OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

RECORD KEEPING

INTERVENTION BY-

REGIONAL CENTRE ON SMALL ARMS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION, THE HORN OF AFRICA AND BORDERING STATES
(RECSA)

10 MAY 2011
Mr. Chairman, thanks for offering us the floor. We congratulate you on your appointment to the Chair of this important meeting.

The Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA) Region as already indicated by State delegations has commenced the marking of State owned arms and eventually registered/licensed civilian arms.

To compliment this process, RECSA has developed a customized software for record keeping of marked firearms. It has been observed that paper records can depreciate and thus information is lost. Furthermore they are not efficient in facilitating tracing.

The software comprises of 4 main modules.

1. Marking
   - Make, model, caliber, manufacturer, year of manufacture, institution, country code.

2. Assigning to civilians
   - In addition to the initial information at the time of marking, bio data of the owner and dates of issue of firearms license/s are included.

3. Assigning to government departments and private agencies
   - In addition to the initial information at the time of marking, information on formations, locations and officer to whom they have been assigned is included.

4. Destruction
   - In addition to the initial information at the time of marking, authorization and date of destruction is included.

**Reports**
The software can also be used to generate reports based on the information that has been stored in it, for example number and type of weapons that are in the database.

**Security features**
Some of the security features-
- Log on using a registered fingerprint
- User access level
  - Administrator
  - Marker or recorder
  - Supervisor
  - Destruction
- Data is encrypted.

**Challenges**
- Piloting stage.
- Rolling out throughout administrative and formation structures.
- It does not provide for ammunition records.

The project is being funded by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Japan through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).