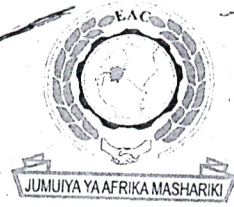


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**REPORT ON OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY BY THE COMMITTEE
ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO
ASSESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI
PROTOCOL FOR THE PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND
REDUCTION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN
THE GREAT LAKES REGION AND THE HORN OF AFRICA**

(27th – 30th September 2021)

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Clerk's Chambers

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Arusha – TANZANIA

MARCH 2022

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
BCN	Bureau Central National
BCSSAC	Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control
CNAP	Commission Nationale Permanente <i>de lutte contre la prolifération des Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre</i>
EAC	East African Community
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EAPCCO	East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
ICGLR	International Conference on Great Lakes Region
NFP	National Focal Point
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSAASS	National Small Arms Assessment in South Sudan
PSSM	Physical Security and Stockpile Management
RECSA	Regional Centre on Small Arms
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
UANSA	Uganda Action Network on Small Arms
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNPoA	United Nations Programme of Action

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1.0 Introduction

The proliferation and stockpiling of illicit weapons continue to threaten Peace and Security, increasing the fear of civilians. The misuse, illicit transfer and destabilizing accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and their ammunition, remain a defining factor in undermining Peace and Security at the national, regional and global levels and have deeply aggravated the situation of vulnerable populations already experiencing conflicts in the East African Community region. (EAC)

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) discharges Legislative, Oversight and Representation functions on all matters within the scope of cooperation under the East African Community as per the provisions of Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. EALA undertakes its oversight role on EAC Projects and Programs through meetings, studies, workshops; tours, and on- spot assessment activities.

Rule 81 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly outlines the functions of the standing Committees. However, the main functions of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (RACR) are stipulated in Annex 5 (E) and include: to review legislation and oversee Chapter 17 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC with regard to the implementation of regional programs on movement of Persons, Labour, Services and Right of Establishment.

Article 124 of Treaty recognizes that Peace and Security are pre-requisites for social and economic development. Stability cannot be attained, until people are safe, trust each other, their governments to guarantee their protection and accord them a safe and secure environment to live, settle, trade, and travel freely.

This factor is further amplified by the vision of EAC which envisages “a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa.” The objectives further necessitate the Community to ensure regional stability if the integration is to deepen and widen.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The rapid increase in illicit SALW presents a direct threat to the development of the East African region and the African Continent as a whole. The easy availability and movability of SALW continue to escalate armed conflicts, transboundary crimes, sustained poaching and cattle rustling albeit with terrorism and other serious crimes in the EAC region.

Although the SALW is a global issue, East African citizens continue to suffer from arms that are in the wrong hands. The Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa are recognized to be parts of the world severely affected by these weapons. To this end, international, regional and national instruments have been enacted to halt the escalation of the proliferation of SALW and monitor their transfer and use.

At the regional level, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Republics of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda signed the Nairobi declaration in March 2000 and the protocol in April 2004 on the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, cognizant of the problems caused by Small Arms and Light Weapons that escalate conflicts and undermine Human and State security.

It is against this background that the Committee on RACR conducted an oversight activity to assess the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa from 27th -30th September, 2021 in the six EAC Partner States.

3.0 Objectives of the oversight activity

The objectives of the activity were to;

- Assess the impact of SALW on the security in East Africa;
- Evaluate the extent to which the Nairobi Protocol on SALW has been implemented;
- Assess the challenges faced while implementing the Nairobi Protocol and how they have been addressed;
- Make recommendations to the Council of Ministers on measures to be undertaken to effectively address the challenges of SALW in order to ensure lasting peace and stability in the EAC region.

4.0 Methodology

The Committee was divided into 6 teams with Committee Members from each Partner State undertaking the activity in their respective Partner States. They were later joined by one Committee Member from the other Partner states to enhance regional diversity. The main objective of the activity was to assess the level of implementation of the Nairobi Protocol in Partner States. Below are the specific methodologies which were used by the different teams.

In the Republic of Burundi, the Sub-Committee interacted with Stakeholders from the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, the Permanent National Commission of Small Arms and Light Weapons (CNAP), Correction services and officers from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence and former Combatants, and officials from the Department of Migration in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as representatives of Civil Society.

The team also undertook a field visit to the Headquarters of CNAP- the storage facility of illicit explosives before their destruction at the Kanyosha Police Station, Groupement Mobile d'Intervention Rapido (GMIR) Buyenzi, and at National Army Logistics Center at Musaga in Bujumbura.

In the Republic of Kenya, the Sub Committee interacted with Kenya National Focal Point Office, Ministries of Defence, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Office of the Attorney General and the Justice department, National Police Service, Department of Immigration, Security Centre and SALW Office, Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Office (NGO).

In the Republic of Rwanda, the Sub Committee interacted with Stakeholders from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Defence, Justice, Rwanda National Police, Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, Rwanda Correctional Services, and Safer Rwanda (a civil society organization implementing Peace and Security programs including SALW).

In the Republic of South Sudan, the Sub Committee interacted with the Ministry of Defence; the Army, Ministry of Internal Affairs; Police, Prisons, Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control, Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Hon. Members of the South Sudan National

Assembly, South Sudan National Disarmament, IGAD-Head of Mission in South Sudan, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, Directorate of Wild Life, and Civil Society.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, the Sub Committee interacted with Stakeholders from the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Defence, Constitutional Affairs, EAC Affairs, Police, Prisons and Immigration Departments.

In the Republic of Uganda, the sub-Committee interacted with Stakeholders from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Uganda National Focal Point on SALW), Ministry of Defence (Uganda People's Defence Force), Department of Immigration, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Societies (Center for Conflict Resolution and Uganda Action Network on Small Arms) and Ministry of East African Community Affairs.

5.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

5.1 Status of Implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on SALW in Burundi

The Republic of Burundi ratified the Nairobi Protocol on SALW, on 15th March 2006 (via Law No. 1/09 of 15th March on the ratification of the Nairobi Protocol on SALW). After the ratification of the Protocol, the country has taken a number of measures to implement it. The most salient measures being the promulgation of the national Law on SALW (Law No°1/14 of 28th August 2009) to update the then existing law and bring it into conformity with the provisions of the Nairobi Protocol of SALW and the establishment of the the Permanent National Commission of Small Arms and Light Weapons (CNAP) specifically put in place to coordinate the implementation of the Protocol and monitor compliance with international and regional commitments of Burundi to legal instruments and policies on the control of SALW.

Eleven (11) administrative measures to implement the national law of SALW have been developed, amongst which three (3) have been adopted by the Cabinet while eight (8) are still at the ministerial level of the approval process. The three (3) measures which have been adopted relate to:

- Centralized registration of SALW;
- Storage of SALW and ammunitions; and
- SALW licensing.

The status of implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on SALW in Burundi is as follows:

1. Legislative measures to establish certain conduct as criminal offences

The Republic of Burundi enacted the Law No 1/14 of 28th August 2009 on SALW. The law prohibits illicit trafficking (in), illicit manufacturing (of) and illicit possession and misuse of SALW, as well as falsifying or illicit obliterating, removing or altering the markings on SALW and establishes them as criminal offences subject to criminal sanctions under the penal code of Burundi.

