STATEMENT BY MR. JUSTIN N. SERUHERE, CHARGE D’AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING “THE OPEN ENDED MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS”

NEW YORK, 9TH-13TH MAY 2011

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate you as the Chair of this Meeting and assure you that the United Republic of Tanzania has confidence and trust in your able leadership in conducting this meeting. I would like to express our total support to you and this meeting and pledge our maximum cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

In this 21st Century, we face many challenges in terms of disarmament and the most obvious is referred to as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). However, for most of us in the developing nations, our WMDs are the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs).

Mr. Chairman,

These SALWs are being used daily in criminal activities such as in the killing of innocent people; spreading of havoc hence resulting in the increase of the level of insecurity. It is therefore not a mistake to conclude that armed violence has a negative effect on the development of a country and its people as well as on the human security. The problem will continue to exist if the SALWs remain uncontrolled.

Our meeting here today is not to commence new negotiations, but to realize what was agreed by Member States in 2001, thus being to support the plans of the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and its aspects.
Mr. Chairman,

Progress has been made because relevant International, Regional and Sub Regional instruments related to SALWs have been ratified and implemented or are in the process of being implemented in the light of the International Tracing Instrument The marking of State-owned is in progress but we face constraints in terms of availability of equipments. As such assistance in capacity-building including personnel training would be highly appreciated. Computerization of SALW record-keeping could be enhanced with increased availability of computers and accessories.

Mr. Chairman

I would like to reiterate that it is important to have comprehensive legislative and regulatory frameworks in the effective control of SALWs. Let us not tire in working together to realize the common goal of disarmament and Tanzania will continue to offer its support in that regard. The government of the United Republic of Tanzania is in the process of enacting national laws incorporating all existing SALW International, Regional and Sub Regional instruments to combat, control and eradicate illicit proliferation of SALWs in all their aspects.

I thank you.