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The Nairobi Declaration on the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa

15 March 2000

WE, THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS of the countries of the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, namely, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania, meeting at Nairobi on 12–15 March 2000 on the occasion of the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa Conference on the Proliferation of Small Arms pursuant to UNGA resolutions regarding the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects in June–July 2001 and in particular A/C.1/54/L.24/Rev 1 of December 1999, as well as the African common position contained in the OAU decision AHG/DEC 137 (LXX) adopted by the OAU summit in Algiers in July 1999, fully share the growing international concern that the easy availability of illicit small arms and light weapons escalates conflicts and undermines political stability and has devastating impacts on human and state security.

- **Re-affirming** the inherent right of states to individual or collective self-defence as recognised in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter;
- **Gravely** concerned with the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa and the devastating consequences they have had in sustaining armed conflict and abetting terrorism, cattle-rustling and other serious crimes in the region;
- **Recognising** that the problem derives mainly from past and ongoing armed conflicts in the region, as well as from illicit trade and terrorist activities by which these arms are infiltrated into the region;
- **Recognising** also that the inadequate capacity of states in the region to effectively control and monitor their borders, poor and sometimes open immigration and customs controls, as well as mass movement of armed refugees across national borders in certain countries, have greatly contributed to the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons;
- **Acknowledging** that the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the region has been exacerbated by internal political strife and extreme poverty, and that a comprehensive strategy to arrest and deal with the problem must include putting in place structures and processes to promote democracy, the

observance of human rights, the rule of law and good governance, as well as economic recovery and growth;

- **Underlining** that a sustainable solution to the problem requires active and concerted regional effort, as well as international understanding and support;
- **Considering** the international concern regarding the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons;
- **Acknowledging** the work of the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the European Union, the Organisation of American States, as well as the efforts in West and Southern Africa to address problems associated with illicit small arms and light weapons;
- **Considering** also the impact on crime and security in the subregion exacerbated by the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons which emanate from outside the region;
- **Appalled** by the devastating effects of armed conflicts particularly on women and children, and by the unconscionable exploitation of children in armed conflicts;
- **Considering** that peace, stability, and security are prerequisites for sustainable development in the subregion, and that the prevailing conflicts hinder the prospects of realising the full economic potential of this geo-strategically important region;
- **Recognising** the relationship between security and development and the need to develop comprehensive and effective peacebuilding and other measures aimed at reducing the resort to arms and to help curb the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons within the region;
- **Acknowledging** also that the resolution of ongoing conflicts in the region requires the nurturing of environments in which root causes of conflicts can be adequately addressed and durable stability established;
- **Emphasising** the need to pursue negotiated solutions to conflicts so as to ensure their peaceful resolution, to promote a culture of peace, and to encourage education and awareness-raising programmes on the problem of illicit small arms, involving all sectors of society;
- **Conscious** of the need for effective controls of arms transfers by suppliers outside the region, including measures against transfers of surplus arms to prevent the problem of illicit small arms;
- **Acknowledging** the difficulties in addressing the question of illicit trade and accumulation of illicit small arms and light weapons due to different situations obtaining in the respective countries;
- **Welcoming** the Nairobi Initiative on Small Arms and Light Weapons for state and human security as a significant step in addressing the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons and their socio-economic and political impacts on the people of the region;

Having deliberated in depth on the subject, decide to:

- i Rededicate ourselves to continue our efforts towards the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in the region and towards this end, call for the genuine and serious commitment of all parties concerned, as well as the international community;
- ii Seize this opportunity to comprehensively address the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the subregion;
- iii Join efforts to address the problem, recognising the need for information-sharing and co-operation in all matters relating to illicit small arms and light weapons including the promotion of research and data collection in the region and encouraging co-operation among governments and civil society;