2. Enhancement of operational capacity to handle illicit SALW

To enhance national capacity to deal with all the issues revolving around illicit SALW, Burundi put in place the Permanent National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons- CNAP (*Commission Nationale Permanente de lutte contre la prolifération des Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre*) which is established as a semi-autonomous institution (with administrative and financial autonomy). The CNAP is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol and monitor compliance with other international and regional commitments of Burundi to legal instruments and policies on the control of SALW.

The CNAP also established local offices in the different regions of Burundi and conducted capacity building for its officers and other stakeholders on marking and identification of SALW, their computerized registration, secured storage and destruction as well as the gender dimension of SALW.

The CNAP also developed the 1st National Action Plan for 2011-2015 and the 2nd Action Plan for 2020-2022 which have guided/guide its activities aimed at the controlling and management of SALW and their destruction.

The CNAP received a grant from the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) of three SALW marking machines and software for managing the licenses for civilians and brokers to carry SALW.

3. Establishment of CNAP as a Regional Centre of Excellence on Disarmament

Members were informed that, the Sectoral Council on Interstate Security nominated the Republic of Burundi to host the Regional Centre of Excellence on disarmament (decision SCISS/06 of 28 March 2014) in recognition of the significant progress made by the country in disarmament and fight against the proliferation of SALW.

As informed by CNAP, a number of countries such as Congo, South Sudan, Ivory Coast and Central African Republic have already undertaken benchmarking missions to Burundi, and arrangements have been made for Burundian experts to assist other countries in disarmament programmes.

4. Control of Civilian possession of SALW

In order to comply with the requirement of Article 3 of the Nairobi Protocol on control of civilian possession of SALW, Burundi has issued the Ministerial Ordinance regulating licensing of SALW and ammunitions for civilians and brokers. The Ordinance was issued following the Law of 2009 on SALW has revoked all licenses previously granted to civilians to possess SALW. The Ministerial Ordinance introduced stringent measures to allow the civilian possession of SALW and ammunitions only in very exceptional circumstances. The license is granted for only one SALW and a maximum of 40 ammunitions for a maximum period of 3 years renewable. The applicant has the obligation to import the SALW from outside Burundi, get it marked and pay import taxes and annual license fees.

As a result of the above-mentioned measures, no single license has been granted to a civilian to carry SALW since 2009, except those issued to security personnel of Foreign Embassies in Burundi.

5. Control and Accountability of State-Owned SALW

As per the requirement of the Nairobi Protocol, the government of Burundi has established a centralized national registry and database of all SALW: the national registry of marked SALW. In addition to the national registry, there are four (4) other sectoral registries for the National Police Force (*Police Nationale du Burundi-PNB*), for National Defence Force (*Force de Defence Nationale-FDN*), for Nationale

Intelligence Service (*Service de Renseignement National-SNR*) and for SALW licensed civilians. The national SALW database captures and maintains information from the four (4) registries and all copies of SALW import and export licenses and is updated on a quarterly basis.

6. Marking and Tracing of SALW and Record-keeping

Burundi has implemented the SALW marking format agreed on between parties to the Nairobi Protocol under the coordination of RECSA. The marking exercise has been successful for SALW of the National Police Force (100% of them have been duly marked) and 620 illicit SALW from civilians (which were marked before their destruction). However, marking of SALW of the National Army and Intelligence service has not started due to defective marking machines.

7. Disposal of State-Owned, confiscated or unlicensed SALW

Burundi has undertaken adequate measures to collect, safe-store, destroy and dispose of State-owned SALW which have become surplus, redundant or obsolete as well as illicit SALW confiscated or voluntarily surrendered by civilians.

From 2009- to June 2021, 33,434 SALW and 477,639 ammunitions have been collected, out of which 29, 259 SALW and 406, 395 ammunitions have been destroyed.

The Sub -Committee was informed that, on average, at least one grenade is surrendered daily by civilians in Burundi.

In order to protect the environment and make good use of the destroyed SALW, Burundi has partnered with some development agencies to transform the SALW parts into art objects such as drums, and decoration instruments.

8. Import, Export, Transfer and Transit, Dealers, Brokers and brokering of SALW

Measures to implement the provisions of the Nairobi Protocol and the national law on SALW relating to their import, export, transfer and transit have been drafted by the CNAP in close collaboration of other Stakeholders but are yet to be considered and adopted by the Cabinet.

9. Public/Community education and awareness programmes and Voluntary Surrender of illicit SALW

Burundi embarked on a programme to remove SALW illegally owned by civilians through voluntary surrender, as part of the Arusha Peace Agreement and other related ceasefire agreements reached at between the then various armed movements. Public sensitization and awareness of the dangers of illicit SALW were undertaken in different parts of the country, immediately followed by different strategies to remove them through combining a two-year initial grace period for voluntary surrender of illicit SALW. This was followed by immunity from prosecution for civilians who were willing to surrender their SALW within the specified periods (from 6th November 2013 to 6th February 2014, from 24th September to 24th October 2015 and from 7th January to 7th April 2020). Other measures included granting of incentives such as construction materials (cement), bicycles, fabric for women, household equipment (chairs, TV), mobile phones, etc.

In total 22,011 SALW and 211,450 ammunitions were voluntarily surrendered by civilians during the afore-mentioned successive grace periods of time.

10. Mutual Legal Assistance

Burundi has appointed the National Central Interpol Bureau (*Bureau Central National-Interpol (BCN-Interpol)*) to coordinate government action in respect of international/regional mutual legal assistance aimed at eradicating illicit SALW.

11. Law Enforcement, Transparency, Information Exchange and Harmonization

The CNAP has been established to serve as the national focal point on SALW as it coordinates all enforcement measures against illicit SALW and information exchange and harmonization with the National Central Interpol Bureau and RECSA.

12. Corruption

To comply with the requirement of the Nairobi Protocol in respect of curbing corruption of law enforcement agencies, Burundi strictly applies the provisions of the Anti-corruption law as well as penal code to deter government officials at all levels from engaging in corruption and sanctions them once they are convicted of corruption practices.

5.2 OBSERVATIONS

- The Committee noted that there were porous borders with its neighboring countries in a region where armed conflicts have been out of control for many years, especially in the Eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Some Countries across the region have not yet marked SALW, thus making it very difficult to trace and control their cross-border trafficking.
- Limited/insufficient funding of the CNAP by the government at a time when different partners who used to provide technical and financial support to the Commission (CNAP) have left the country. The lack of sufficient funding has delayed the implementation of some of the activities mentioned in the National Action Plans of CNAP.
- The Committee observed that all the 4 SALW marking machines have become obsolete before the CNAP could start marking SALW owned by the national army and the intelligence service of the country.
- There was limited technical capacity of the CNAP in terms of adequate equipment for SALW detection, storage, and destruction, as well as modern ICT to facilitate its work.
- The Regional Centre of Excellence on disarmament has not yet been operationalized and the current Headquarters of the CNAP is not adequate to host it.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above-mentioned challenges and observations, the Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to ensure that:

- The RECSA and the EAC Secretariat (Department of Peace and Security) urgently mobilises funds needed for the equipment and operationalization of the Regional Centre of Excellence in disarmament in Burundi. The old

SALW marking machines need to be replaced; there is need for improved storage facilities for explosives (they also need to be moved far from residential areas outside police stations/offices); appropriate transport equipment for explosives and other defective SALW, as well as appropriate protection equipment for SALW destruction need to be procured.

