Statement

By

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALI TO

THE UNITED NATIONS

At the

First Committee of

The 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

On the

Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons
Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, let me warmly Congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election to president of the 1st Committee.

Mr. Chairman

Somalia fully associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nigeria on behalf of African Group as well as Egypt on behalf of Arab Group.

I would like to highlight a few priority issues for Somalia.

Somalia reinforces the notion that Small Arms and Light Weapons are the ‘true weapons of mass destruction’. It is apparent that these are still the weapons that kill and maim shocking numbers of civilians worldwide. They continue to be catastrophic for peace and security, as well as, for development prospects, hindering economic and social progress, and opportunities for a better quality of life, particularly for those in greatest need.

Sadly developing countries bear the brunt of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and they are the primary recipient of high volume of international arms transfer agreements. Many of these countries are the "preferred" customers for arms sales, with little or no concern to the threatening impact on regional security and stability. The consequence is a cycle of regional arms races predominantly in volatile parts of the world inflicting confusion, chaos and mayhem on civilian populations.

Mr. Chairman

Somalia reiterates that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is an aggravating source in armed violence and that it continues cause detrimental
humanitarian and socio-economic consequences. Somalia believes prevention illicit trade in small arms and light weapons should be given attention at the international, regional and sub-regional levels in an inclusive and integrated manner. This illicit activity signifies a constant and a major concern for the international community because it is the factor that continues to nourish terrorism and organized crime. In this respect, Somalia continues to fight against the growing scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman

Somalia values the extensive effort made with respect to addressing the subject of the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) ever since the Bamako Declaration (2000), the AU Constitutive Act and the Protocol on the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU (2002), and the Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy in Sirte (2004). In addition to the aforementioned are the Nairobi Protocol, and efforts in the framework of CENSAD and other relevant sub-regional initiatives aimed at dealing with the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa.

Somalia is the 97th State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). An instrument of ratification was deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the UN headquarters in New York on 30 September 2015. Somalia’s determination to join the Convention was informed by two major reasons. Firstly, Cluster Munitions have wide area effects and are unable to distinguish between civilians and combatants. Secondly, the use of cluster munitions leave behind large numbers of dangerous unexploded ordnance. Such remnants kill and injure civilians, obstruct economic and social development, and have other severe consequences that persist for years and decades after use.

Mr. Chairman

Somalia reiterates that the United Nations Programme of Action for the prevention, control and elimination of illegal trade in small arms and light
weapons and the International Tracing Instrument are particularly of the highest significance. We carry on highlighting the importance of their effective implementation. We also hope to emphasize that international cooperation and assistance is necessary in the implementation of these two instruments.

Mr. Chairman

The prevention of human suffering remains at the centre of the issue. UNSC Res. 1325 (2000) was the first to address the unbalanced and the unique impact of armed conflict on women. Since then, the international knowledge and response to the gender implications of weapons, armed violence and armed conflict has progressed further, however we recognize that more needs to be done. The gender implications of certain forms of weapons, involving conventional weapons, are problems that warrant more vigilance and focus in research and in the political debate. Thus, it is necessary to have a gender vantage point, which should be integrated in all disarmament and arms control efforts. The equal commitment of women and men at all stages and levels of decision-making should be encouraged.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, while regulating conventional weapons and eradicating illicit stem of small arms and light weapons is important, durable solution can only be achieved through addressing the root causes of conflicts and instability, Global spending on conventional weapons has increased tremendously, on the contrary the budget of the organization created to prevent succeeding generations from the scourge of war the United Nations is less than 0.2% of world's military expenditure, getting this balance right will go a long way in reducing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Thank You