



Co-operating to Disarm

**STATEMENT BY RECSA AT THE THIRD REVIEW
CONFERENCE ON THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME
OF ACTION ON SALW AND THE ITI**

20TH JUNE 2018

BY

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ON BEHALF OF

RECSA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NEW YORK, USA

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA) and on my own behalf, I thank you for giving me the floor to make this statement.

Before I do, I would like to join other delegates in congratulating you on your election as the President of this meeting and I assure you of the cooperation and support of my delegation.

Mr. President,

2. In accordance with article 27 of the UNPoA that calls for the establishment of sub-regional and regional mechanisms, countries in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa agreed on a legally binding instrument- the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in 2004.
3. In the same spirit, a regional institution – the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA) was established in 2005 to coordinate the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol which feeds into global commitments contained in the UNPoA and ITI.

Mr. President,

4. In terms of implementation of the UNPoA and ITI, RECSA Member States have undertaken concrete and measurable interventions to enhance physical security and stockpile management, to counter diversion, illicit trade, proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons.
5. In accordance with the provisions of the UNPoA on firearms identification the RECSA Secretariat has provided a total of 51 arms marking machines, associated training and logistical facilitation across the 15 Member States that has seen tremendous progress in firearms marking exercises.
6. On traceability, RECSA has developed a customized software to Support its member states in electronic record-keeping. The software has already been rolled out in some member states to complement firearms marking and to facilitate reliable information retrieval and tracing.
7. In terms of infrastructure for safe weapons and ammunition storage to curb diversion, RECSA has supported the construction of armories in a number of Member States. Similarly, RECSA has provided a total of 1,075 steel arms boxes to facilitate the safe storage of firearms in remote areas.

8. RECSA Member States have also been active in ensuring that obsolete/surplus/collected small arms and light weapons are destroyed. To date, over 400,000 firearms, and more than 2,000 tons of ammunition and Un-exploded Ordinances (UXOs) have been destroyed using various methods. This has reduced the number of SALW in circulation and hence related risks associated with surplus/obsolete stocks.

Mr. President,

9. Within the dimension of legislation, the RECSA Secretariat has supported the harmonization of national legislation in a number of Member States with regional and international instruments on SALW management and control. In this regard, a model law has been developed by RECSA to guide the harmonization process in member states that have not done so.
10. To improve the quality of national practice in physical security and stockpile management (PSSM), RECSA has adopted a "Train-the-Trainers" approach to build a pool of 22 regional PSSM instructors who offer contextualized training on best practices in PSSM during national-level seminars. So far, RECSA has held 11 national-level and 12 regional-level PSSM seminars, with at least 266 practitioners trained in international best practices in weapons and ammunition management.
11. In recognition of the role of Gender in arms control, RECSA has developed a Gender Policy to guide the mainstreaming of gender in small arms interventions and in line with UN Security Council resolution 1325.

Mr. President, before I conclude,

12. I would like to state that all the above has been achieved with the financial support of RECSA Member States, and our development partners namely: the United States Government/WRA Bureau, the African Development Bank, the European Union, the German Government through GIZ and BICC, Governments of Japan, Norway and Netherlands; among others.
13. However, despite the numerous achievements, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons remains a monumental problem to which our collective and comprehensive effort must be directed.
14. The national mechanisms on Small Arms and light weapons need to be strengthened and capacitated to adequately play their role in addressing the problem of illicit SALW.

15. There is need for aligning SALW interventions to the wider development programs and making sure that assistance for SALW interventions are long-term, so that they can bear meaningful results.

Finally Mr. President,

16. RECSA notes the positive contribution of regional and sub-regional instruments on small arms and light weapons such as Nairobi Protocol and Kinshasa Convention in awareness raising, capacity building and promoting cooperation and assistance to support states in their implementation of the PoA and ITI.
17. The sub-regional mechanisms in particular offer a platform for contextualized interventions and coordinated action towards the implementation of the UNPoA and the ITI. They also offer the platform for in-depth reporting, monitoring and evaluation, an aspect that can greatly enrich the quality and quantity of reporting on the UNPoA and ITI.
18. RECSA therefore calls upon the global community, well-wishers, development partners and wider cross-section of stakeholders to join hands in the mobilization of resources required for the continued implementation of the UNPoA, ITI and complementary sub-regional instruments.

I thank you Mr. President.