- The Government of Burundi should relocate the Headquarters of the CNAP to a better place and to a building of quality standard commensurate to its regional status and mandate.
- The Government of Burundi should fast-track the process of adoption of the draft regulatory measures to fully implement the national law on SALW.
- There is need for the parties to the Nairobi Protocol of SALW to revise it so as to include commitments in respect of control of ammunitions.
- The EAC Council of Ministers should direct the Partner States to fast-track the process of marking SALW for their effective control and enhance the capacity of all Stakeholders (especially borders control agencies) in eradicating cross-border trafficking of illicit SALW.
- The Council of Ministers should make the necessary arrangements to establish the Regional Centre of Excellence on disarmament an institution of the Community like the CASSOA, EAHRC etc.

6.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

6.1 Status of implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on SALW in Kenya

Kenya has struggled with insecurity for a long time, largely as a result of the proliferation of SALW. Both internal and external factors contribute to the firearms-related challenges facing the country.

Domestically, social, economic, and political causes have contributed to the demand for and proliferation of SALW. Long and continued political instability and armed conflicts in the countries neighboring Kenya have contributed to the small arms challenge facing Kenya, given its long and porous borders.

The effects of small arms availability and misuse have long been felt throughout Kenyan society. In some pastoralist communities, with relatively little police/security presence and numerous challenges such as conflicts over grazing land

and water access for their cattle have been greatly affected. This is especially so far communities in the North Eastern, Upper Eastern, and North Rift Valley areas, which are believed to suffer excessively from high levels of illicit firearms and insecurity. Urban centres like Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret, Thika, and Kisumu have also suffered from the illicit trade in Small Arms. This was the case as evidenced by the unprecedented levels of armed violence that erupted after the December 2007 general elections in Kenya.

The threat that the proliferation of SALW in Kenya poses to law and order and peace and security—both inside Kenya and in the wider region was again underscored in December 2009 when Kenyan police uncovered 100,000 rounds of ammunition in a private residence in Narok. It is estimated that there are 550,000 illicit firearms in circulation.

1 Government Action Plan to deal with SALW

In a bid to deal with this challenge,

- The Government of Kenya developed a National Action Plan for Arms Control and Management (NAP). The NAP provides a comprehensive set of measures to tackle the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons; capacity building for civil society organizations and law enforcement agencies; establishment of development-oriented small arms reduction programmes, among others. The development of the NAP marked an important step in Kenya's efforts to tackle the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.
- The Government formed an interdepartmental agency in 2003 - the Kenya National Focal point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (KNFP) under the Ministry of Interior whose mandate is to coordinate government response and initiatives in addressing the problem.
- The Agency works directly with Government ministries, departments and agencies. It has also partnered with national, international and non-governmental actors to support the national obligations on managing the proliferation of SALW.
- The national action plan is implementing the Nairobi Protocol through the 3 pillars; and they include;
 - Institutional development and strengthening;
 - Physical security and stockpile management (PSSM);

- Adaptive research, public education awareness.

Under the pillar of institutional development and strengthening, a number of initiatives have been undertaken. They include;

- Reviewing and harmonizing legislation with regional and national agencies that are involved in the small arms control and prevention.
- Control of civilian possession of SALW.
- Control and accountability of State held SALW.
- Marking and tracing of SALW and record keeping.

Under the pillar of Physical security and stockpile management (PSSM), the following initiatives have been undertaken.

- Disposal of obsolete state owned firearms and those confiscated from the civilians.
- Control of trade and transit of small arms and light weapons.
- Have marked and recorded firearms.
- Established and facilitated the installation of storage infrastructure of firearms especially in remote and far to reach areas. This has involved the setting up of containers and providing safes for storage. This is meant to mitigate the risks of diversion, theft and expulsion of the firearms. 760 steel boxes and 03 modified containers were provided.
- Destruction of SALW have to be undertaken. This is meant to reduce risks to State security and Human safety. The measure is also meant to reduce the cost of maintaining obsolete arms. Under this aspect, over 10,000 firearms and more than 20 tons were destroyed.
- Voluntary civilian disarmaments
- Established the National Focal point of contact on SALW matters;
- Strengthening of sub regional cooperation in laws enforcement, mutual legal assistance, exchange of information and capacity building for the armed forces.
- Working closely with RESCA, they have established arms database to customize, the firearms. A software for arms tracing, and electronic record keeping have been installed to facilitate the ease of arms tracing. Two soft wares were installed at the Kenya police headquarters and 13 electronic records softwares were installed in some select stations in the Country. This also involved the marking of firearms.

- Awareness raising activities were also undertaken including enhancing synergy with the CSO for civilian sensitization.

Under the pillar of adaptive research, public education and awareness, Community and public education awareness have been undertaken. Furthermore, there has been mainstreaming of the monitoring and evaluation programmes to align them with the objectives and the pillars of the national action plan. Practical training on best practices in weapons and ammunition management has been undertaken

6.2 OBSERVATIONS

- Slow harmonization of legislation with regional and international instruments;
- Weak Cross-border cooperation on SALW interventions and porous borders;
- Geopolitical shifts;
- More attention given to redress measures than prevention.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to:

- Entrench arms control into peace-building and governance initiatives.
- Support and strengthen National and Regional capacities for SALW Control & management.
- Full and effective domestication and implementation of international and regional arms control instruments.
- Create Synergies and partnerships to promote awareness raising and public sensitization on effects of SALW.
- Build resilience, cross-border cooperation and coordination mechanisms.
- Enhancement of regional integration and cross-border trade, security and communities' dialogues.
- Strengthened security and governance structures in the cross-border communities.
- Promote cultural dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms.

- Provision of alternative livelihoods for the cross-border Communities and in areas where the proliferation of SALW is still prevalent.
- Undertake advocacy with relevant authorities and promote engagement between state and civilians.
- Undertake massive community sensitization, awareness raising, and attitude change activities.

7.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

7.1 Status of Implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on SALWS

In the Republic of Rwanda, the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on the control and management of SALWs is guided by Legal instruments on SALW and related policies. The Government has taken a multi-sectoral approach, whereby different institutions have different roles to play. The following measures have been undertaken:

1. Legal framework on SALW

Pursuant to the signing of the Nairobi Protocol on control and prevention of Small arms and Light weapons, The Government of Rwanda ratified the Nairobi protocol of 2004 through a Presidential Order No 61/01 of 28/12/2004. Rwanda has embraced a body of legal and policy instruments to complement the Nairobi Protocol in relation to control, management, and reduction of SALW. These include:

- LAW N°56/2018 of 13/8/2018 relating to Arms which provides a framework for management of SALWs.
- Ministerial Order No 001/16.01 of 03/01/2012 on explosives used in mining, quarrying and infrastructure activities; Arms Trade Treaty (2013), the Kinshasa Convention (Nov.2010), the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) (2001), Nairobi Declaration (2000), The Bamako Declaration (2008) and the Firearms Protocol (2006).
- The development of the National Policy on SALWs which is currently in place and a legal regime in accordance with the law to punish those in wrongful possession of weapons.

2. Institutional framework

The Government of Rwanda has put in place a National Security Committee comprising of membership drawn from all Security Organs in the country. Depending on the magnitude of the case, at national level, issues involving arms and security in nature can be addressed through National Security Committee. The Committee also receives reports from the Joint Operation Centers.

3. Management of Arms

Regarding the daily management of SALW; all weapons are kept in a centralized safe with a secure storage. Users of arms in their duties sign in and sign out upon completion of their assignment. This mechanism prevents arms from falling into wrong hands and so far, there is no report of lost or stolen arms.

