Madam President

Allow me to add my voice to those who preceded me in congratulating you upon assuming the responsibility of guiding this Second Review Conference of the United Nations programme of Action (UNPOA) to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit Trade in Small Arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects.

I would also like to assure you of my delegation fullest support. South Sudan fully aligns itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Madam President

Thirteen months ago on 9 July 2011, the world celebrated the birth of South Sudan, the newest nation in the world. South Sudan’s hard-won independence was met with much fanfare worldwide. Less than a week later, on 14 July 2011, South Sudan was formally admitted into the United Nations General Assembly as the 193rd member state.

South Sudan also joined the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). On 18 October 2011; the RECSA Council of Ministers’ Meeting in Djibouti recognized and welcomed the birth of a new nation on the African Continent, the Council admitted the Republic of South Sudan as the 15th Member State of RECSA.

Madam President

As the new nation sought to rapidly deepen its engagement with international community, In September 2011, South Sudan presented to the United Nations General Assembly, the urgent priorities of the fledgling state.

The priorities included among others; security as a major factor for peace, stability and development. It is true that the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) between the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan signed in Nairobi in 2005 ended more than two decades of civil war.

However, there are immense challenges associated with its implementation; one
of the key challenges is the proliferation and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons which are used in inter-communal conflicts, cattle rustling, abduction, robbery and other crimes across South Sudan.

To address the widespread of civilians’ illicit small arms possession and the insecurity associated with their misuse is a daunting, complex and challenging task because years of war have militarized communities and created a culture of holding illegal weapons and of using violence to settle disputes.

The Government of South Sudan has recognized the risk of uncontrolled small arms to human security, peace and development and has been trying to address these issues earnestly. Finding solutions to this complex set of challenges has led to establishment of the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms control (national focal point) as a national coordinating body on all matters related to Small Arms Control.

**Madam President**

The unanimous adoption of the UNPOA in 2001 signifies the importance the international community attaches to the small arms issues and the need for collective action to address the problem as no State can hope to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms single-handedly.

We firmly believe that this Second Review Conference of the programme of action provides South Sudan with an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in implementation in the last decade identifies the gaps and challenges and devises more effective strategies, drawing on national regional and international experiences.

As a part of the implementation process of the PoA, the new nation took immediate steps to develop a national policy on SALWs to regulate brokering, possession, and transfer of SALW. Based on the policy South Sudan also developed a national legislation that deal with small arm and light weapons issues.

The bill seeking to repeal 1936 Sudan firearms Act has been submitted to the Council of Ministers awaiting government approval with a view of enacting a law
that would adequately address the complex challenges posed by the proliferation and illicit trade in SALWs to the new born nation.

With support from a number of our partners, South Sudan developed public information strategy for community outreach programmes; based on the strategy South Sudan conducted a successfully public education and awareness raising to sensitize the communities on the dangers of illicit trade in SALWs.

Madam President

Since the adoption of the UN Programme of Action in 2001 and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) in 2005, States have always recognized a crucial role played by marking and tracing illicit SALWs a key mechanism for national, regional and international efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit SALWs.

As a part of UNPoA and International Tracing Instrument (ITI) implementation, South Sudan received two electronic marking machines from RECSA. The marking exercises of state-own weapons have been undertaken. We have to date marked 47,000 different state-own weapons.

The exercise is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi Protocol indicating Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA) code, Country and Institution codes and firearm serial number. In this regard South Sudan has submitted its first national report on the implementation of PoA.

Madame President

The proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons is compounded by lack of technical capacity and financial resources to monitor and control arms flow and to prevent misuse, South Sudan appreciates the support from all her regional and international partners in this regard.

As I conclude I wish to reiterate South Sudan commitment to work closely and actively with you and with other member states to achieve positive outcome of this Conference and to ensure the full implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument (ITI) in the next six years.

Thank you, Madame President
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

BY

BRIG. GEN. (RTD) CHRISTO SIMON FATAKI DIRECTOR OF SMALL ARMS CONTROL

AT

THE SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATION 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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