



**Cooperating to Disarm**

**INTERNATIONAL TRACING INSTRUMENT (ITI) STATEMENT**

**PRESENTED BY**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

It is a great honour, to address this august gathering on the International Tracing Instrument, with particular reference to and on behalf of the Great Lakes region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

The adoption of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) by the General Assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 committed States to mark existing stocks of weapons held by government, armed and security forces to reduce the chances of their flow to war zones and the illicit market. This is a noble cause in the efforts of reducing the serious negative impact that illicit arms proliferation has on global populations. It remains a matter of concern to our region that the instrument is still not legally binding and thus calls on this Assembly to recommend the commencement of the necessary process that would make it legally binding.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Noting that the purpose of the instrument is to enable States to identify and trace, illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner, and given that most illicit weapons start out their lives legally, and are diverted into illicit markets at some point the implementation of this instrument will greatly assist

States to close off transfer channels for illicit weapons. In addition this will permit both suppliers and recipients of arms to fulfill their obligations to exercise sufficient control over the arms that they export or import, consistent with their national export and import legislation.

Despite that challenge, the countries of Great Lakes, Horn of Africa and Bordering States have made commitment and have commenced marking their weapons in State possession. The Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) has purchased electronic arms marking machines for each Member State and computers for data base creation with the assistance of the USA Government and the German Government through EAC- GTZ project on SALW. The marking of government held stocks is in line with the Nairobi Protocol and the regional Best Practice Guidelines. I believe this will go a long way in meeting the state obligations outlined in the International Tracing Instrument.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In line with the Instrument requirements, marks will be on exposed surfaces, conspicuous enough to be noted without technical aids or tools, easily recognizable, readable, durable and technically recoverable. The marks will include the country ISO

code, which indicates the regional code (\*) the national code (eg **KE** for Kenya) and if available the arms serial number.

RECSA in early April this year organized a training workshop for Member States in preparation for this noble undertaking. It is expected as per the regional Best Practice Guidelines that after the marking of the current State held stocks, all arms exports destined to our region will have these marks provided by exporters prior to shipment.

To allow member states to systematically track illicit weapons found or seized on the territory of a State from its origin (producer or exporter) to the point at which it was seized, appropriate data generation is critical. To achieve this goal, RECSA will seek support to develop a regional data creation and management software for use at national level and that will eventually allow the regional cooperation in tracing assistance requests. When eventually done, it will pick from the current data storage computers that will be provided along with the marking machines.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We however note with concern that the efforts of the Member States may not yield much if manufacturers and suppliers do not

comply with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument that arms be marked at the source before transfer to a purchasing entity. We take this opportunity to call on all producers to comply with the requirement of marking of arms at the source as per the International Tracing Instrument and the RECSA region Best Practice Guidelines

May I emphasize that success in tracing the movement of State held arms and reduction of opportunities of their becoming illicit must entail three elements of – marking, record-keeping and international cooperation. In cognizance of the fact that the three have legal, technical, institutional and policy dimensions and the need to address existing practices in all the three areas if tracing is to become a reality, political good will become a critical ingredient in the whole process hence the presence of states in this review meeting.

I thank you Mr. Chairman