4. Tracing and Control

All SALW are marked by respective possessing institutions e.g. Rwanda Defence Force Mark or Rwanda National Police Mark which facilitates tracing of origin of arms.

5. Disposal

Destructive exercises, obsolete SALW are disposed off by cutting them into small pieces using arms cutting machine provided by RECSA to ensure that weapons cannot be re-assembled for future use. Furthermore, disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants contributes to disposal of arms in hands of ex-combats. So far more than 320 tons of SALW were destroyed between 2010-2017.

6. Cooperation

Cooperation in Control, Management and reduction of SALW with other Partner States is guided by a body of legislative instruments ranging from national laws to regional protocols. These include Nairobi protocol on control and management of SALWs; the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security as well as various forums and structures established under the EAC framework such as the Forum of Chiefs of Defence/Staff; Chiefs of Police Meeting, Chiefs of Intelligence meeting and the Regional Counter Terrorism center. All these forums are intended to provide space for dialogue and discussion of different security challenges in the EAC including proliferation of SALWs.

7. Rwanda National Police and Ministry of Internal Security

Rwanda National Police has the mandate to implement the national law on arms, whereas the Ministry of Internal Security oversees Rwanda National Police. It is against that background that a national focal point office on SALW was established under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and mandated to ensure the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol in close collaboration with the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), based in Nairobi, Kenya.

8. Strengthening of the National Focal Point

Trainings have been undertaken with the purpose of strengthening of the National Focal Point Office.

- Two staffs including one officer in charge of small arms and one officer in charge of explosive management were trained to perform their duties professionally.
- Creation of Provincial and District Task Forces on SALW was undertaken. Through this office, awareness campaigns are conducted to enhance the disarmament on SALW.

9. Capacity building for Stakeholders

- Capacity Building for Stakeholders from Rwanda Defence Force, Rwanda Correctional Services, Rwanda National Police, and Directorate of Immigration and Emigration have been undertaken in different areas such as Physical Security and Stockpile Management, marking of arms, arms tracking and training on electronic record keeping:

10. Effective Promotion and implementation of Nairobi protocol on SALW

In line with the implementation of the above commitment under Nairobi protocol, the following have been realized:

- SALW were marked and registered;
- Armories were constructed in Gishari Police Training School in the Eastern Part of the Country.
- Modified Armory Container for SALW was given to Police Training School;
- More than 320 tons of SALW (210-2017) were destroyed;
- There was a handover of gun racks and steel arms boxes by RECSA to the Rwandan Security institutions.

- The National Police has set up a database of all weapons and their specifications which has been extended to other security organs deployed at different border posts.
- I-24/7 data base has been extended to other security organs deployed at different border posts.
- Registration of returnees and refugees at their arrival;
- Close collaboration between Rwanda Defence Force, Rwanda National Police, Rwanda Investigation Bureau, Directorate General Immigration & Emigration and the Ministry of Emergence Management to discourage illegal infiltration of SALW;
- Awareness campaign have been conducted in different schools, radio talk shows and partnership in community policing with different stakeholders in collaboration with youth volunteers, artists e.t.c.

11. Linkage between Community policing committees and the management and control of proliferation of SALW

In line with the above commitment, SALW control programs have been integrated into the community policing activities. Training programs on Community Policing Committees have also been conducted across the Country.

Enhancing International cooperation and Regional Cooperation and Information exchange on SALW.

Rwanda is a Member of various regional and international organizations such as AU, EAC, INTERPOL, EAPCO, RECSA, ICGLR and CEPGL. Since 2009 to date, Rwanda attended different meetings to enhance cooperation and information sharing in relation to SALWs control and management.

12. The Role of Immigration Services in Control of the Proliferation of SALW

Immigration services are responsible for border management as well as control of illegal entry via porous borders. In this respect, immigration controls movement of persons and their belongings while in the process of dispensing their routine duties of controlling movement of persons, control of SALWs is part of their responsibilities. In most cases, criminals move with fake or illegal travel documents, once a person is identified by the immigration officers and deterred from entering the country, then this automatically leads to control of any likely criminal activity inclusive proliferation of SALWs.

7.2 OBSERVATIONS

- The Committee observed that Rwanda has made commendable progress in the implementation of Nairobi protocol on SALWS;
- There exists smooth collaboration and synergy among key Stakeholders which leads to ownership of the implementation of Nairobi protocol on SALWs.
- SALW control programs have been integrated into the community policing activities and trainings on the same have been conducted across the country.
- There is differing implementation levels in controlling SALWs within EAC Partner States, whereby one country may wish to tighten up the control measures while the other is too reluctant.
- Weak implementation of regional laws and protocols hinders effective delivery on peace and security programs at Community level.
- Low levels of public awareness amongst EAC citizens affect the role of identifying the entry points/transfers of the SALW.
- Porous borders facilitate proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- There are concerns about availability of arms among local communities such as the pastoralists and rebel groups operating in the region.
- Persistence of armed conflicts in some countries of Great Lakes region.
- Limited capacities of stakeholders to address the problem of illicit SALW.

7.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council:

- To enhance cooperation between the security institutions of EAC Partner States in the control and management of the proliferation of SALW in the region;
- Strengthen implementation of regional laws and protocols related to peace and security in EAC Partner states;
- The EAC should establish an online platform to enable citizens provide information in relation to SALWs within the EAC.
- The EAC Partner States should consider creating Joint operations to promote information sharing amongst the national Security Institutions.
- The EAC should encourage Partner States to utilize the available mechanisms and institutions established to fight proliferation of SALW.

8.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

8.1 Status of Implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on SALW in South Sudan

The Committee was informed that the government of South Sudan appreciated the magnitude of SALW and had political will right from the Head of State down to the Regional Governors to ensure that total disarmament takes place. The government had embarked on a campaign of 'Mental Disarmament' sensitizing people to believe that they can live without guns and their protection shall be guaranteed by the State. This drive is for voluntary surrender of weapons. However, operations to forcefully disarm civilians were done in the Rumbek region where over 300 weapons were seized. Other states like Bahr el Ghazar and Central Equatoria have conducted disarmament exercises too.

1. Institutional Framework

- The Government of South Sudan appreciates regional efforts at collaboration in handling, control and prevention of Small Arms proliferation. They are members of Regional Summit on Small Arms in charge of the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes. The regional body holds meetings after every two years to design policy and strategy for control of small arms and light weapons. Unfortunately, since the last meeting in 2018, the technical advisory committee has not met again due to the Covid Pandemic restrictions.
- The Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control is the main implementing agency for the small arms control in South Sudan.
- To regulate arms in the hands of ex combatants, the National Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration Commission coordinates the retirement of ex-soldiers/combatants.

2. Legal Provisions/Legislative Measures

- The committee was informed that the government had put in place laws, policies and regulations to guide the combat of SALW prevalence in the communities. In 2012, the government developed a policy on reduction and prevention of Small Arms in civil population. In 2016, Parliament enacted

an Act on prevention of small arms and control. In 2017, the Ministry developed the fire arms regulations.

- The Committee was informed that the Government of South Sudan entered an agreement with the Regional Center on small Arms, in September, 2019 to strengthen efforts to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to help reign on conflict and violent crime. It was reiterated that the ATT is a supplementary Instrument to the Nairobi Protocol. The commission is conducting a nationwide campaign to enlighten Key Stakeholders on the need to support the treaty that bans the illicit flow of small arms.