- iv Encourage a concrete and co-ordinated agenda for action for the subregion to promote human security and ensure that all states have in place adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the possession and transfer of small arms and light weapons through measures, inter alia, to:
- Pursue positive policies and measures to create social, economic and political environments to reduce the resort to arms by individuals and communities;
 - Urge the strengthening and where they do not exist, the adoption of national laws, regulations and control mechanisms to govern civilian possession of arms;
 - Call on states to co-ordinate and publicise their policies, regulations and laws relating to the possession of arms by civilians;
 - Urge source countries to ensure that all manufacturers, traders, brokers, financiers and transporters of small arms and light weapons are regulated through licensing;
 - Urge also the States in the sub-region to monitor and effectively control all transactions relating to small arms and light weapons to licensed entities;
 - Call on states to strengthen subregional co-operation among police, intelligence, customs and border control officials in combating the illicit circulation and trafficking in small arms and light weapons and suppressing criminal activities relating to the use of these weapons;
 - Call upon states to strengthen or establish national mechanisms to deal with the problem of illicit small arms, as well as to implement the *Nairobi Declaration* and invite them to hold regular meetings in this regard;
 - Invite the UN in co-operation with the OAU and other regional and international organisations to assist countries of the region to carry out a detailed study on the problem of illicit arms within the region and to draw up appropriate programmes for the collection and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons. The states parties to this Declaration will define the parameters of the study.
- v Recognising that the effective implementation of this declaration by individual states requires the co-operation of the UN, international organisations, regional organisations, as well as participation by civil society in preventing and reducing the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons, we further decide to:
- Appeal for the support of other subregions in the continent, as well as the international community in order to effectively implement the measures agreed upon in this Declaration;
 - Appeal also for increased international support for programmes and initiatives that advance human security and promote conditions conducive to long-term peace, stability and development in the subregion;
 - Call for the effective implementation of the relevant decisions of the UN, the OAU and other regional arrangements to address the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons in the subregion;
 - Appeal for financial, technical and political support from the international community for the effective implementation of this Declaration;
 - Designate the Kenyan government to co-ordinate the follow-up to the *Nairobi Declaration* in consultation with states' respective national mechanisms dealing with the problem of illicit arms and light weapons.

Done at Nairobi this 15 day of March 2000.

**For the Republic of Burundi
For the Democratic Republic of Congo
For the Republic of Djibouti
For the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia
For the State of Eritrea**

**For the Republic of Kenya
For the Republic of Rwanda
For the Republic of the Sudan
For the United Republic of Tanzania
For the Republic of Uganda**

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Co-ordinated Agenda for Action on the problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa

November 2000 **Preamble**

SAEM/GLR.HCA/1

Pursuant to the Nairobi Declaration on the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons¹ in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa of 15th March, 2000 in which States Parties decided to:

Seize the opportunity to comprehensively address the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the sub-region; and

Encourage a concrete and Co-ordinated Agenda for Action for the sub-region to promote human security and ensure that all states have in place adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the possession and transfer of small arms and light weapons;²

1. Institutional framework

State Parties hereby agree to:

- 1.1 Ensure a sustainable solution to the problem through the pursuit of a long term co-ordinated and concerted effort.
- 1.2 Establish National Focal Points to deal with the problem of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to oversee the implementation of this Co-ordinated Agenda for Action at the national level.
- 1.3 Mandate the Nairobi Secretariat to co-ordinate the regional Agenda for Action.

¹ *United Nations General Assembly (a/54/258)*, page 24. Small arms are those weapons designed for personal use, and light weapons are designed for use by several persons serving as a crew. The category of small arms includes revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machineguns, assault rifles, and light machine guns. The category of light weapons includes heavy machineguns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers for anti-aircraft and anti-tank rockets and missile systems and mortars of calibre of less than 100 mm. Ammunition and explosives form and integral part of small arms and light weapons used in conflicts, and include cartridges for small arms, shells and missiles for light weapons, anti-personnel and anti-tank grenades, land mines, explosives, and mobile containers with missiles or shells for single-action anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems.

² *The Nairobi declaration on the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa*, 15 March 2000, page 5.

2. Regional co-operation and co-ordination

- 2.1 Ensure long term sustainable commitment towards the achievement of the objectives as enshrined in the Nairobi Declaration.
- 2.2 Develop, implement and sustain a comprehensive strategy to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, taking into account the linkages between arms proliferation and all aspects of human security and the long term objective of attaining peace, stability and development in the region.
- 2.3 Pursue initiatives for the peaceful resolution of conflict in the region, thereby reducing demand and forestalling further proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.
- 2.4 Enhance co-operation and exchange of information among National Focal Points and other relevant agencies and organisations tasked with addressing the problem of illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
- 2.5 Co-operate with the United Nations, international organisations, regional and sub-regional organisations, and civil society³ in preventing and reducing the problem of illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
- 2.6 Co-ordinate international support for the implementation of the regional Agenda for Action.

3. Legislative measures

- 3.1 Promote legal uniformity and minimum standards to govern the manufacture, possession, import, export, transfer, transit, transport and control of small arms and light weapons.
- 3.2 Undertake to incorporate, as a matter of priority, the following elements in their national laws:
 - 3.2.1 Regulations governing and prohibitions related to possession and use of small arms and light weapons.
 - 3.2.2 Regulations for the manufacture, possession, import, export, transfer, transit, transport and control of small arms and light weapons.
 - 3.2.3 Regulations for the effective control of manufacturers, traders, brokers, financiers and transporters of small arms and light weapons.
 - 3.2.4 Provisions for the seizure, confiscation, and forfeiture to the State, all small arms and light weapons, manufactured or conveyed in transit and transport without or in contravention of licenses, permits or written authority.
- 3.3 Adopt the necessary legislative and other measures to establish as criminal offences under national law the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and possession and use of small arms and light weapons, including home made weapons.
- 3.4 Adopt the necessary legislative or other measures to enforce adherence to international sanctions that prohibit the export of weapons to conflict zones and/or countries.

