



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

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STATEMENT BY

**AMBASSADOR RAMADHAN M. MWINYI,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE SPECIAL EVENT TO MARK THE OPENING FOR SIGNATURE OF
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY, NEW YORK, 3 JUNE 2013**

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**Madam High-Representative for Disarmament Affairs,
Distinguished delegates and representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today we mark another milestone in the journey of this Treaty. We are a step closer towards the realization of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which we adopted overwhelmingly in April this year (2013).

In appending our signatures to the Treaty, we are signifying our willingness to be bound by its provisions. Indeed, the United Republic of Tanzania has been supportive of the ATT process and had the honour of sponsoring the resolution that brought it to being on 2 April 2013. As such we shall be among the initial signatories of this historic Treaty.

Due credit goes to Ambassador Peter Woolcott of Australia, President of the final ATT Conference and his predecessor Ambassador Roberto García Moritán of Argentina. We salute their diplomatic skills and perseverance which steered us to the adoption of the Treaty.

With this Treaty we have solemnly undertaken to establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating international trade in conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, munitions and ammunitions, parts and components. We have also resolved to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade of conventional arms and curtail their diversion.

We are optimistic that, the full realization of the Treaty would contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability; reduce human suffering and promote good relations and cooperation among Member States.

We are also confident that, the Treaty, if fully implemented, in a consistent, objective and non-discriminatory manner would be instrumental in the fight against illegal arms transfer which is responsible for aggravating conflicts, perpetuating violence and abuse against women and girls, used in commission of trans-national organized crime, terrorism and piracy at sea.

The primary responsibility to ensure effective implementation of this Treaty lies with its future States Parties. It is upon us, Member States to ensure that this Treaty is not a mere decoration in our bookshelves. We must ensure that the Treaty is as vibrant at home as it is regionally and internationally. This Treaty should provide the much needed relief and a break from a spiral of violence currently being exacerbated by illicit arms and arms trade which prays of volatility of States particularly in Africa.

We must ensure there is a level playing field between exporters and importers. This Treaty should not be used to curtail legitimate international trade in arms; and it should not be used to undermine sovereign and territorial integrity of States. Conflicts tend to attract abuse of commitments and bending of rules. We should employ all tools at our disposal, including pacific settlement of disputes to prevent conflicts before they occur.

And we should forge ahead in the same manner as was the case in negotiations of the Treaty with the inclusion of all stakeholders, including the civil society whose contribution in advocating for the adoption of the Treaty as well as technical assistance rendered to Member States is applauded.

International cooperation and international assistance is also important. We are grateful for all the assistance afforded to Member States during the preparations for ATT meetings and conferences. It is important that we maintain that momentum going forward as it is even more critical in the implementation phase. The United Republic of Tanzania is open to such cooperation, partnership and assistance in preparing for the domestication of the Treaty. The Voluntary Trust Fund established by the Treaty should be used in such facilitation as intended and upon request from concerned States.

To conclude, let me pay tribute to all who made this day possible and thank the Secretariat for ensuring the text is available in all official languages of the United Nations on time for this ceremony.

I thank you for your kind attention.