Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE FOURTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

NEW YORK, 16 JUNE 2010

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820 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would first like to congratulate Ambassador Pablo Macedo on your election as President of the Fourth Biennial Meeting on small arms and light weapons, and for the wise and competent manner in which you are conducting this important meeting. My congratulations are extended to all members of Bureau. The delegation of Angola aligns itself with the statement made by the African Group, Member States of SADC and NAM.

Mr. President,

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is an overt threat to the peace, development, and security of our countries. It is for this reason that Angola joins its voice to the calls made by all those who preceded me in favor of a common approach and fight against illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

The fact that Angola is a country recovering from its armed conflict, forces us to prioritize the fight against the proliferation and illicit trafficking in small arms, in the context of peace consolidation and national reconciliation policy. This task engages the entire Angolan society, government, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general. In this connection, over the past two years, a national program to collect illegal weapons is being implemented, which have resulted in the collection of **74,492** weapons, of which **59,823** surrendered voluntarily and **14,669** were collected compulsorily.

The compulsory collection has resulted in **347** lawsuits, with **132** cases tried, with **126** persons convicted to sentences ranging from three months to two years in prison, **6** persons acquitted, and **215** persons in

pre-trial preparation.

Alongside these actions carried out internally, Angola has also been active at the sub-regional level, in particular within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Within SADC, joint efforts are being carried out by all member countries to implement the Political Declaration adopted by Heads of State or Government in Windhoek/Namibia in March 2001.

The challenge now is to keep up the momentum in order to consolidate and develop existing practices and initiatives to ensure that the commitments contained in the SADC Declaration on Firearms, the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials, the Bamako Declaration on the Illicit Trade in Arms and the Programme of Action on the same subject, are implemented in a gradual but effective manner.

Additionally, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) has recently adopted the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms, to which the Republic of Angola is a party.

Mr. President,

We are aware of the long road ahead in this area and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the appeal to the international community, in particular traditional partners in this fight, to continue to provide the necessary support for the achievement of the goals set for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Thank you for your attention.