4. Operational and capacity building

- 4.1 Establish or enhance national databases and communication systems, and acquire specialised equipment for the monitoring and control of movement of small arms and light weapons within the country and across borders,

³ Civil society can be defined as the collective social entity where citizens interface with each other and with the state. Civil society therefore is normally thought to be composed of a range of organisations including social movements, professional and voluntary associations, grassroots organisations, non-governmental organisations, trades unions, co-operatives, academic and philanthropic institutions, community groups, youth and women's organisations and religious related organisations. In many cases the independent media and the informal sector are also included as part of civil society. Among other roles, civil society can influence public performance, can help hold governments accountable, and can complement national and local administrations in the establishment of effective governance.

- 4.2 Develop or improve national training programmes to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies⁴ to fulfil their roles in the implementation of this agenda for action.
- 4.3 Establish or enhance inter-agency work groups involving law enforcement agencies and other relevant national agencies⁵ to improve policy co-ordination, information sharing and analysis.
- 4.4 Enhance the capacity of the Nairobi Secretariat to co-ordinate the implementation of the Agenda for Action.
- 4.5 Support and encourage exchange programmes and training between the Nairobi Secretariat, National Focal Points, and community leaders or representatives in the region with the aim to build capacity.
- 4.6 Encourage the effective utilisation of the expertise available from civil society⁶ and international agencies/bodies⁷ to address the problem of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
- 4.7 Encourage regional co-operation for law enforcement and other relevant international agencies/bodies so as to combat cross-border crime, enhance human security, and foster understanding among border communities. Co-operation could include, among others, capacity building, joint training exercises, and agreements for joint operations, extradition, hot pursuit, investigation and recovery of exhibits.
- 4.8 Build regional research capacity to support National Focal Points, and undertake long-term research on the dynamics of the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons within the region.
- 4.9 Work with the UN in co-operation with the OAU and other regional and international organisations to carry out a detailed study on the magnitude and scope of the small arms and light weapons in all its aspects in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.

5. Control, seizures, forfeiture, distribution, collection and destruction

- 5.1 Enhance the capacity of the state to control and account for arms in its possession by, inter alia, verifying their stock of small arms and light weapons.
- 5.2 Ensure the safe storage of arms in possession of the state.
- 5.3 Ensure strict accountability and the effective tracing of all weapons owned and distributed by the state.
- 5.4 Ensure strict accountability and effective control of all weapons owned by private security companies and dealers.
- 5.5 Promote voluntary weapons collection programmes.
- 5.6 Encourage law enforcement agencies to work with communities to identify weapons caches and remove them from society.
- 5.7 Identify and destroy surplus and obsolete stocks in state possession.
- 5.8 Establish an effective mechanism for storing impounded and recovered illicit small arms pending the investigations that will release them for destruction.
- 5.9 Ensure the destruction of illicit arms collected and seized.

⁴ For the purposes of this document, Law Enforcement Agencies include Military forces, Police Forces or Services, Gendarmerie, Customs and Immigration Authorities and the Judiciary.

⁵ For the purpose of this document, Relevant National Agencies include the Ministries of Home Affairs or similar, Defence, Foreign Affairs, and other Offices and Ministries with mandate to co-ordinate, undertake policies and implement actions that directly or indirectly impact on the control of the problem of small arms and light weapons.

⁶ For the purpose of this document, Civil Society includes the broad spectrum from community and religious leaders to independent organisations with a mandate to train, produce research, applied research, policy facilitation, developmental and societal assistance, monitoring and evaluation or human security dynamics.

⁷ For the purpose of this document, relevant international agencies/bodies includes United Nations agencies operating in the region; the Interpol Regional Bureau(s) as appropriate; regional police, developmental and similar organisations and institutions, and international humanitarian or relief organisations in the field when applicable.

6. Information exchange and record keeping

- 6.1 Publicise their policies, regulations and laws relating to small arms and light weapons.
- 6.2 Enhance exchange of information and transparency in relation to national databases.
- 6.3 Encourage the exchange of information among law enforcement agencies on criminal groups and their associates, types of small arms and light weapons, sources, supply route, destination, method of transportation and financial support of these groups.

7. Public awareness

- 7.1 Promote a culture of peace.*
- 7.2 Undertake education and awareness raising programmes on the problem of illicit small arms involving all sectors of society.
- 7.3 Undertake education and awareness raising programmes on the responsible management, storage and use of firearms.
- 7.4 Promote the involvement of, and co-operate with, all sectors of society in preventing and reducing the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons.

