

AHG/Dec.137 (LXX) Decision on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ADOPTS** the proposals contained therein;
3. **HAILS** the Declaration on the moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons adopted in Abuja on 31 October, 1998 by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
4. **WELCOMES** the appeal contained in the said Declaration calling on the OAU to support implementation of the moratorium and to encourage similar initiatives in other regions of the continent;
5. **WELCOMES ALSO** the initiatives being undertaken by Member States and regional organisations concerning the question of small arms, in particular, the ECOWAS moratorium on small arms, the destruction of surplus and obsolete small arms in South Africa and the destruction of illicit weapons in Mozambique;
6. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the work of the United Nations, through its Group of Experts on Small Arms and the draft Protocol on the Illicit Manufacturing, circulation and proliferation of as well as illicit trafficking in Firearms, Ammunitions and other related materials, supplementay to the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime; the European Union, through its Joint Action on Small Arms; and the Organisation of American States, through its Convention against the illicit. manufacturing, trafficking, circulation and proliferation of firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related Materials;
7. **APPEALS** to the International Community to render to the affected African countries alt necessary assistance to enable them implement programmes to effectively deal with the problems associated with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
8. **REITERATES** the urgency and the need for inter-African cooperation in addressing the problems associated with the illicit use, transfer and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, and **EMPHASIZES** the primary role the OAU can play in co-ordinating actions in those affected areas;
9. **URGES** the Secretary-General to further **seek** the views of Member States on the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, in particular, to seek their views on actions to be undertaken;
10. **CALLS** for a coordinated African approach to the problems posed by the illicit trafficking, circulation and proliferation of small aims, under the OAU, taking into account the regional experiences and activities in this matter;
11. **STRESSES** the impact of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of light weapons on the increased involvement of children as soldiers and the psycho-social trauma thereof and the need to. comply with the African Charter for the Rights .and Welfare of Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

12. FURTHER APPEALS to all Member States and to the International Community to assist in the psycho-social rehabilitation of children who have been affected by the trafficking, circulation and the proliferation of light weapons;

13. REQUESTS the OAU Secretariat to organize, to that effect, a ministerial preparatory conference on this matter, prior to the International Conference scheduled for the year 2001 and to seek the support of the relevant UN agencies and other actors concerned, so as to evolve an African common approach;

14. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the next Session of the Council of Ministers.