



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations
360 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1502, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 685-2003 • Fax: (212) 685-1561 • E-mail: namibia@un.int

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STATEMENT

OF

THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

AT THE

4TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES (BMS4)

ON THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT &
ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL
ARMS & LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW)
IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

NEW YORK
16 JUNE 2010

Mr. Chairman

My delegation would like to join others in congratulating you on your appointment as Chairman of the BMS4 and the rest of the bureau.

Namibia would like to align itself with the statements made by the African Group, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mr. Chairman

Namibia has a fully functional National Focal Point (NFP), which is decentralized to the thirteen (13) regions of Namibia. The NFP has a five (5) year strategic Plan from which a yearly Annual Work Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons is derived.

The NFP Annual Work Plan on SALW for 2010/11 covers themes ranging from: Public Education and Awareness Raising on SALW; the Review of National Policy and Legal Framework on SALW; Stockpile Management; Border Control; and Capacity Building.

Notable success has been achieved in creating functional institutional framework; a draft amendment Bill on legislation on arms and ammunition; the buy in from all stakeholders including civil society, traditional authorities and other role players. Namibia has also a rudimentary computerized Centralized Firearm Registry (CFR) system.

On border control, Namibia has acquired Container X-Ray Scanners and has trained customs, immigration and border police officials on the detection of firearms, ammunition and other contraband.

After independence, Namibia undertook a successful demining campaign with a slogan "**DON'T TOUCH IT REPORT IT**". On this success Namibia has again built another campaign designed to fight the scourge of gun violence under the theme "**TALK, DON'T SHOOT**".

Mr. Chairman

Despite these notable successes, Namibia still encounters challenges in the implementation of its programs on combating the proliferation of illicit SALW and their effects. These include but not limited to:

- The finalization of the Amendment Bill on Arms and Ammunition;
- The implementation of Public Education and Awareness Rising Campaign;
- Establishing an accurate, verifiable firearms database for civilian and state owned;
- Regulating Brokers and Brokering activities in Namibia;
- The implementation of competency tests and certification;
- Marking and tracing of firearms and ammunition;
- Marshalling of technical and financial resources to implement the UNPoA, Bamako Declaration and SADC Protocol.

Mr. Chairman

Namibia will continue to demonstrate firm commitment to the implementation of all agreed international, regional and sub-regional instruments and mechanisms on SALW designed to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of firearms, ammunition and other related materials, and their excessive and destabilizing accumulation, trafficking, possession and use.

Namibia will further encourage sub-regional in particular trans-border cooperation and networks for information sharing among law enforcement agency, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating trade in SALW across borders.

Namibia thanks the Department for International Development (DFID) through the UK Government for the financial support. Namibia further thanks the Institute for Security Studies for exclusive technical and financial support to the implementation of the Namibia National Action Plan on SALW. Thus, Namibia urges other States in a position to do so to render technical, financial and other assistance both bilaterally and multi laterally to overcome the aforementioned challenges.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation pledged its support to you on your stewardship of the BMS4 to its successful conclusion.

We thank you!