

DAR ES SALAAM PLAN OF ACTION

We, Members of Parliament from Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, gathered at this Regional Workshop from April 2-3, 2016 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania:

Aware of the devastating human consequences of inadequately addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Africa and around the world

Recognizing the negative impact of this trade on attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 11 and 16, relating to the importance of ensuring safe cities and peaceful societies, as well as all urban and rural communities

Further aware of the often extreme and disproportionate impact illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women and children

Mindful of the challenges posed by youth unemployment and its linkages with increased armed violence and gang-related criminal activity

Further mindful also of the serious, negative consequences that the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons has on wildlife conservation

Recalling with Approval, the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons; The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control, and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa; the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Other Related Materials; the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials as well as the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly

Lauding the fact that 130 countries signed the Arms Trade Treaty within the prescribed period and that, to date, 82 countries have ratified this crucial international convention

Encouraged that 39 countries in Africa alone signed the ATT and that, to date, 16 African countries have ratified this Treaty.

Acknowledging the importance of international cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the ATT, as set out in Articles 15 and 16 of the ATT

Taking note of the upcoming Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the United Nations in New York from 6-10 June, 2016

We as Parliamentarians from across Africa, agree as appropriate to:

1. Advocate for prompt ratification and gender sensitive implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty by our respective Governments, including, tabling motions, orders, resolutions in our respective parliaments with this objective, as well as reaching out to relevant Government Ministers with the same goal, in collaboration with civil society (tact tenacity and team work)
2. Urge our respective Governments upon ratification of the ATT to submit national implementation reports and any other reports due in a timely and comprehensive manner
3. Encourage our respective Governments to participate fully and effectively in the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA on SALW) by including of Members of Parliament in official Delegations, given the fundamental role of Parliamentarians in implementation and the legislative drafting process (letter of support/ecouragement, ahead of the event)
4. Call on our respective Governments to submit biennial national reports due under the UN PoA on SALW, and also in connection with the International Tracing Instrument, in a timely and comprehensive manner
5. Undertake to report back to the PGA Secretariat on steps we have taken pursuant to this Plan of Action

Done this 3rd Day of April, 2016 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

