



ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE HOST AGREEMENT FOR
RECSA SECRETARIAT

BY

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HEADQUARTERS
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REMARKS BY MR. FRANCIS K. SANG, CBS.
(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY)

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Honourable Moses Wetangula, Ass. Min., Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya;
Mr Thuita Mwangi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Ambassabor Binsai J. chepsengol, Director of Political Affairs,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to express, on behalf of the member States signatory to the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention , control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa namely :- Burundi , Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti , Eritrea, Ethiopia , Kenya, Rwanda , Seychelles , the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania , and on my own behalf, deep appreciation to the Hon Ass. Minister for finding time today to sign the Agreement hosting, in Nairobi, the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons for the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (RECSA).

Member States upgraded the Nairobi Secretariat into a Regional intergovernmental organization (RECSA) in order to implement the Nairobi Declaration more effectively, and at the end of the Third Ministerial Review Conference on the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol held in Nairobi in June 2005, thanked the Government of Kenya for hosting and supporting the Nairobi Secretariat and requested her to “expeditiously enter into a Host Agreement with RECSA.”

I am grateful to the Government of Kenya for assenting to this important request by the member States.

On behalf of the member States, I am also grateful to the Government of Kenya for its foresight and leading role which culminated in the signing of the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol in 2000 and 2004 respectively.

Indeed, Kenya has borne the heaviest responsibility of ensuring the survival of RECSA by providing staff, transportation and other logistics that have facilitated its smooth running since the establishment of the Nairobi Secretariat at the Ministry Headquarters in 2000.

RECSA appreciates that after the Extra Ordinary Council of Ministers' Meeting held in Kampala in April 2006 that agreed on and approved the formula of contribution by Member States for the sustainability of the Secretariat and its work-plan, Kenya immediately honoured her commitment for the current financial Year in full.

Honorable Ass. Minister;

I am happy to inform you that the Nairobi Protocol came into force on 5th May 2006, having been ratified by two third of the members in conformity with provisions of its Article 23.

Due to strong political will and support by Member States, RECSA has, with the little resources at its disposal, already recorded remarkable achievements in its role of coordinating the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol, and attracted the attention of several donors who are ready to fund the implementation process.

I am confident that the signing of the Headquarters' Agreement today in various ways empowers the Centre to implement the mandate given by the member States more authoritatively.

I wish to assure you that the Secretariat will spare no effort in pursuing the regional agenda with vigour and determination.

I thank you.