8 For the purpose of this document, UNESCO's definition of culture of peace will be used. Elements of culture of peace include:

- Consensus based decision-making.
- Commitment to non-violent resolution and holistic social change through creative methodologies,
- Equitable relationships, humility, service to others and simplicity.
- Respect, at the personal and community level, for human rights, basic freedoms, justice and security for all.
- Commitment to individual and collective action for socio-cultural and structural change.

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Implementation Plan of the co-ordinated Agenda for Action on the problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa

November 2000

SAEM/SG.LR HOA/2

Introduction

In accordance with the objective of the Nairobi Declaration of 15th March, 2000 and its Agenda for Action of November 2000, this Implementation Plan sets out guidelines for States Parties in the prevention, management and resolution of the problem of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, promote and facilitate regional co-operation and exchange of information and experience; and create a conducive environment for a closer regional co-operation necessary to ensure the sustainable commitment of the region towards this goal.

Implementation plan

1. Institutional framework

States Parties agreed to:

- 1.1 *“Ensure a sustainable solution to the problem through the pursuit of long term co-ordinated and concerted effort.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

To implement this recommendation, States Parties undertake to establish, within three months of signing of this Agenda for Action, a National Focal Point in each state and mandate the Nairobi Secretariat to implement the regional Agenda for Action.

States Parties agreed to:

- 1.2 *“Establish National Focal Points to deal with the problem of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to oversee the implementation of this Co-ordinated Agenda for Action at the national level.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

States Parties shall undertake, within three months of the signing of the Agenda for Action, to convene an interagency workshop¹ to establish in each of the state parties a National Focal Point on small arms and light weapons with functions and responsibilities that include:

- a) Co-ordinating with the Nairobi Secretariat in the implementation of the Agenda for Action;
- b) Co-ordinating and interacting with other National Focal Points;
- c) Co-ordinating and interacting with civil society;
- d) Facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information;
- e) Conducting and facilitating research;
- f) Identifying and applying lessons learned; and
- g) Building capacity for a sustainable approach to the problem of small arms and light weapons.

The National Focal Point could be attached to an existing agency as may be recommended by the workshop.

States Parties agreed to:

- 1.3 *“Mandate the Nairobi Secretariat to co-ordinate the regional Agenda for Action.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

States Parties agreed upon signature of this Agenda for Action that the Nairobi Co-ordinating Unit will be established as the Nairobi Secretariat with functions and responsibilities that include:

- a) Co-ordinating the implementation of the regional Agenda for Action, including the development of annual programmes for meetings and interactions;
- b) Co-ordinating and interacting with National Focal Points;
- c) Interacting with relevant regional and international agencies;
- d) Assisting with the co-ordination and interaction with civil society;
- e) Assisting with the exchange and dissemination of information;
- f) Conducting and facilitating research;
- g) Identifying and applying lessons learned; and
- h) Building capacity for a sustainable approach to the problem of small arms and light weapons.

2. Regional co-operation and co-ordination

States Parties agreed to:

- 2.1 *“Ensure long term sustainable commitment towards the achievement of the objectives as enshrined in the Nairobi Declaration.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

States Parties, assisted by the Nairobi Secretariat, will organise an annual (once every year) Ministerial Meeting to review Progress, and provide guidelines for the way forward.

States Parties agreed to:

- 2.2 *“Develop, implement and sustain a comprehensive strategy to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, taking into account the linkages between arms proliferation and all aspects of human security and the long term objective of attaining peace, stability and development in the region.”*

¹ Possible participating agencies for National Focal Points interactions should include, among others, Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Police, Defence, Customs, Immigration, Justice, and Trade and Industry, anti-corruption agency, civil society.

2.3 *“Pursue initiatives for the peaceful resolution of conflict in the region, thereby reducing demand and forestalling further proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

This objective can be attained through, among others:

- a) Development and co-ordination by the Nairobi Secretariat in co-operation with the National Focal Points annual programmes for the implementation of the Agenda for Action in all its aspects.
- b) The establishment of an annual roundtable to discuss implementation problems and solutions. This roundtable will be held on a rotational basis by all States Parties to the Agenda for Action, and bring together participants from National Focal Points, the Nairobi Secretariat, experts, other agencies, organisations and civil society.
- c) An annual (once every year) Ministerial Meeting to review the implementation of the strategy and provide strategic guidelines for further implementation.
- d) Support research and education programmes designed to enhance public and official/governmental understanding of the links between small arms proliferation and conflicts, and, the links between small arms control and peace and stability.

