



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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FIRST COMMITTEE STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM NO 97 (p): ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

NEW YORK
26 OCTOBER 2015

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to align itself with the statements from the Representatives of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its aspects.

Let me begin by commending the United Nations membership for the bold steps taken so far in implementing the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) on SALW since the adoption of this programme in July 2001.

Mr Chairman,

The tools under the UNPoA when used in conjunction with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) could have the capacity to reduce and prevent the illicit trafficking and indiscriminate use of SALW. My delegation notes the various international efforts to regulate arms control through instruments such as ATT, United Nations Trust Facility for Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) and also through the United Nations resolution 2117 of September 2013, which deals with gun registration regarding the illicit transfer.

Zambia also takes cognisance of resolution 2220 of May 2015, which aims at strengthening United Nations coordination on small arms in order to promote effective implementation of UN arms embargoes. It however remains a concern that despite all these efforts, very little achievements have been attained especially in conflict regions of Africa and the Middle East.

My delegation also welcomes initiatives such as the June 2015, Second Meeting of Governmental Experts in New York which examined emerging trends in technologies related to SALW with implications for sustaining effective marking, recording and tracing of illicit weapons. This notwithstanding, the trend where more women and children are being used as tools for exacerbating the usage of SALW especially in conflict zones of Africa and the Middle East is a sad and worrying development.

Zambia believes that the biggest challenge that the international community currently faces on SALW is the silence in the face of the global production of these weapons. Little is voiced out regarding regulating the manufacturers of these weapons. Africa bears the brunt of the SALW negative effects despite contributing

little to their manufacturing. It is for this reason therefore that the ATT should cut across the length and breadth of SALW production.

In this connection, Zambia has not been spared by the effects of the proliferation of SALW, which are used usually by criminal syndicates in terrorizing innocent citizens. The fact that most weapons used in such acts have been traced to the regional liberation struggles and armed conflicts in the Great Lakes region, point to a reality that past interventions have not been fully successful and that time has come for re-igniting multilateral disarmament efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

My government has joined the international community in its efforts to eradicate the illicit trade and trafficking in SALW by putting up safety measures such as establishing an amnesty programme for those who surrender the weapons voluntarily. Zambia is also part to the Southern African Development Community Programme on SALW through the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperating Organization (SARPCCO) which has been in existence since 1995.

Another additional measure put in place regarding illicit arms control is Illicit Arms Records and Tracking Management System (iARMS). This is an INTERPOL tool that enables security wings to track stolen, lost, recovered, trafficked or smuggled firearms. Zambia security services also employ the Automated Ballistics Identification System (ABIs) in fighting this scourge. Further Zambia is a member of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa with the objective of promoting arms control and disarmament through regional conventions as well as political instruments.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Zambia remains fully committed to the fight against illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. To curb this scourge however, we call upon all international players including non-state actors to comply with regulatory institutions of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

I thank you.