



Co-operating to Disarm

**REMARKS DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ATT
STRATEGY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH
SUDAN**

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BY

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

26TH NOVEMBER 2020

The Minister of Interior

Senior Government Officials,

Members of Parliament

Representatives from the South Sudan Organized Forces,

Chairperson of the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control

Representatives of Media Houses

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), I take this opportunity to thank the Government of South Sudan for inviting RECSA Secretariat to be part of this important workshop on development of the National Strategy on the Arms Trade Treaty for the Republic of South Sudan.

Chief Guest,

Africa is greatly affected by the problem of proliferation small arms and light weapons. These arms are illegally trafficked or traded across borders, and often land into the hands of unlawful civilians and groups who use them to commit acts of

violence and organized crimes. The result is an immense cost on the Continent in the form of human suffering, disabilities, deaths, and retarded development.

The consensus on the need to control and prevent the illegal circulation of arms has led to the establishment of various international and regional instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) through which States agree to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in arms control.

RECSA, therefore, joins the international and regional community in advocating for the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty that provides robust standards for responsible transfers of conventional weapons. If fully implemented and adhered to, the Treaty will regulate the destabilizing flow of conventional weapons and hence foster peace, security and sustainable development in Africa.

We recognize that the aspirations of the ATT are in line with those of the *Nairobi Protocol on the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons* upon which RECSA's mandate is anchored.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Articles 10 and 11 of the Nairobi Protocol call upon RECSA member states, including the Republic of South Sudan to establish and maintain effective systems for export, import and transfer of small arms and light weapons. These Articles also commit member states to establish national systems for regulating dealers and brokers of small arms and light weapons.

This consultative workshop is in line with this requirement under the Protocol.

I therefore call upon the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to speed up the process of Development of the National Strategy on ATT which shall inform the establishment of an effective system for Arms and Ammunition Imports, Exports, Transfers and Brokering.

Over the years, RECSA member states have made significant progress in addressing the problem of small arms and light weapons proliferation through the implementation of different commitments and initiatives which are in line with both international and regional SALW instruments. However, alot still needs to be done.

As RECSA, we are ready and willing to continue working with all our Member States in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, development partners and civil society organizations to implement the ATT as we pursue the achievement of our Vision of a safe and secure sub-region in a peaceful continent free from arms proliferation.

As I conclude, allow me to thank the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) for supporting the Government of South Sudan to strengthen its capacity in the management and control of small arms and light weapons.

Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I wish to thank the Government of South Sudan for the political support they continue to demonstrate in the fight against the problem of small arms and light weapons in the region;

I thank you for your kind attention!