States Parties agreed to:

2.4 *“Enhance co-operation and exchange of information among National Focal Points and other relevant agencies and organisations tasked with addressing the problem of illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

Co-operation and exchange of information should be enhanced by, among others:

- a) An annual seminar for personnel from the National Focal Points and the Nairobi Secretariat to promote interaction and review common strategies.
- b) The publication and circulation, including via Internet, by the Nairobi Secretariat of a six-monthly newsletter to serve as a medium for exchange of information and ideas between National Focal Points, regional organisations, other agencies and civil society.
- c) Promotion of exchange programmes between and among personnel of National Focal Points, and also with other agencies, organisations, including civil society for the purpose of sharing information and lessons learnt.
- d) Actively promote the interactions and exchange of information between the National Focal Points and educational establishments, institutes, think-tanks, and other expertise existing in the region.
- e) The establishment of a liaison mechanism within National Focal Points where other relevant agencies, organisations and civil society can interact to enhance co-operation and exchange of information.

States Parties agreed to:

2.5 *“Co-operate with the United Nations, international organisations, regional and sub-regional organisations, and civil society in preventing and reducing the problem of illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

Co-operation should be enhanced by, among others:

- a) Ensuring that the small arms issues are included on the agenda of relevant regional meetings dealing with issues of the human security such as, but not limited to: socio-economic developmental, governance, political instability, conflict management, crime and policing, refugees and migrations, resources, poverty, etc.
- b) Encouraging exchange of information and lessons learnt from existing United Nations bodies/agencies, UNAFRI, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, OAU, Interpol, regional Police (EAPCCO, SARPCCO, CARPCCO and WARPCCO), regional development agencies (IGAD, EAC, ECOWAS, ECCAS and SADC), among others.

- c) Supporting initiatives including at community level, that impact on the dynamics of proliferation of small arms and light weapons and minimise its effects on people and institutions.
- d) Engaging with regional organisations or bodies (EAPCCO, IGAD, EAC) to identify and define the unique role of each in the comprehensive strategy to combat proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.
- e) Holding of an annual consultative meeting between the Nairobi Secretariat with representatives from international agencies/bodies, sub-regional organisations and civil society to share experiences on issues and activities relating to small arms and light weapons.

States Parties agreed to:

- 2.6 “Co-ordinate international support for the Implementation of the regional Agenda for Action.”

IMPLEMENTATION:

States parties, based on capacity, will provide funds to support their respective National Focal Points and the Nairobi Secretariat.

The Nairobi Secretariat will solicit funds from the international community to support the institutional framework and the implementation of the regional Agenda for Action as per Annex A to this Implementation Plan.

3. Legislative measures

States Parties have agreed to:

- 3.1 “Promote legal uniformity and minimum standards to govern the manufacture, possession, import, export, transfer, transit, transport and control of small arms and light weapons.”
- 3.2 “Undertake to incorporate, as a matter of priority, the following elements in their national laws:
 - 3.2.1 Regulations governing and prohibitions related to possession and use of small arms and light weapons.
 - 3.2.2 Regulations for the manufacture, possession, import, export, transfer, transit, transport and control of small arms and light weapons.
 - 3.2.3 Regulations for the effective control of manufacturers, traders, brokers, financiers and transporters of small arms and light weapons.
 - 3.2.4 Provisions for the seizure, confiscation, and forfeiture to the State, all small arms and light weapons, manufactured or conveyed in transit and transport without or in contravention of licenses, permits or written authority.”
- 3.3 “Adopt the necessary legislative and other measures to establish as criminal offences under national law the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and possession and use of small arms and light weapons, including home made weapons.”
- 3.4 “Adopt the necessary legislative or other measures to enforce adherence to international sanctions that prohibit the export of weapons to conflict zones and/or countries.”

IMPLEMENTATION:

- a) States Parties agree to submit copies of their relevant legislation governing all aspects of arms to the Nairobi Secretariat within three months of the signing of this Agenda for Action.
- b) The Nairobi Secretariat, within six months, will undertake a comparison of legislations in the region and draw up proposals for minimum standards.
- c) The Nairobi Secretariat will convene, within nine months, a regional technical workshop in conjunction with the EAPCCO legal sub-committee and the IGAD Secretariat to agree on minimum standards and propose a programme for revision of legislation, monitoring of progress and timeframes for implementation.

The workshop will also explore the establishment of a formal regional control regime on small arms and light weapons within 18 months and present recommendations to the Ministerial Conference.

- d) States Parties further agree, within 18 months of the signing of this Agenda for Action, to review their respective legislation to ensure that all regulations and provisions recommended in items 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the Agenda for Action are incorporated, taking into account the agreed minimum standards in para. 3.1 above.

