

**STATEMENT BY HON. RAPHAEL TUJU, E.G.H., M.P.,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING THE SIGNING
CEREMONY OF THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE REGIONAL CENTRE ON SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS (RECSA) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
KENYA**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SMALL
ARMS,**

**YOU'RE EXCELLENCIES, REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER
STATES SIGNATORY TO THE NAIROBI DECLARATION AND
THE NAIROBI PROTOCOL,**

SUPPORTING PARTNERS,

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO WITNESS THE SIGNING OF THE HOST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REGIONAL CENTRE ON SMALL ARMS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE MARKS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLICIT FIREARMS IN OUR SUB-REGION. ALTHOUGH A LOT OF WORK HAS BEEN DONE TO

ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA RECOGNIZES AND APPRECIATES THE SERIOUS CHALLENGE THAT ILLICIT ARMS CONTINUE TO POSE TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN OUR SUB- REGION, AND IN THE CONTINENT AS A WHOLE.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE DECISION TO CREATE THIS CENTRE WAS REACHED IN 2004, AND IS CONTAINED IN THE NAIROBI PROTOCOL ON SMALL ARMS. IT WAS ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF THE REALIZATION THAT THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO HAVE A REGIONAL INSTITUTION THAT WOULD

EFFECTIVELY CO-ORDINATE SUB-REGIONAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLICIT SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS.

WE IN KENYA REMAIN COMMITTED TO THIS CAUSE. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL FOCAL POINT TO CO-ORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF ILLICIT SMALL ARMS. WE HAVE ALSO LAUNCHED OUR NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AS STIPULATED UNDER THE NAIROBI DECLARATION AND THE NAIROBI PROTOCOL RESPECTIVELY.

I WISH TO RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE WORK THAT RECSA IS DOING AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL TOWARDS

BUILDING CONSENSUS ON THE NEED FOR STRICT MEASURES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. IT IS ENVISAGED THAT SUCH MEASURES WOULD GOVERN THE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION, THUS EFFECTIVELY TACKLING THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT OUR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE SUB-REGION, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI DECLARATION AND PROTOCOL WILL PROGRESSIVELY CURTAIL THE PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS.

**MR. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
EXCELLENCIES,**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE HONOUR OF HOSTING THE RECSA CENTRE.

LET ME ALSO ASSURE YOU OF OUR COMMITMENT TO FACILITATE AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE CENTRE AS YOU SEEK TO FULFIL YOUR NOBLE MANDATE. THE SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT TODAY NOT ONLY SIGNIFIES THAT COMMITMENT, BUT IS ALSO A DEMONSTRATION OF THE IMPORTANCE KENYA ATTACHES TO THE MANDATE OF THE CENTRE, AND INDEED TO THE GOALS OF THE NAIROBI DECLARATION AND THE NAIROBI PROTOCOL.

AS WE CELEBRATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RECSA, LET US NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AHEAD, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR POLITICAL GOODWILL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THIS INSTITUTION. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH OUR COLLECTIVE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE CENTRE, THESE CHALLENGES CAN, AND WILL INDEED, BE OVERCOME.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I WOULD BE REMISS IN MY DUTIES IF I DID NOT EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

FOR THEIR CONTINUED AND INVALUABLE SUPPORT IN OUR IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS. I ALSO CANNOT FORGET TO THANK YOU, MEMBER STATES, FOR THE HONOUR YOU HAVE BESTOWED ON KENYA BY APPOINTING ONE OF OUR NATIONALS, MR. FRANCIS SANG, AS THE FIRST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRE. WE ARE CONFIDENT IN HIS ABILITY TO STEER THE ORGANIZATION TOWARDS THE SUCCESSFUL DISCHARGE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA, AND ON MY OWN BEHALF, LET ME FINALLY TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU, MR. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THE

**CENTRE, SUCCESS IN YOUR ENDEAVOURS FOR THE
BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLE, NOT ONLY WITHIN THIS SUB-
REGION, BUT ALSO WITHIN THE CONTINENT AND THE
WORLD AT LARGE.**

THANK YOU.