3. Management of Arms

- The government of South Sudan realized that expertise was needed to bring to force provisions of the Nairobi Protocol, with help from the Regional Summit on the Control of Small Arms. One Hundred Twelve (112) personnel drawn from the Army, Police, Prisons and Wild Life Services were trained in conduct of disarmament exercises and stock pile management. In addition, they trained trainers to cut on the expense of importing personnel to move across the country imparting disarmament knowledge.
- To ensure traceability, the Committee was informed that with a machine provided by the Regional Summit of RECSA, the government had embarked on marking all SALW held by the organized forces. Marking started in 2012 and so far, 20, 670 arms held by Police, Prisons and Wild Life services are marked.
- In addition, the Regional Summit of RECSA provided a machine for destroying obsolete arms. The machine is in custody of the National Police. It is believed that the organized forces have enough arms at their disposal for use. So, whatever is got from civilians should not go to the arsenal of the regular forces but is considered excess and thus destroyed.
- Members were informed that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in South Sudan has supported the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (BCSSAC) to develop projects and programmes to assess and address community security in South Sudan. As part of this support, the Bureau undertook a National Small Arms Assessment in South Sudan (NSAASS) to estimate the number of arms in civilian hands across the country, motivation for holding weapons and experience of armed violence.
- The Bureau has carried out activities with the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

8.2 OBSERVATIONS

- The Committee noted that the Nairobi Protocol on SALW was signed in the year 2004. At that time, South Sudan was not a sovereign country having attained independence later in 2011. Whereas the country had adopted the protocol and implementation of the same was underway, stakeholders wondered whether it was not important to have an addendum to the protocol for the Republic of South Sudan to accede to it.
- It was noted that there is heavy militarization of politics and economics within the region. This has created a culture of adoration of weapons. It is therefore not only fashionable to hold or possess weapons but it is seen as a means to power and wealth. The powerful move in large heavily armed convoys. This has created an impression that such life is the ultimate goal of success.
- The South Sudan National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission is doing a good job bringing the warring factions either into the mainstream army or retiring them to civilian life. The challenge is that the demobilized forces retire back into communities with their weapons. Those reintegrated into the army come with no guns. It is believed that the guns previously in their possession remain in their communities. Therefore, the demobilization exercise indirectly is sending more guns to local communities.
- The Committee observed that only 10% of South Sudan was demarcated. The borders are porous and no manpower or mechanism deliberately stationed to monitor crossing. Across the borders with the most of neighbors are battling insurgency. These areas have become markets for purchase of illicit weapons since the insurgents trade them to get money for survival.
- Mismanagement of stockpiles of collected weapons from disarmament exercises and poor record of the Arsenal of disciplined forces has led to increase of small arms within the communities. Immediate destruction of collected guns should be done and a thorough, consistent audit of the Government Armory executed. This minimizes the issue of collected guns disappearing back into civilian hands and indiscipline members of the forces selling or giving away arms.
- Lack of manpower, whereas the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms trained personnel to effect disarmament, the trained staff are members of the Armed Forces; Army, Police and Prisons. Whenever these individuals go back to their duty stations, they are often deployed in other

areas other than disarmament exercises. This leaves the Bureau back to square one.

- Economic hardships and poverty generally have contributed to the challenges of Small Arms proliferation. Arms and ammunition are looked at as a lucrative business. The Committee was informed that due to little and often delayed salaries, some people in the forces were involved in the sale of arms. Ex combatants and militias also trade in arms in exchange for money to fund their livelihood.
- The method and approach used in disarmament has its shortcomings too. It has not been done holistically across all communities. In certain regions, the Committee was informed that certain groups were disarmed and others were not disarmed. This left the disarmed communities vulnerable to attacks from those still armed. This has resulted into the population abhorring disarmament as political persecution, sectarian and witch-hunt.
- The Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms which is the main agency tasked with developing policy and strategy for control of small arms is often misunderstood. Whereas it is a National Government body, often state actors mistake it to be an NGO. This has resulted into limited or no collaboration at times and lack of budget support hampering progress of their work.
- The fight to control SALW is burdened by poor infrastructure. Certain parts of South Sudan have poor or no linking road network to date. This has made reach of the state to such areas very difficult. For own protection, the local population in those areas have been militarized. Some allegedly hold up to five guns in a home.
- South Sudan has not been paying its annual obligatory contribution for some time. The last payment the country honored was in 2014. Standing at seven-year arrears, this inhibits regional cooperation of the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms, the countries representative body to the Summit.
- Total break-down in law and order is a big challenge in the disarmament exercise. South Sudan has been in a state of armed conflict since colonial times to an extent that a large part of the population has not known stable, centralized government that exhibits traits of law and order. That sense of statelessness left the country a fertile ground for proliferation of small arms. Such communities are difficult to persuade voluntarily to return illicit arms.

- Lack of resources is challenging the disarmament exercise. The Commission has only a budget for staff salary and no operational funds. This makes the work of the bureau very difficult. They often rely on donations.
- The Republic of South Sudan requests to join the Intergovernmental Authority on Development with observer status has so far not been granted. This is a challenge in the fight against illicit arms since among the sources of small arms in the country are IGAD member states. It therefore goes without saying that sitting in IGAD meetings to voice the countries concerns is an issue of paramount importance.

8.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends the Assembly to urge the Council to ensure that:
The Government of South Sudan;

- Embarks on a country wide sensitization programme putting emphasis in areas endemic with small arms possessions, such as the cattle camps. The exercise should emphasize the need to reduce the number of weapons within communities, assure the population of state protection, and encourage voluntary surrender of weapons in their possession. Use of force should be the last resort.
- Develop a motivation policy towards those who surrender arms. Aware that in addition to protection, communities have used guns as a source of livelihood and protection, the government should give something in return to guns received. The above will build hope that without guns, they can still fend for themselves.
- Avail adequate resources to the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme. These will provide for the insurgents who surrender. Ensure that they are resettled with either a job or other meaningful source of livelihood as they reintegrate into the community.
- Initiate measures and put in place a special force preferably of a regional nature that is charged with destruction of arms collected from civilian populations. This is informed by complaints that in most cases, disarmament exercises have ended up becoming re-armament projects. (Guns collected from one community and given to another).
- Training of commanders and top leadership structures in government and security is necessary in combating SALW. Whereas the UN and the Regional summit on small arms have endeavored to offer disarmament training in South Sudan, the target has always been the communities and

the operational forces that execute the programmes. The Committee took note that the command structure and leadership need to be involved in order to appreciate the complexity of the challenge, acquaint themselves with the skills necessary, and thereupon provide leadership.

- Implore the Council to ensure that there is a provision in the national budgets for disarmament exercises. National entities and NGOs engaged in disarmament are largely funded by donors. This makes work progress slow, because when there is need for action, concepts for donor funding have to be worked first, responses got, before meaningful work can be done.
- Effect and actualize provisions of article 124 of the Treaty on Regional Peace and Security. Ordinarily guns are supposed to be kept in military and police Armory at all times save for the few Men and Women who are on duty. But because of the nature of insecurity in parts of the region, Army and Police are always on standby mode. Carrying guns all the time encourages the small arms escalation in the country.
- The Committee urges the Council of Ministers to encourage the Republic of South Sudan to start the journey of Professionalising the Army. Recruitment, Training and Equipping structures and requirements should be clearly laid out and effectively worked on. This reduces the number of sojourns who come to the army pick guns and dessert to the countryside to cause havoc with guns acquired.
- The government of South Sudan should be encouraged to enhance further civil -military relations. Support the village chiefs as allies in disarmament and endear the citizenry with assurance of protection.
- The government should be encouraged to work with the International Community and Civil Society Organisations especially those that have presence on the grassroots/local population.
- The Republic of South Sudan should be encouraged to implement the revitalized peace agreement of 2018 to enable the country obtain durable peace.