4. Operational and capacity building

States Parties agreed to:

- 4.1 “Establish or enhance national databases and communication systems, and acquire specialised equipment for the monitoring and control of movement of small arms and light weapons within the country and across borders.”
- 4.2 “Develop or improve national training programmes to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to fulfil their roles in the implementation of this agenda for action.”
- 4.3 “Establish or enhance inter-agency work groups involving law enforcement agencies and other relevant national agencies to improve policy co-ordination, information sharing and analysis.”

IMPLEMENTATION:

Within a year of signing of this Agenda for Action, each National Focal Point will convene a series of workshops with participating agencies to identify training needs and programmes. These workshops will also discuss the establishment of national databases, communication systems and specialised equipment. The national database should be centralised at the National Focal Point and should include, but not limited to, information on manufacturers, holders, dealers, brokers, recovered and seized small arms and light weapons, stolen and lost firearms, and destruction of arms.

Each National Focal Point will inform the Nairobi Secretariat on its plan of action for training and the setting up of its national database.

States Parties agreed to:

- 4.4 “Enhance the capacity of the Nairobi Secretariat to co-ordinate the implementation of the Agenda for Action.”
- 4.5 “Support and encourage exchange programmes and training between the Nairobi Secretariat, National Focal Points, and community leaders or representatives in the region with the aim to build capacity.”
- 4.6 “Encourage the effective utilisation of the expertise available from civil society and international agencies/bodies to address the problem of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.”

IMPLEMENTATION:

To undertake this task, States Parties will:

- a) Hold an annual capacity building seminar, on a rotational basis, where all personnel from National Focal Points and the Nairobi Secretariat can meet and interact, revise common methodologies, and exchange ideas.
- b) Utilise existing expertise to enhance the capacity of National Focal Points and Permanent Secretariat.

States Parties agreed to:

- 4.7 “Encourage regional co-operation for law enforcement and other relevant international agencies/bodies so as to combat cross-border crime, enhance human security, and foster understanding among border communities. Co-operation could include, among others, capacity building, joint training exercises, and agreements for joint operations, extradition, hot pursuit, investigation and recovery of exhibits.”

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Nairobi Secretariat will convene, within twelve months, a regional workshop, in conjunction with EAPCCO, to:

- a) Identify joint training needs for the region which may lead to a series of training courses for law enforcement and other relevant international officials in identified key areas;
- b) Identify areas for bilateral and multilateral agreements such as: joint cross-border operations, hot pursuit, investigation, recovery of exhibits and extradition; and
- c) Identify border areas where international and national agencies are operating with a view of co-ordinating their efforts for the enhanced provision of human security.

The Nairobi Secretariat will report on the recommendations of this workshop by submitting these with a note recommending immediate action to the States Parties.

States Parties agreed to:

- 4.8 “*Build regional research capacity to support National Focal Points, and undertake long-term research on the dynamics of the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons within the region.*”

IMPLEMENTATION:

To undertake this task, States Parties will:

- a) Promote and support long-term research programmes on the dynamics of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and its effects on human security.
- b) Actively promote co-operation in research between National Focal Points, and educational establishments, institutes, think-tanks, and other relevant expertise existing in the region.

States Parties agreed to:

- 4.9 “*Work with the UN in co-operation with the OAU and other regional and international organisations as required.*”

IMPLEMENTATION:

Facilitate contribution to and support missions by the UN, OAU and other regional and international organisations to conduct a study and draw up appropriate programmes for the collection and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons. The state parties will define the parameters of the study.

5. Control, seizures, forfeiture, distribution, collection and destruction

States Parties agreed to:

- 5.1 “*Enhance the capacity of the state to control and account for arms in its possession by, inter alia, verifying their stock of small arms and light weapons.*”
- 5.2 “*Ensure the safe storage of arms in possession of the state.*”
- 5.3 “*Ensure strict accountability and the effective tracing of all weapons owned and distributed by the state.*”
- 5.4 “*Ensure strict accountability and effective control of all weapons owned by private security companies and dealers.*”

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Nairobi Secretariat, within nine months, will convene a meeting of appropriate experts to discuss possible ways of preparing and implementing the collection, safe storage, destruction or responsible disposal of small arms and light weapons. This meeting should also recommend guidelines and procedures for ensuring that surplus small arms and light weapons are securely stored, destroyed or responsibly disposed of.

States Parties should ensure that seized and captured small arms and light weapons are destroyed and that their law enforcement agencies work closely with local communities to facilitate the removal and destruction of arms voluntarily surrendered and in weapons caches.

The Nairobi Secretariat will facilitate the co-ordination of regional weapons collection, and encourage states to undertake implementation of amnesty programme, as appropriate.

