

# GHANA



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First Committee

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**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR (MRS.) MARTHA A. A. POBEE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA TO THE UN**

**AT THE**

**71<sup>ST</sup> SESSION UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE  
THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

**New York, October 20 , 2016**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ghana aligns herself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

All governments need conventional weapons to protect their citizens. However, the proliferation and abuse of conventional weapons, particularly Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition continue to undermine peace and security as well as sustainable development.

Supplies of SALW, particularly to non-state actors in a volatile world which is experiencing significant fragility, organized crime and terrorism is, indeed not the route to take by those truly committed to sustainable peace and development. Such acts breed instability and insecurity and they weakens our common quest for a world free from war, a world where human rights are guaranteed and a world dedicated socio-economic development. We, therefore, wish to reiterate our appeal to arms producing countries to ensure that the supply of SALW is limited to only governments and entities duly authorized by them. Our collective efforts to combat terrorism will not achieve the desired results, if we continue to supply arms to non-state actors.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ghana remains fully committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action (POA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). We stress the need for full and effective implementation of the POA and the ITI. In this context, we welcome the successful convening of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in New York in June of this year. We note with satisfaction that the meeting made an urgent appeal for challenges confronting the implementation of the POA and the ITI, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance, to include as well as the implications of new developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design, to be addressed as soon as possible.

During the above-mentioned meeting, Ghana and other 47 like-minded states called for the regulation and control of ammunition for SALW to be included in the implementation of the POA. We will continue to pursue this matter at the appropriate multilateral forums since the real value of SALW depends on the availability of ammunition.

Ghana also called for the broadening of assistance and support for SALW control initiatives to include developing countries that have not emerged out of conflict.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Regional organisations and Civil Society Groups (CSG) play a critical role in the implementation of the POA and the ITI. In West Africa, the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials by the regional body has been very useful in preserving the peace and security in the region. We reiterate our call for increased technical and financial assistance to the CSGs to enable them continue with the good work they are doing in the West African sub-region.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Similarly, the role of women in combating the illicit trade in SALW cannot be overemphasized. In this regard, we welcome Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) adopted on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015, that encourages the empowerment of women to participate in the design and efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of SALW.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty to regulate the global trade in conventional arms is one of the major achievements of the United Nations in recent times. Ghana ratified the Treaty on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 and we are currently working on our legislative and regulatory framework to fully implement the Treaty. We welcome the outcome of the Second Conference of State Parties of the Treaty held in August of this year and reiterate our call to states that are yet to sign and ratify the Treaty to do so as soon as possible.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We reiterate our call for the universalization of and adherence to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. I am pleased to inform this meeting that the competent Ghanaian authorities are taking steps to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I thank you for your kind attention.