
- Magazines ........................... 1,475
- Ammunition .......................... 7,327
- Explosives ............................ 2,174

Note that of the 2,296 guns, 588 were surrendered voluntarily as a result of pressure from micro-operations.

From March 2008 to April 2014

- Miscellaneous weapons ........... 89,417
- Magazines ............................ 48,852
- Ammunition .......................... 441,852
- Explosives ............................ 153,97

Weapons Destroyed

During the reporting period, a total of 1,675 weapons of different calibers were destroyed from September 2013 to April 2014, as well as 141 different magazines, 25 ammunitions and explosive devices.
From March 2008 to April 2014 a total of 63,093 weapons and magazines of different calibers were destroyed, as well as 96,641 ammunitions and 96,641 explosive ordinances.

V. PUBLIC AWARENESS

Outreach activities continued to be the basis of the stimulus to voluntary surrender. In this connection, the following activities were also carried out during this period:

➢ Provincial and Municipal Disarmament Seminars;
➢ Debates on disarmament and illegal possession of weapons at meetings and conferences;
➢ Extensive work promoting disarmament through the media;

VI. COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

In Angola, the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects (UNPoA) counts with the collaboration of national and international NGOs and the civil society, with a highlight on the following:

➢ Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA), which sensitizes and spreads to society in general and to the faithful the message of disarmament of minds, calling on them to adopt a culture of non-violence;

➢ Center for Strategic Studies of Angola (EAEC), which promotes studies and research on the field of disarmament;

➢ The Halo Trust, dedicated to the destruction of obsolete weapons and demining;

➢ Advertisement company Seven Paths, which develops and operationalizes strategies for public awareness.

The actions below are promoted in conjunction with these NGOs:
• Engage the population in conferences and debates, especially the youth, civic and similar associations, particularly in schools, churches, etc., with a view to adopting and disseminating new national laws on SALW;

• The establishment of police-community forums (Jangos), where local communities and the police discuss issues related to the proliferation and control of SALW;

• Awareness campaigns to encourage public support for joint police operations, to encourage greater participation in weapons collection programs and reduce local demand for firearms.

• Conducting a series of workshops in order to obtain the involvement of "silent actors" of communities such as women, religious groups, youth and cultural activists, using community arts programs for peaceful coexistence among inhabitants;

• Advocacy on changing the behavior and attitudes of the vehicles of mass education which project violent images and pernicious exposure to society;

• Involving the media in the analysis of the social problems inherent to the use of weapons; binding the media to the action of the social community towards safe disarmament policies;

• Encouraging projects in schools, shops and workplaces, improving community relations, promoting civic education and other essential services to prevent violence.

VII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Angola is a member of two sub-regional organizations, particularly the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Both sub-regional organizations have initiatives aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
At the level of the CEAAC and the African Union, for example, the sub-region has noted the efforts of the Member States of the UN Permanent Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa to consolidate democratic processes and for the smooth functioning of its institutions despite continuing to face situations of concern in terms of security.

VII. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNPoA IN ANGOLA

The process of implementation of the UNPoA on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Angola, particularly concerning disarmament, runs smoothly, but much more remains to be done.

Its results have had an impact on the stability of national security and public safety in the country, which from May 16 to 30, 2014 is conducting the first population census after the independence. This unique endeavor will allow the Executive Branch to know how many we are and how we live in order to implement a Family Valuation and Support Policy, and to create economic, social, cultural and political conditions to allow them to perform their core function in society as the basic social unit, while respecting their identity, autonomy and traditional values.

Angola is currently presiding over the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and has prioritized conflict resolution in order to implement political and institutional development, internal and border security, as well as tackle the challenges related to governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights within the region.

Among a number of actions to be undertaken in this area in the period of August to December 2014, the following steps are foreseen:

- Continuing the compulsory collection process;
- Continuously conduct inspection and selection of weapons collected in all provinces;
- Continue the process of returning weapons in good working condition to the Army and the National Police;
- Continue the destruction of weapons collected in all provinces through The Halo Trust;
- Focus the remains of destroyed weapons in Luanda;
- Participate in international meetings on the Conventional Weapons Trade Treaty;
- Continue awareness campaigns focusing mainly on matters concerning compulsory collection;
- Writing and publishing a book on disarmament;
- Drafting a project on the building of a Monument symbolizing disarmament.