

STATEMENT BY RECSA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE.

Nairobi, 21 September 2020: This year, the RECSA family takes this opportunity to commemorate the International Day of Peace which is a reflection of RECSA vision of “A safe and secure sub - region in a peaceful continent free from arms proliferation”.

In the context of the theme for this year, - ”*Shaping Peace Together*” - the RECSA Executive Secretary reaffirms the unwavering commitment of RECSA Secretariat and its 15 Member States to the noble goals of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the aspirations of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States. In general, these goals and aspirations resonate with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and in particular SDG 16 which aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

We all understand the dangers of illegal possession and misuse of small arms and light weapons in the region and their negative effect on nations’ peace, security and development. We cannot have any meaningful growth when there is insecurity. As you may all know, the African Union Initiative on Silencing the Guns by 2020 and the Sustainable Development recognize that stability is important for sustainable growth and development.

Despite COVID - 19 pandemic, many RECSA member states have adopted measures that have significantly contributed to the fight against proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the region. In addition, RECSA in partnership with African Union and United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) is supporting 7 countries in the region to implement the Africa Amnesty Month for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons. We are also supporting the gender mainstreaming programmes and actions in the fight against small arms proliferation in line with the women, peace and security agenda.

I encouraged all those with illegal weapons to lay down arms, move away from self-interest or prejudice and see themselves as part of the human family. Today, we are reminded of our aspiration to establish a culture of peace, a world of healed

relationships and a shared vision of a human community. As RECSA, we are ready to continue supporting initiatives contributing to peace in our region.

It is my sincere hope that we will realize a safe and secure sub- region in a peaceful continent free from arms proliferation.



A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin oval. The signature appears to read "Badreldin".

Lt. Gen. Badreldin Elamin Abdelgadir
RECSA Executive Secretary