

Statement

By

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At

The 2ND Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed
Violence and Development

31 October 2011

Geneva

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ethiopian Delegation would like to express its deep appreciation to the Government of Switzerland and UNDP for hosting the 2nd Ministerial Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

The 2nd Ministerial Review Conference provides the opportunity to signatory states to reaffirm their commitments to the full realization of the goals stated in the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, to assess the progress made in its implementation and share experiences in tackling the problems of armed violence. We should also acknowledge and strengthen our support for armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives, including by United Nations, such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as well as for the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Peace-Building Commission.

The Declaration serves as a platform for exchange of good practices with regards to armed violence reduction policies and programmes to enable signatory States set priorities for the implementation of the Declaration by 2015.

Mr. Chairperson,

The reduction of socioeconomic inequalities is essential to reducing armed violence. The promotion of national and international development policies that would enable us to generate employment, expand education and enhance social inclusion constitute important tools for violence prevention and reduction. Ultimately, Governments are responsible for guaranteeing the security of their

citizens, including effectively implementing sustainable development and poverty reduction policies.

The Ethiopian Delegation is pleased to highlight some of achievements in Ethiopia with a direct impact on armed violence prevention and development. The main development agenda of the Ethiopian government is poverty eradication. The Government is actively implementing the Five-Year Growth and Transformation Plan with the objectives of sustaining current high economic growth and achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Effective implementation of the strategies in this Plan including further strengthening of the rule of law and good governance in the country is critical to address conditions that could lead to any potential conflict or violence in any form in the country.

The Ethiopian Government has also undertaken awareness creation trainings, established institutions to prevent and resolve disputes among communities over water and grazing lands, for peace building efforts among these communities as well as on the dangers of small arms and light weapons in the country. Demining and awareness raising with regard to anti personal landmines activities are implemented in all regional states in Ethiopia with the support of International Organizations. Criminal prevention and criminal justice systems are in place at all Federal and Regional levels. The Government has put in place measures to combat terrorism in all its forms consistent with international law.

Ethiopia is also working jointly with the United Nations agencies and other partners to implement Armed Violence Prevention Programmes. In these efforts full recognition is given to the need to integrate gender specific policy and

programmatic responses and ensure that the rights and interests of persons with disabilities are fully taken into account.

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson, the Ethiopian Delegation would like to underline that the signatory countries of the Geneva Declaration and our partners should assist affected societies to meet their Millennium Development Goals as part of the effective strategies to prevent and reduce armed violence, and strengthen public diplomacy activities in order to increase awareness at national, regional and global levels on all types of armed of violence and their consequences.

I thank you