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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## Statement

By

**Ambassador Yoseph Kassaye,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the  
United Nations**

At

**The Eight 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**

June, 2022  
New York

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by congratulating you and the Vice-Chairs in your elections to preside over this biennial meeting and wish to express my delegation's fullest support in the discharge of your responsibilities.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and would like to make the following additional remarks in my national capacity.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Illicit transfer of small arms and ammunitions is closely tied to terrorism, armed violence, drugs and human trafficking, mercenary activities, corruption, illicit trade and other serious and trans-national organized crimes. Furthermore, geopolitical hostilities and political tensions exacerbate the problem.

The African Union and Small Arms Survey shows that in Africa 80 percent of the weapons are not registered. This has led to anti-peace elements use these illicit arms to create havoc and disturb peace and stability. Furthermore, recent models and types of weapons are observed indicating emergence of new sources of illicit small arms.

In an effort to address these challenges and implement the United Nations Action Plan, African countries have adopted and are implementing regional instruments, including the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Bamako African Common Position. At sub-regional levels, the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons are adopted covering the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States. Support for the implementation of these instruments is critical.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ethiopia, as a party to these global and regional commitments, adopted a proclamation to provide for firearm administration and control. The new legislation fills the loopholes in the legal framework to administer and control firearms and enables enforcement of international commitments concerning illicit firearm control.

The Proclamation provides for the centralized system of registration, licensing, control, transfer of firearms. It also regulates the possession and use of firearms as a matter of tradition. The law also designates the Federal Police Commission as a central supervising institution with the mandate of registering and administering all firearms in the country and keeping a centralized database.

International cooperation underpins Ethiopia's efforts to put in place a viable mechanism to prevent and combat illicit activities involving firearms. With the new legislation in place, we see an opportunity to expand our cooperation beyond the existing partnership in the areas of weapons and ammunition management technical assistance, physical security and stockpile management, and awareness creation in illicit arms transfer.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As prescribed by relevant resolutions of the Security Council as well as the 2013 African Union Strategy, the work of the United Nations in the area of small arms and ammunition should follow a comprehensive and an integrated approach that incorporates the

security, development, and rule of law dimensions and address the root causes of conflict. In this regard my delegations would like to underline the following areas of action:

- The United Nations should conduct studies and produce regular reports to help establish evidence-based illicit arms activities.
- There is a need for clear recommendation on the specific roles of countries of production, transit and destination of small arms and ammunitions;
- Legislative support for countries to enable adoption of context relevant regulatory framework is crucial;
- There is also a need for tangible support in the organization and operationalization of central databases for firearms;
- It is important to provide clear and sufficient evidence on the link between development, employment and governance challenges and proliferation for arms and indicate recommendations in the field of cooperation;

- Most importantly, it is critical to enhance capacities at national and regional levels to effectively curb channels of arms proliferation;

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate the unwavering commitment of my government to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

**I thank you**