



Republic of Botswana

INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS (UNPOA) WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ADEQUACY, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Botswana is constrained to contribute to the discussion on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of the financial and technical assistance including transfer of technology and equipment offered to developing countries since the inception of the UNPoA in 2001 as Botswana has not received any assistance in that regard.

In an endeavor to implement the provisions of the UNPoA, in 2003, Botswana in collaboration with Safer Africa, a non-governmental organization based in South Africa, organized a stakeholder's conference whose aim was to commence consultations with major stakeholders for the development of effective measures and sound strategies for the control of firearms in its jurisdictions.

This conference culminated in the creation of a National Plan for the Arms Management. The plan outlines gaps identified that the Botswana needs to address with a view to aligning with the provisions of the UNPoA.

One of the issues that was identified and needed attention was the computerisation of the Central Arms Registry. The Registry is the sole custodian of all arms in civilian and state possession. It is in that regard

that Botswana filed a request with Programme of Action International Support System (PoA-ISS) and we still await assistance.

In line with the provisions of the UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument, Botswana acquired marking machines through the assistance of US State Department on Politics and Military Affairs and marking exercise is work in progress.