9.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

9.1 Status of implementation of the Nairobi Protocol

The United Republic of Tanzania has put in place measures aimed at implementation and realization of the Nairobi Protocol. These range from:

1. Legislative Measures.

Harmonization of the National Laws with the Nairobi Protocol was addressed by enacting the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act of 2015. This legislation aims at:

- Controlling of importation, exportation, transportation and transit of weapons and ammunition within the United Republic of Tanzania;
- Control of dealers and gunsmiths;
- Marking of firearms;
- Competency testing;
- Seizure, confiscation and forfeiture; and
- Restriction of the number of firearms to be owned among others.

2. Operational Capacity

Through this mechanism, the Government has put in place a framework of cooperation among government institutions in prevention and control of SALW. These institutions include Police, Customs, Prisons, Immigration, Fire Unit, Anti- Corruption Bureau, Military and Intelligence. The institutions meet on a monthly basis to discuss the strategies and challenges affecting the SALW. Measures to address challenges and proposals to combat them are also discussed.

3. Control of Civilian Possession of Small Arms and Light Weapons

To limit the number of arms in civilian possession, it is also important to ensure that the firearms are in the possession of the right persons. The Government has put in place the following measures:

- All applicants are vetted through Security Committees at Street, Ward, District, Regional and Headquarters' levels; and

- An electronic database for control and management of firearms which are in civilian possession was installed in the Police Headquarters. A Committee was put in place headed by a Police Officer at the rank of the Assistant Inspector General of Police to oversee the licensing of Civilian Possession of Small Arms. This Committee meets once in two months.

4. Control and Accountability of State- Owned Small Arms and Light Weapons

There is a mechanism in place for tracing and accounting for all the state-owned weapons which ensures that all the state-owned weapons are in possession of the right personnel. The measures in place are as follows:

- An electronic database for control and accountability of state-owned firearms has been installed;
- Training on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) to armory keepers is conducted.
- Thorough and rigorous vetting exercise is undertaken to all the armory keepers.

5. Marking and Tracing of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Record Keeping

In order to enhance marking and tracing of the firearms, and ensure that state owned firearms are properly accounted for, United Republic of Tanzania undertook the following measures:

- Regular and routine exercises aimed at enhancing the tracing and identification of the firearms.
- Marking of fire arms: this has resulted into scenario whereby 96.4% of firearms under Tanzania Police Force, Prisons' Services, and Wildlife Department having been marked and 30.36% of civilian firearms.

6. Disposal of State –Owned Small Arms and Light Weapons.

All state-owned firearms which are obsolete (out of use) are disposed off by the Military.

7. Disposal of Confiscated or Unlicensed Small Arms and Light Weapons

- Several firearms destruction events have been conducted.

- Source of firearms which were destroyed include obsolete firearms, illegal firearms, confiscated firearms and surrendered firearms.
- Since 2003 up to 2017 a total number of 32,988 firearms were destroyed. It worth noting that 80% of these firearms were locally made.

8. Dealers, Brokers and Brokering

Maintaining an accurate and reliable database is very crucial aspect in the arms control and prevention. A database for the control of firearms dealers was established and the government licensed only two firearms dealers. In addition, the United Republic of Tanzania doesn't allow brokers, or brokering of arms.

9. Voluntary Surrender

Using this approach, URT has been conducting Amnesty Programmes by the Police Force for surrender of firearms by civilians based on Article 12 of the Nairobi Protocol and Section 64 of the National Law. The incentive for voluntary surrender of firearms by civilians is non-prosecution.

10. Public awareness

The Police Force in collaboration with other stakeholders raise public awareness on Small Arms control through radio, television and public meetings. A total of 30 radio and TV Programs on small arms prevention and control have been conducted from January to September 2021.

11. Transparency and information exchange

The Police Force in collaboration with other stakeholders have been conducting neighborhood meetings and exchange information on all crimes crossing Tanzania porous borders.

9. 2 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed that

- Controlling Small Arms and Light Weapons must be done regionally and internationally since one country alone cannot resolve this issue on her own;
- United Republic of Tanzania as a member state of Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA) is at risk to be affected by SALW due to periodic civil

wars among neighboring member states. This is as a result of the influx of illegal firearms across her borders which in most cases are porous; and

- Since Tanzania signed the Nairobi Protocol among RECSA member states for the prevention, control and reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, several efforts have been put in place.

9.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- While there are registered tremendous achievements in the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, it is imperative to note that more efforts are required to tackle the problem.
- The Council of Ministers should endeavor to harmonize cross-border activities for the prevention, control and reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, such as cross border awareness meetings, information sharing and creation of cross-border anti-SALW community clubs. This will ensure the level of progress in addressing the problem of Small Arms in border communities shared by two or more RECSA member states.
- There is need for RECSA member states to conduct as many joint meetings among border communities as possible to sensitize and enhance their understanding about the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of SALW.

10.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

10.1 Status of implementation of the Nairobi Protocol

The Republic of Uganda has put in place measures aimed at implementation and realization of the Nairobi Protocol.

The implementation of the Nairobi Protocol is anchored on Periodic national Strategic plans and implementation strategies. The Current Implementation strategy runs from 2013-2019.

There are in the process of developing and adopting a reviewed National Strategy on management and control of SALW 2021-2026 which focuses on the following functional areas;

- Strengthening policy, legal and regulatory frameworks on SALW control.
- Effectively controlling supply and demand of SALW.

- Addressing cross-cutting and special programmes, including strengthening of institutional framework on SALW control.

In addition to the above, Uganda is currently developing a Bill on SALW and the Uganda National Policy on the control of firearms and related materials. These efforts have been undertaken through a collaborative framework that supports not only national activities but also regional and international cooperation. It is therefore observed that efforts have been put in place to implement the Nairobi protocol and they are as follows:

1 Legal provisions

The SALW control and management Bill has provisions on:

- Civilian possession of small arms;
- Regulation and centralized registration of all civilian- owned small arms;
- Control over the manufacturing of SALW, dealers and brokers;
- The National policy and proposed law have minimum standards regarding the manufacture, control, possession, import, export, re-export, transport and SALW.
- There are provisions in the policy and proposed law on standardized marking and identification of SALW as well as confiscation, storage and usage thereof.
- There will be legal uniformity in sentencing once the proposed law is enacted.

2 Legislative Measures

Uganda is in the process of developing and adopting legislative measures on:

- Illicit trafficking in SALW;
- Illicit manufacturing of SALW;
- Illicit possession and misuse of SALW;
- Offence on removing the marks;

However, progress, of harmonization and consolidation of laws has been slow, the principles on the SALW Control Bill have been approved by cabinet.

3 Operational Capacity

- Sub-regional co-operation among police, intelligence, customs and border control officials have been strengthened.

