
Opening Remarks

Keith Muloongo, Deputy Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) opened the workshop on behalf of the ISS. The ISS is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in South Africa with a mandate to conceptualize, inform and enhance the security debate in Africa through:

- independent applied research and analysis;
- facilitating and supporting policy formulation;
- raising awareness of decision-makers and the public;
- monitoring trends and policy implementation;
- collecting, interpreting and disseminating information;
- national, regional and international networking; and
- capacity-building.

The Institute for Security Studies, through its Arms Management Programme is committed to reducing the impact of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and sees its function, at least in part, to assist in facilitating these kinds of workshops.

Mr Muloongo noted that ISS has a relatively long history of working with both SADC and the Southern African Police Chiefs Co-operation Committee (SARPCCO) and expressed his hope that this workshop would contribute to the effective implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other Related Materials as well as our commitments to other international protocols and declarations such as the UN Programme Action of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) of July 2001 and the African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (the Bamako Declaration) of December 2000.

Mr Muloongo stated that the need to more stringently control arms brokering is an emerging issue both internationally and in Africa. "The goal of this workshop is thus to gather concrete recommendations from countries in Southern Africa faced with the challenges of regulating arms brokering that can be taken forward in order to develop a harmonized African approach to these actors."

"I believe that almost all SADC member states are represented here, which is an indication of your commitment to the issue – to sharing knowledge and to ensuring that our region has the capacity and resources that are required to implement effective regulations on brokering in this region. Only in this way can we prevent illicit brokering activities."

Mr Muloongo, noted that there were delegates from many of the region's security agencies, including the police services of Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, and Mozambique, as well as members of the NGO community and the defence industry and members of the diplomatic community based in South Africa.

In closing, he wished all participants every success for the workshop and assured the delegates that ISS would continue to work with both SADC and SARPCCO as well as individual Southern African countries in making this region a more peaceful and secure environment – one which will no longer be subject to the enormous proliferation of small arms and light weapons that we witness today.