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BY

H.E. MR. LAZAROUS KAPAMBWE
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM 99p: THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

NEW YORK
OCTOBER 2017
Mr. Chairman,

Zambia is cognizant that the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of conventional weapons, particularly Small Arms And Light Weapons (SALW) continue to pose a serious threat to continental security, fuel human conflict, cause significant loss of lives and serious violation of international human rights law and humanitarian law, undermine conflict prevention and hinder post conflict reconstruction and development.

Having regard to the outcome of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action (BMS6) and the discussions of Government Experts (MGE2), the Government of the Republic of Zambia is aiming at ensuring full implementation of the UN Programme of Action (POA).

Mr. Chairman,

Being fully aware of the primary responsibility of individual Member States to mitigate threats posed by illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of SALW, Zambia will continue to renew its commitment and effort towards the full and effective implementation of the relevant regional and internal instruments through nationally led and owned programmes such as weapon documentation, training and information sharing at sub regional and regional levels.

We are also cognizant that in our region, the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of arms and ammunition is significantly aided by porous borders. In this regard, my country welcomes the calls for regional approaches based on strong inter-state cooperation that fosters sharing of intelligence and information on suspected traffickers, trafficking routes and suspected diversion activities. As you are aware, Zambia is a landlocked country with an extensive land borderline which it shares with eight (8) other nations.

Zambia, just like any other landlocked African country, always wants its borders to be bridges rather than barriers for cross border cooperation and regional integration. Arising from its geo-political location, Zambia has sought to establish itself as a trade-friendly transit hub (innocent passage). In enforcing transit control, the country issues
transit and transhipment permits and devotes resources to controlling transfers of strategic goods through its territory. In this regard, it is a requirement that an entity seeking to move arms and military equipment through Zambia’s territory should apply for relevant transit permits before shipment can be authorised. Written authorisation is vested in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in certain instances the Ministry of Defence. However, a lot of assistance in form of technology transfer and capacity building is required in this area so that transit goods are not diverted and ensuring that the right goods transit the country.

Mr. Chairman,

With the above, let me submit that the significant challenge in this area relates to lack of information sharing between exporting and importing countries with the transit states. Cooperation and information sharing is required among all stakeholders in order to mitigate the risk of diversion and also making it possible to understand the goods in transit.

As a developing country, Zambia supports the call for help for sub-Saharan countries to build sufficient institutional capabilities. Further, more technical resources are needed to fully implement and effectively enforce the two (2) instruments.

Lastly, Zambia is of the view that women’s participation in this area of combating illicit trade in small arms is vital because women are the most affected by armed violence both directly and indirectly. Further, it is common knowledge that women endure the long lasting effects of war, displacement, hunger and disease while often becoming the sole, or main providers for households.

In this regard, as Zambia we seek to ensure the involvement of our womenfolk by including them in policy formulation and participating in workshops dealing with armed domestic violence and the gender dimensions of armed violence.

I thank you.