

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
P.O. BOX 160 KIGALI**

**SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE ARMS TRADE TREATY
AWARENESS WORKSHOP**

Kigali, Gorilla Golf Hotel 9th to 12th October 2018

- **The Executive Secretary of the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)**
- **Representatives of Government Institutions**
- **Facilitators from RECSA**
- **Members of the press**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

It is my pleasure this morning to officiate the opening of the workshop on the awareness of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) organised by RECSA.

I would like to thank the Regional Centre on Small arms for having organised this important workshop for the Government Officials and for Civil Society organisations in Rwanda.

As you may be aware, illicit trafficking and use of arms and ammunition remains a big challenge to national, regional and global peace and security.

To achieve sustainable development, countries are putting efforts together to reduce the illicit arms flows that feed conflicts and divert resources.

The proliferation of illicit arms allows criminal organisations and terrorist groups to operate easily across the region and beyond. That constitutes a threat and undermines peace and security.

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly recognised that the absence of common international standards for transfer of conventional arms contributes to armed conflict, the displacement of people and crime, and that these in turn undermine peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development.

Based on this finding, the General Assembly launched a process to examine the feasibility of a treaty establishing common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms. The Arms Trade Treaty was opened for signature on 3/06/2013 and entered into force 18 months later, on 24/12/2014.

The Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), as a regional intergovernmental organisation established within the framework of the Nairobi Protocol, has the mandate to coordinate the implementation of different legal instruments and to put in place guidelines to be utilized by member States in view of preventing and fighting the proliferation of the illicit small arms and their ammunition.

Permit me to assure you, Mr. Executive Secretary, that the Government of Rwanda is committed to continue supporting RECSA to achieve its mission through its annual financial contribution and through interventions and participation in various activities.

To date, the number of member States within RECSA region which have signed the Arms Trade Treaty is still low. The situation explains the importance of this awareness workshop. Rwanda signed the Arms Trade Treaty on 05th June 2013, other related legal processes will follow. I encourage other member states to do the same so that we combine our efforts to combat the scourge of illicit arms.

I have no doubt that at the end of this workshop, participants will be more aware and have a common understanding on the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty.

With this few words, I declare the workshop on the awareness of the Arms Trade Treaty officially opened and wish you successful discussions.

May God bless you.