



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**Statement by Dr. Julius T. Rotich, Deputy Secretary  
General, on the Occasion of the High Level  
Segment of the United Nations Conference on the  
Arms Trade Treaty**

*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. President

Hon Secretary General

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me join other delegations in congratulating you and the entire bureau for your election and assure you of the support of the East African Community in shepherding this important conference; a task you have already performed astutely during the preparatory process and which I believe you will see to a successful conclusion.

The EAC associates itself with the statements made by the Africa Group and sister REC ECOWAS.

Over the last six years, through a series of Experts Group Meetings and PREPCOMS substantial progress has been made towards developing convergence of ideas on how an Arms Trade Treaty should look like. The EAC and its Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania have been closely engaged in this process and would wish to see through a successful conclusion of this important process.

The EAC Region has over the years experienced and continues to experience the devastating consequences of unregulated Arms transfers. The easy availability of arms has facilitated displacement of populations; widespread human rights abuses and undermined legitimate governments among others. Whereas the region is not arms producing, it remains awash with arms. The nexus between easy availability of arms, terrorism and piracy continues to manifest itself in the region and remain of primary concern regional peace and security. The inextricable link between unregulated arms transfers, human rights and humanitarian issues should thus be at the core of the Treaty objectives drawing from our regional experience.

In negotiating the ATT it is important to ensure that it reinforces the existing instruments and initiatives. While acknowledging that the UNPoA has addressed some aspects of SALW, it still falls short of the desired legal transfers control regime that would be provided for by an ATT. The ATT will thus not duplicate but rather reinforce the UNPoA.

Mr. President,

With this hindsight, the EAC would like to see an ATT that will address the problems associated with unregulated transfers of conventional arms in all its manifestations, with sufficient safeguards guaranteeing respect to sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate access to related technology. A robust ATT fully implemented through a transparent process, will enhance confidence among states, reduce the incentive to accumulate arms and hence reduced spending on arms and spur economic development through enhanced social spending. The ATT thus must have

The EAC Region would wish to underscore the need for an ATT that includes all arms in the UN Conventional Arms Register along with SALW and Ammunitions, which from the regional perspective, pose the most potent threat to stability, security and development. Such an ATT must accommodate all aspects of transfers.

The effectiveness of an instrument is largely determined by implementation arrangements in place. In this regard, implementing such an ATT will require inbuilt provisions for broad technical and financial support to states to ensure timely implementation. We also share the proposal to secure a clear role for Regional Integration Organizations in the implementation process, possibly in the sunset provisions, considering the increasing Peace and Security responsibility that these organizations continue to shoulder, based on the existing precedents in respect of other instruments.

Mr. President,

Finally may I take this opportunity to pay tribute to civil society for the advocacy work that has been undertaken, through an inclusive process that has allowed stakeholders at all levels to contribute to the ATT debate over the last six years. We look forward to sustaining this constructive engagement in the implementation process.

We remain optimistic that the conclusion of this instrument will radically alter the manner in which Arms as a major security component have been managed to the advantage of enhanced global security, stability and development. The non paper you made available to this Conference is well encompassing to set the stage for negotiation of the ATT.

I thank you.