



**United Nations Regional Meeting for States from the Great Lakes Region, the  
Horn of Africa and Bordering States, and Southern Africa  
on the Programme of Action on Small Arms,  
Kigali, Rwanda, 8-9 July 2009**

1. States from the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, and Southern Africa came together on 8-9 July 2009 in Kigali, Rwanda to discuss sub-regional implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Programme of Action) and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner Illicit Small arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument), including the outcome document of the Biennial Meeting of States on these instruments (2008). The meeting, organised by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), in cooperation with the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), was made possible through contributions by Austria and Norway. The meeting was also attended by the African Union (AU), the Amani Forum, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) and representatives from civil society.
2. To be able to make progress on globally agreed implementation commitments, States emphasised the need for increased cooperation and coordination on activities related to small arms and light weapons (SALW) between the sub-regions.
3. States underlined the significance of activities which are already being undertaken in their respective sub-regions, especially efforts of RECSA and SARPCCO as implementing bodies for the Nairobi and SADC Protocols respectively. They agreed that ongoing strategies, work plans and action plans for the sub-regions constitute a firm basis for their respective sub-regional implementation efforts of the Programme of Action and the 2008 Outcome Document of the Biennial Meeting of States.
4. To further facilitate the interconnection between their sub-regional and global commitments, States will positively consider aligning their sub-regional action plans with the United Nations cycle of meetings.
5. States agreed on the value of further developing measurability in the field of small arms control – including through the development of concrete objectives and actions, as well as realistic timelines – in order to improve the outcomes of capacity building, programming and monitoring and evaluation.

6. States emphasised the importance of the globally agreed sub-themes contained in the outcome document of the Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS3), namely to effectively respond to the problems of illicit arms brokering activities, to improve arms and ammunition stockpile management, and to implement the International Tracing Instrument.

7. Furthermore, States stressed that other themes of particular importance to their sub-regions include reviewing SALW or related national legislation and policies, operational capacity building for States' law enforcement / border control agencies, community policing, mapping of the impact of SALW and armed violence on communities, gender-based violence, and awareness raising.

8. States underlined the importance of reporting regularly to the United Nations on national and sub-regional implementation efforts in preparation for global meetings under the Programme of Action, including the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS4, 14-18 June 2010).

9. States stressed that measures in the field of small arms control should be linked to wider peace and security and development efforts. Moreover, they emphasised that measures to curb SALW supply are more effective if demand factors are addressed simultaneously.

10. States encouraged all stakeholders, in particular those in a position to make resources available, to assist affected States in the sub-regions in addressing the issue of small arms control in a holistic manner and to support wider capacity building. They underscored the importance of developing specific needs assessments to that end.

11. States emphasised the complementary roles of the African Union, the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) and other sub-regional mechanisms in contributing to the implementation of their commitments. They also reaffirmed the important role of civil society as a partner in implementation efforts.

12. States agreed to feed the results of this meeting into relevant meetings in the framework of RECSA, SADC, SARPCCO and the AU.

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