



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

DURING

**THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON ARMS TRADE TREATY
(ATT)**

Thursday, July 5, 2012
UN Headquarters, New York

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**Amb. Roberto Garcia Moritan - The President of the ATT
Conference
Heads of Delegations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Amb. Roberto Garcia Moritan, for being appointed as the President of this very important conference. This is in no doubt as a result of your able leadership and the manner in which you have steered this process to this stage. Kenya is pleased to play a leading role towards this effort being one of the co-authors of the UN General Assembly Resolution 61/89 of the 6th December 2006 on Arms Trade Treaty. Kenya has been committed to the search for a legally-binding treaty to control arms transfers. In this regard, of over 2000 signatures collected by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) from legislators globally, 75 of these are from Kenyan legislators.

Mr. President,

As a developing African State, Kenya continues to suffer negative effects of unregulated trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) which is causing devastating impact on social, political and economic wellbeing of its people. Recent incidences of bomb attacks and other violent armed activities in our country attest to the ever-increasing need to close loopholes that permit criminals and terrorists to acquire and use dangerous weapons that maim and kill innocent civilians. This greatly retards progress in the realization of Kenya's Development. In view of this, Kenya supports negotiations that will lead to a robust, comprehensive treaty that will establish high international standards governing the transfer of conventional weapons including small arms and light weapons and ammunitions because these are the weapons which cause immense suffering to the people within the Great Lake Region, the Horn of Africa and the bordering states.

Mr. President,

Kenya continues to emphasize that arms transfers should remain under strict national controls with clearly spelt out factors and criteria which states should consider when deciding whether or not to allow a transfer. However, state parties should not authorize a transfer of conventional arms where there is a substantial risk and where they would be used in violation of the International Human Rights Law, the International Humanitarian Law, or in the commission of crime or support to terrorist acts or piracy that undermine sustainable development objectives.

The establishment of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) will facilitate international cooperation and information exchange among national authorities of member states, regional organization and the ISU for effective implementation of the Treaty and to act as a liaison body on all matters pertaining to the Treaty.

Kenya being an advocate of peace both regionally and internationally, emphasizes that any dispute that may arise with regard to the interpretation of the Treaty shall be settled by peaceful means.

We realize that an ATT will not solve all the problems of the world. However, a robust legally-binding treaty on international arms transfers that will leave an effect in reducing the flow of arms from the legal to the illicit trade will certainly be a very important step in reducing human suffering.

Thank you.