- Enhanced capacity of national law enforcement and security agencies including appropriate training on investigative procedures.
- Established and maintaining national databases;
- Civil firearms registry for police, prisons, UPDF and civilians;

4 Disposal of State Owned SALW

There are on- going programmes for the collection, safe storage, destruction and responsible disposal of SALW. Uganda has collected and destroyed over 98,000 assorted weapons, destroyed 3,200 UXOs, continuous verification and decommissioning of firearms across the country, encouraging voluntary surrender of illegal weapons. Uganda has participated in commemoration of the Africa Union Amnesty month, September (June- December 2021).

5 Disposal of confiscated or Unlicensed SALW

There has been disjointed disarmament in the Karamoja cluster, but efforts have been rejuvenated to conduct a joint disarmament programme, UNEP in conjunction with UPDF and UPF are working with communities to identify SALW and remove them from society in Karamoja, northern Uganda and elsewhere, they also have mechanisms for storing impounded, recovered and unlicensed illicit SALW.

6 Import, Export, Transfer and Transit of SALW

Uganda is developing systems for export and import licensing or authorization, as well as of measures on international transit, for the transfer of SALW. There are extensive provisions on these in the National policy and proposed new law. There are also provisions on the criteria of importing and exporting/re exporting of firearms in accordance with the Arms Trade Treaty, which Uganda signed and is in the process of ratifying. There are provisions for regulation of all manufacturers, dealers, traders, financiers and transporters of SALW through licensing.

7 Voluntary Surrender

- SALW unlawful held by civilians may be voluntarily surrendered;
- Ongoing programme on voluntary surrender;
- AU Amnesty Month;
- There are legal and policy provisions on voluntary surrender;
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) like Uganda Action Network on Small Arms (UANSA) are fully engaged in voluntary surrender. These firearms that are voluntarily surrendered are destroyed.

8 Public /Community education and Awareness programmes

- Local and national public /Community education and awareness programmes are ongoing to enhance the involvement of public and communities but also to solicit support for efforts to tackle the proliferation and illicit trafficking of SALW.
- Promotion of a culture of peace especially in Karamoja.
- Involving and cooperation with, all sectors of society other than security.
- Establishment of district and regional Task Forces in most of the districts and operationalized to support awareness and education programmes on SALW issues.
- There are also national and local level TV and radio programmes that are ongoing.
- Uganda has enforced the law through operation like Usalama among police, customs and border control services to address trafficking of SALW, bilateral agreements have been concluded with Kenya, South Sudan and DRC. There is free and fast flow of information among the sub region and Uganda is an active member of INTERPOL and World Customs Organization.

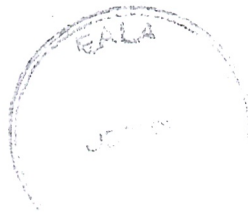
9 Marking and Tracing of SALW and Record keeping

Marking programmes are almost complete (97% in UPDF, 98% in police, 100% in prisons and civilians and all institutions have been given unique marks). Information sharing is ongoing, database on all firearms is in place and the statistics on all stockpiles in the state possession has been ascertained.

10 Research and information

In the area of research and information, various best practice guidelines and action plans have been developed by RECSA as follows:

- Best practice guideline on Arms Control and management Best Practice guidelines on Practical Disarmaments (2009/2010);
- Best Practice Guidelines for Regional Harmonization of Legislation on firearms and ammunition;
- Researcher's Manual on SALW (June 2010);
- RECSA has coordinated the development of National Action Plans on Small Arms in Member States.
- National Research on Proliferation on SALW in Northern Uganda;
- Research on Brokerage in Firearms.



11 Role of Civil Societies organization in implementing the Nairobi Protocol

- Institutional Framework – strengthening of NFP through election of political leaders;
- Policy and legislation – development of national firearms policy and review of firearms legislation;
- Stockpile management – CSOs take part in stockpile controls and especially collection and destruction;
- Public education and awareness;
- Address cross cutting issues eg gender, HIV/AIDS Human rights abuse;
- Training, capacity building and research.

12 Mental Disarmament

The CSOs have projects that target armed groups like the youth; these projects help the formerly or currently in illegal arms related activities, cattle rustlers, former child soldiers, children born in captivity. These are trained in peacebuilding and provide connectors for peace e.g Materials to enhance their livelihood work.

10.2 OBSERVATIONS

- The Committee observed that most officials are seconded from the police or related security agencies. There are limited number of staff and often do not have skills required for the full range of tasks.
- There are frequent transfers which hinder continuity.
- Limited resources to implement the planned activities.
- Limited institutional and human Capacity;
- Bureaucratic Challenges e.g. finances are channeled through treasury which delays in disbursement.

10.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government of Uganda should fight the illicit trade of fire arms on the porous borders of Uganda, Somalia and South Sudan.
- There is a need of an approach to disarm the cattle rustlers in the northern part of Uganda.
- Joint operations to control the misuse of weapons in Uganda.
- Alternative surviving mechanism that will guarantee Livelihood after disarmament and promotion of a culture of Peace.

11.0 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- The Committee observed that there has been progress in the implementation of Nairobi protocol on SALW in all Partner states though at different levels;
- Existence of best practices in the prevention, control and management of SALW provides an opportunity for Partner states to learn from each other;
- Existence of porous borders which facilitate proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- There is differing implementation levels in controlling SALWs in EAC Partner States, whereby one country may wish to tighten up the control measures while the other is too reluctant.
- Availability of arms in local communities such as the pastoralists and rebel groups operating in the region.
- Persistence of armed conflicts in some countries of Great Lakes region
- Weak/Non-implementation of regional laws, protocols and policies related to Foreign affairs, peace and security.
- Weak institutional and limited financial and operational capacity;
- Weak coordination of peace and security programs among different RECs;

12.0 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to ensure that:

- EAC Partner States conduct as many joint meetings among border communities as possible to sensitize and enhance their understanding about the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of SALW.
- The EAC Partner States should consider creating Joint operations to promote information sharing amongst the National Security Institutions.
- The EAC Partner states should put in place Alternative surviving mechanism that will guarantee Livelihood after disarmament and promotion of a culture of Peace.
- Joint operations of East African Countries to control the misuse of weapons.
- The need for harmonization of policies informs of manufacture, control, possession, import, export, re-export, transport of Small Arms and Light Weapon.