- 5.5 “*Promote voluntary weapons collection programmes.*”
- 5.6 “*Encourage law enforcement agencies to work with communities to identify weapons caches and remove them from society.*”
- 5.7 “*Identify and destroy surplus and obsolete stocks in state possession.*”
- 5.8 “*Establish an effective mechanism for storing impounded and recovered illicit small arms pending the investigations that will release them for destruction.*”
- 5.9 “*Ensure the destruction of illicit arms collected and seized.*”

IMPLEMENTATION:

The National Focal Points and the Nairobi Secretariat will co-operate with relevant state authorities in developing programme to build capacity, engage experts, and encourage international support for the collection and destructions of illicit and surplus arms and light weapons.

The Nairobi Secretariat, within nine months, will convene a meeting of appropriate experts to discuss policy guidelines to provide accountability and effective control over state-owned small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

States parties will also establish a verification mechanism to ensure compliance with the proposed accountability and control guidelines over all small arms and light weapons in possession of the state, private security companies, or in public use.

6. Information exchange and record keeping

States Parties agreed to:

- 6.1 “*Publicise their policies, regulations and laws relating to small arms and light weapons.*”
- 6.2 “*Enhance exchange of information and transparency in relation to national databases.*”

IMPLEMENTATION:

National Focal Points must ensure that the relevant policies, regulations and laws relating to small arms and light weapons are publicly available, and that copies are submitted to the Nairobi Secretariat. The Nairobi Secretariat will publish and disseminate the compendium of policies, regulations and legislation in the region.

Information related to the national database should be accessible. The National Focal Points will facilitate the provision and exchange of the information between the Nairobi Secretariat, other National Focal Points, interested agencies and civil society.

States Parties agreed to:

- 6.3 “*Encourage the exchange of information among law enforcement agencies on criminal groups and their associates, types of small arms and light weapons, sources, supply route, destination, method of transportation and financial support of these groups.*”

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Eastern African Police Chiefs Committee Organisation (EAPCCO) should be encouraged to convene a workshop to agree on information exchange mechanisms of confidential/information on criminals and the dissemination of that information through existing databases, such as IWETS. This workshop should also propose an appropriate reporting system for information on criminal activities.

7. Public awareness

States Parties agreed to:

- 7.1 *“Promote a culture of peace.”*
- 7.2 *“Undertake education and awareness raising programmes on the problem of illicit small arms involving all sectors of society.”*
- 7.3 *“Undertake education and awareness raising programmes on the responsible management, storage and use of firearms.”*
- 7.4 *“Promote the involvement of, and co-operate with, all sectors of society in preventing and reducing the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons.”*

IMPLEMENTATION:

States Parties undertake to promote national education programmes to minimise social dependency on arms and improve responsible management of arms. These national education programmes should include, but not be limited to, national awareness campaigns (community and other radio stations, poster campaigns, leaflets, cultural shows, school awareness programmes, etc.)

States Parties should prioritise support to local and other non-governmental awareness raising programmes that share the same objectives; and provide support to international and regional bodies and agencies to undertake regional action and education programmes.

National Focal Points will annually organise a national consultative forum involving all sectors of society in a free and frank debate on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and its effect on societies.

ANNEX A: International assistance to the Implementation Plan of the Agenda for Action on the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa

SAEM/GLR HOA/3

General assistance

The States Parties signatories to the Agenda for Action call on the international community to:

1. Be sensitive to regional agendas, priorities, processes and initiatives as agreed upon by the regions themselves.
2. Provide support to regional initiatives and processes.
3. Promote regional initiatives aimed at, among others, creating a comprehensive regional programme of action in the lead up to the United Nations 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms in all its Aspects.
4. Ensure the existence of transparent policies and rigorous controls over manufacturers, traders, brokers, financiers and transporters of small arms, light weapons and ammunition.
5. Provide full support to compliance with the firearms protocol of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Crime (the Vienna Process).
6. Abide by international sanctions, embargoes and moratoria on the import and export of small arms and light weapons.
7. Support the maintenance of a long-term commitment to control and reduce the global proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
8. Support international and civil society programmes to reduce the impact of small arms and light weapons on society.
9. Support and promote peace initiatives and encourage efforts that aim at conflict prevention, management and resolution and social and economic development with a long-term objective of attaining peace, stability and development.
10. Urge the international community to adopt a policy of destruction of surplus and obsolete stocks to reduce the excessive global accumulation of small arms and light weapons.
11. Encourage the effective implementation of social economic programmes that target poverty alleviation, development and improvement of standards of living.
12. Promote democratic principles and practices.

Financial and technical assistance

13. The Nairobi Secretariat will co-ordinate, seek support, and sustain interaction with the international and donor community in support of the Agenda for Action.
14. Bilateral agreements between any or each of the States Parties and the donor community on practical projects and assistance should be encouraged.

