



**Republic of Malawi**

**STATEMENT**

**DELIVERED BY**

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**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**First COMMITTEE**

**Cluster IV: Conventional Weapons**

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**Mr. Chairman**

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) persist as the weapons of choice in many acts of armed violence. According to the Small Arms Survey— in 2016, the most recent year for which data are available— 560,000 people died as the result of armed violence, of these deaths, an estimated 18 per cent were the direct result of conflict. In order to develop a comprehensive approach to reducing deaths caused by SALW, we need to focus on armed violence as a whole, rather than limiting our efforts to addressing only conflict violence.

Malawi is not highly affected by illicit proliferation and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons compared to our neighboring countries. However our people still suffer significantly from the illicit use of small arms and light weapons both within their homes and business premises. This is evidenced by an apparent increase in recovery of illegal firearms. Community policing continues to play a big role in facilitating recovery of illegal firearms. Currently about 12,000 Malawians legally own firearms. In 2017, Malawi destroyed 2,700 illegally confiscated firearms. This event is usually done every year during the World Week of Action against Small Arms and Light Weapons.

**Mr. Chairman**

Key instruments that address the trade in and misuse of SALW include the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA), to Reduce, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in

All its Aspects, which Malawi joined in 2001 when it entered into force. From 2006 Malawi has been submitting annual reports to the United Nations Office on Drug and Alcohol (UNODA) and has participated in the biennial conference to report on progress made in the implementation of the UNPOA, and its accompanying biennial reports on the International Tracing Instrument adopted in 2005.

Other key instruments include the UN Firearms Protocol which entered into force in 2005, which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime which entered into force in 2003 and the Arms Trade Treaty which entered into force in 2014 which Malawi is a signatory to.

This year in June, Malawi participated in the United Nations Review Conference number 3 in New York. The Conference was aimed at reviewing the UNPoA, and Malawi is currently working towards the implementation of RevCon3 outcomes.

**Mr. Chairman**

At regional level, Malawi signed the SADC Protocol on Firearms, Ammunitions and related Materials in 2002, which is being coordinated by the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) for its implementation.

At National level, Malawi established the National Focal Point (NFP) on Small Arms and Light Weapons control in 2006, which coordinates all issues of small arms in Malawi. The NFP comprises of the Malawi Police, Malawi Defence Force, Ministry of Home

Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several other ministries and government departments as well as Civil Society Organizations.

Malawi also developed a National Action Plan (NAP) as well as a Policy on the Control and Management of Firearms and Ammunitions in 2013, with support from Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) which still remains a key policy document that shows the roadmap of what Malawi wants to achieve in the area of small arms control.

In 2017, Malawi started the process of marking all firearms owned by the Police which will also extend to civilian owned firearms.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, Malawi joins other Member States in focusing on gender-based action to curb SALW proliferation and violence, and will work to ensure women's full participation and representation in arms control programmes and diplomatic processes. We will also strengthen the focus on achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 and respecting human rights law governing the use of force.

We will continue to work with the international community at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to ensure that the dangers posed by illicit small arms and lights weapons are contained.

**I thank you**