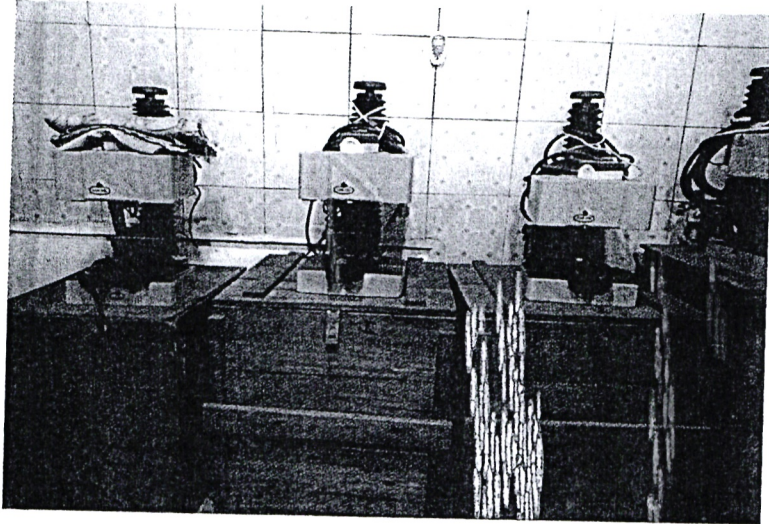
- Council of Ministers put in place a regional forensic laboratory for SALW verification. This would go a long way to help the EAC Partner States that have largely been unable to provide for such a facility.
- Joint efforts to fight the illicit trade of fire arms on the porous borders of Uganda, Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan and the need for a coordinated approach to disarm the cattle rustlers.
- The EAC should encourage Partner States to utilize the available mechanisms and institutions established to fight proliferation of SALW.
- EAC in collaboration with RECSA should initiate special measures to complement the efforts of the Republic of South Sudan in the implementation of the Nairobi protocol on SALW.
- The Council of Ministers in collaboration with RECSA undertakes harmonization of cross-border activities for the prevention, control and reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, such as cross border awareness meetings, information sharing and creation of cross-border anti-SALW community clubs. This will ensure progress in addressing the problem of Small Arms in border communities shared by two or more RECSA member States.
- EAC should intensify its engagement with the Republic of South Sudan and accompany it in the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement of 2018.
- EAC should integrate post-conflict recovery and reconstruction programs in the roadmap of integrating the Republic of South Sudan into EAC.
- EAC and RECSA should mobilise funding to enhance the operationalization of the Regional Centre of Excellence in the disarmament based in the Republic of Burundi.
- EAC should strengthen its cooperation with IGAD and ICGLR to address underlying causes of persistent armed conflicts in the region for the promotion of sustainable regional peace and stability.

13.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee congratulates Partner States and RECSA on impressive strides made in the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms and Light Weapons. However, there are gaps that need to be bridged such as effective control and management of porous borders, the need to strengthen awareness raising and disarmament efforts, cooperation and synergies among partner states in sharing information and undertaking joint operations to achieve total eradication of Small Arms and Light Weapons in unauthorized hands. To ensure sustainability and ownership, partner states should systematically integrate the Nairobi protocol on SALW into National programs and strategies. EAC and Partner states are required to provide adequate funding with regard to strengthening institutional and operational capacities for effective and sustainable implementation of Nairobi protocol on SALW. EAC Partner states are further urged to borrow a leaf from commendable compliance of Nairobi protocol on SALW and expedite the implementation of other regional laws and protocols.

14 .0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution wishes to thank the Rt Hon. Speaker and the office of the Clerk for facilitating it to carry out its oversight function. The Committee further appreciates the Stakeholders for the information given to the Committee. The Committee hopes that the findings and recommendations contained in this report will greatly enhance the prevention, control, and reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa.



SALW marking machines



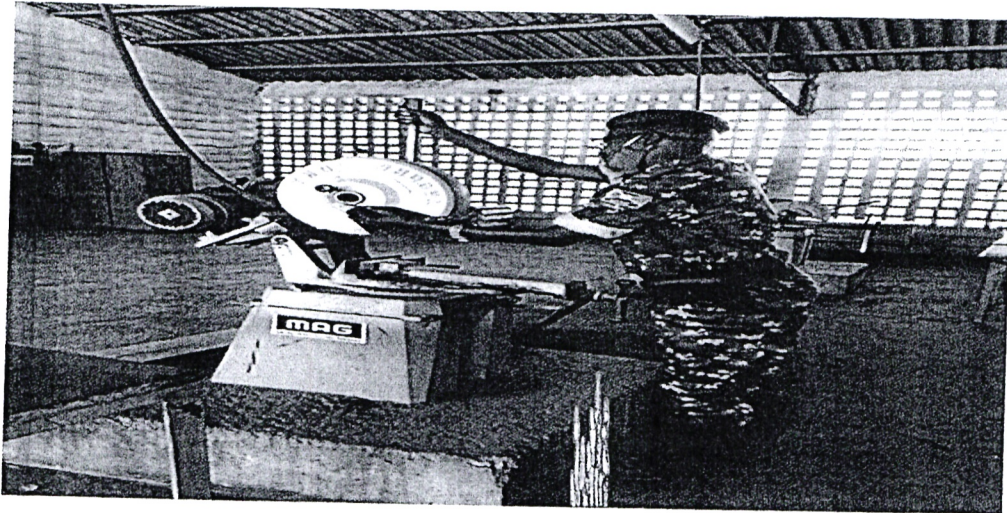
The marking machines are connected to computer for automated data storage and record-keeping



A sample of explosives stored at GMIR Kanyosha before destruction



Safe-stored illicit SALW at Musaga Army Logistics

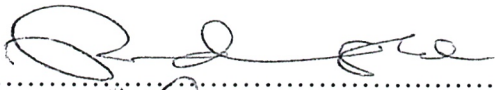
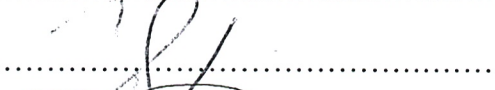

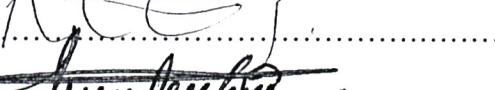

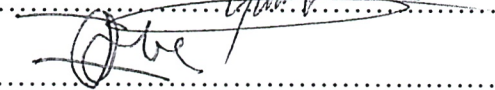
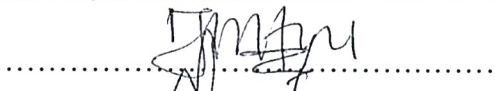
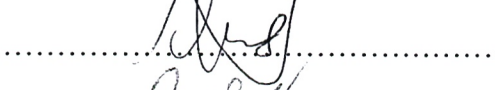

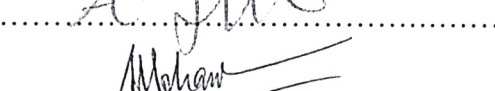
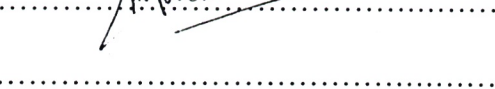

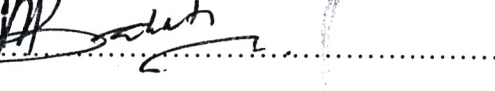


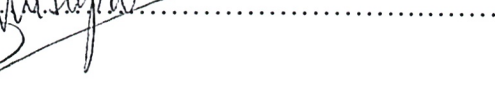



A military officer demonstrates how the machine is used to destroy illicit SALW



A drum made of SALW parts

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO ASSESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 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 (27TH -30TH SEPTEMBER 2021)

1. Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ndangiza 
2. Hon. Victor Burikukiye 
3. Hon. Rose Akol Okullu 
4. Hon. Mary Mugenyi 
5. Hon. Dr. Pierre-Celestin Rwigema 
6. Hon. Gideon Gatpan Thoar 
7. Hon. Dr. Ngwaru J. Maghembe 
8. Hon. Josephine Lemoyan 
9. Hon. Fancy Nkuhi 
10. Hon. Gabriel Alaak Garang 
11. Hon. Dr. Anne Itto Leonardo 
12. Hon. Adan Noor 
13. Hon. Lawrence Mpuru Aburi 
14. Hon. Dr. Oburu Oginga 
15. Hon. Alex Bahati 
16. Hon. Chris Opoka Okumu 
17. Hon. Mo-Mamo Karerwa 
18. Hon. Christopher Nduwayo 