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15. In support of the Agenda for Action, the international community should extend financial and technical support:
- 15.1 To workshops, roundtables and ministerial meetings.
 - 15.2 To regional and national training programmes and joint operations.
 - 15.3 The establishment of national databases, communication systems and specialised equipment.
 - 15.4 To create and sustain long-term research capacity in the region.
 - 15.5 Regional, national and local public awareness programmes; national and regional forums for all-inclusive debate; community led initiatives and weapons collection programmes.
 - 15.6 For capacity building to implementing agencies, National Focal Points and the Permanent Secretariat.
 - 15.7 For exchange programmes and expertise.
 - 15.8 For programmes such as demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants, rehabilitation of child soldiers, management of refugee communities to reduce demand and forestall the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

ANNEX B: Outline Implementation Plan

Action agenda no	2001				2002				2003			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Institutional Framework												
1.2 Establishment of National Focal Point (NFP)	MEM	MEM	MEM	MEM								
1.3 Establishment of Nairobi Secretariat (NS)	NS	NS										
2. Regional Co-operation												
2.1-2.3 Annual Ministerial meeting				NS			NS	NS				NS
2.2 & 2.5 Annual consultative meeting on status of implementation				NS		NS	NS					
2.4 Annual seminar for NS & NFP (capacity building in year 1)				NS								
2.4 Newsletter												
2.4 Exchange programmes												
2.2-2.3 Research and education programmes												
3. Legislative Measures												
3.1-3.4 Submit copies of legislation to NS	MEM	MEM	MEM	MEM								
3.1-3.4 Identification of minimum standards			NS									
3.1-3.4 Workshop on minimum standards and programme of legislative revision												
3.1-3.4 Harmonisation process												
4. Operational and Capacity Building												
4.1-4.3 National workshops to identify operational and training needs												
4.1-4.3 Establishment of national databases												
4.7 Annual regional workshop for law enforcement officers to identify op & training needs												
4.7 Regional training courses for law enforcement officers (EAPCCO)												
5. Control, Seizures, Collection and Destruction												
5.1-5.4 Expert meeting on collection, safe storage and destruction												
5.5-5.9 Weapons collection and destruction programmes												
6. Info Exchange and Record Keeping												
6.1 Publication of compendium of policies, regulations and laws				NS								
6.2 Establishment of 'open' national databases												
6.3 EAPCCO workshop on info exchange												
7. Public Awareness												
7.1-7.4 National and regional public education and awareness-raising programme												
7.1-7.4 Annual national consultative forum involving all sections of society												

KEY
MEM Member states operationalise
MCS Member States & Civil Society operationalise
NS Nairobi Secretariat operationalise
□ Nairobi Secretariat & Civil Society operationalise
■ Nairobi Secretariat/ EAPCCO/IGAD/ Civil Society operationalise
■ EAPCCO operationalise

ANNEX D: Annual budget

	Funding secured	Funding requested \$
1. Nairobi Secretariat		
Personnel		
Co-ordinator		20,000
Project officer (secondment)		20,000
Info officer (secondment)		15,000
Admin assistant		10,000
Operating costs (Rent, travel, translation, communications etc)		40,000
Equipment (Computer, copier, printers)		10,000
SUB TOTAL		115,000
2. Regional Activities		
Regional co-operation meetings:		
Annual consultative meeting on implementation of Action Agenda (60 persons for 2 days)		80,000
Annual seminar for Nairobi Secretariat & National Focal Points (25 persons for 2 days)		30,000
Ministerial meeting (4 persons for each state)		200,000
Annual workshop on legislative measures	DFID	
Annual workshop for law enforcement officers to identify operational and training needs	DFID	
Expert meeting—collection, safe storage and destruction	DFID	
EAPCCO training course for law enforcement officers		30,000
Public awareness and dissemination:		
Publish compendium of legislation		10,000
Publish newsletter	DIFD	
Special projects (to be identified)		
SUB TOTAL	PER YEAR	350,000
3. National Activities		
Inter-agency workshop (to develop National Focal Point)		10,000
National database creation and/or improvement		10,000
National workshop to identify training and operational needs		15,000
National consultation forum with civil society		20,000
Public awareness and education programmes (when defined)		20,000
Equipment and communication costs (e.g. liaison and regional interactions)		10,000
Special projects (to be identified)		
SUB TOTAL	PER COUNTRY FOR 10 COUNTRIES	85,000 850,000
4. Special Projects		
Special projects will include, for example, weapons collection programmes, projects to ensure effective management of stocks, joint cross-border operations, hardware and software for national control systems. These projects will be identified during the course of the national and regional activities, and will be submitted independently to donors.	TO BE IDENTIFIED	
TOTAL		1,315,000