



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT BY

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ON

**AGENDA ITEM 102 (q)
THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DISCUSSION

DURING THE

**SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**27th OCTOBER 2018
NEW YORK**

MR. CHAIRMAN,

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

Zambia remains gravely concerned with the deadly effect of small arms on the human race. These weapons kill one person every two minutes somewhere in the world, both in nations plagued by civil strife (where most victims tend to be civilians) and through crime. This means by the time I am through with this statement, someone would have been shot dead somewhere. These deaths are in many cases, caused by illicit small arms and light weapons coming from a number of sources, including illicit brokering, leftovers from conflicts, illicit manufacturing, leakages from military and police stockpiles, smuggling and theft.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

At regional level, statistics on the terrible impact of the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Africa identify the phenomenon posing one the biggest hurdles to development on the continent. Over the last 50 years, Africa had suffered no less that 5 million fatalities attributed to SALW. These deaths have been caused by the estimated 30 million firearms on the continent.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

Small arms and light weapons have serious impacts on the trajectory of socio-political and economic development in Africa, affecting governments' ability to function effectively. Equally, the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects undermines respect for international human rights law and aids terrorism and illegal armed group. We, therefore emphasize for the full and effective implementation of the Program of Action (POA)

and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) in the global fight against all forms of violence and crime, including terrorism.

Zambia calls for the promotion of effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance to states lagging behind in the implementation of the POA and the ITI. Apart from relevant United Nations bodies, sub-regional and regional organizations, states are encouraged to cooperate with civil societies to draw their experiences, expertise and best practices in the implementation of the POA and ITI.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

There is a symbiotic link between peace and sustainable development. Development is unsustainable without peace and peace is not durable without development. The full and effective implementation of the POA and ITI will definitely lead to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4. Illicit trade has implications not only for the attainment of SDG Goal 16 but also those goals related to peace, justice and strong institutions, poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality and safe cities and communities.

We, therefore, would like to see strong coordination between national authorities responsible for planning, implementing and reporting on illicit SALW policies and programmes with those responsible for sustainable development.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

Zambia welcomes the coming into place of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which contributes to international and regional peace, security and stability. A rigorous application of the ATT provisions would contribute

to reduced flows of conventional arms to areas of high tension or volatility, governments engaging in systematic human rights abuse; and terrorists and transnational crime organizations. We, therefore, call upon state parties to the ATT to strictly adhere to Article 6 of the ATT regarding prohibitions of conventional arms and their parts if true peace is to prevail.

In conclusion, Zambia wishes to welcome African Union (AU) Commission to “Silence the guns by 2020.” The AU’s roadmap for dealing with arms will contribute to peace and security on the continent. The success of this roadmap will be a major boost for Africa especially those countries that continue to experience conflict.

I thank you.