



United Nations Fourth Biennial Meeting of States  
to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action  
to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the  
Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects  
New York, June 16, 2010  
Statement by Dr. Lawrence Rudolph  
President, Safari Club International

"Hunters and Shooters - Economic and Environmental Impact"

Mr. Chairman, I first would like to thank you for the opportunity to address the Parties today. My name is Dr. Lawrence Rudolph and I am the president of Safari Club International, a non-profit organization with missions including; conserving wildlife, protecting hunters' rights worldwide, and educating the public on hunting as a conservation tool. SCI has approximately 53,000 members from 106 different countries organized in 206 chapters and also represents millions of other hunters from around the world. Today, I would like to discuss the economic and environmental benefits that hunting brings to developing countries and how the transportation of firearms is vital to those benefits.

Hunters have always been the leaders of the conservation movement. From the restoration of America's forests and wildlife at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the many conservation success stories in Africa today, it has always been hunters who have provided the resources to make these successes possible. SCI has played a huge part in those successes. In the last decade alone, SCI has provided over 47 million dollars for conservation, wildlife education and humanitarian programs. These programs include over 150 conservation projects around the world, donating over 1.5 million pounds of food to the needy, and providing vital medical supplies to clinics in Africa.

In addition to the direct funding that SCI and other hunting organizations provide for conservation, hunters also provide developing countries with substantial economic benefits. In an effort to quantify exactly how much benefit the developing world receives from hunting, the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities held a symposium in Namibia on the Ecological and Economic Benefits of Hunting. This event brought together some of the top minds in wildlife

conservation to help quantify the economic benefits that developing countries receive from international hunting. The results are truly staggering.

For example, in Namibia the hunting industry and secondary services related to hunting accounted for over 4.5% of the country's total GDP. The Namibian hunting sector has also been growing at the rapid pace of 12% per year over the last decade. Additionally, throughout sub-Saharan Africa, hunting tourism generates over 200 million dollars in revenue per year and hunting has become a consistent source of revenue for developing nations, including thousands of jobs for local residents and economic development tools for local communities.

Hunting is vital to the economies of developing nations because it results in high revenues, most of which remain in the local economy. The United Nations has stated that economic stability is vital to reductions in violence in developing countries. Hunting helps build that economic stability and economic value. Economic value means that wildlife is protected, and that resources are available for conservation. Those resources – the hard cash currency payments brought by hunters – are the only reason that many species still exist in their home range.

To continue this important work, the hunting community needs your help. As you well know, hunting activities require the use of a firearm or bow. Although the implements of hunting are weapons, the delegates must separate the illicit weapons trade from the trade required to serve the millions of legitimate firearms users worldwide. As has been very well documented, when regulatory hurdles are placed as barriers, hunters are much less likely to travel to hunt. Any attempt by the United Nations to implement onerous firearms regulations or unnecessarily complex permitting processes could cripple the international hunting market and destroy this industry in the developing world. Local people and developing countries that rely on hunting to support their economies will feel the impact of any overbroad application of firearms restrictions.

SCI has developed a wealth of knowledge in the development of effective strategies for temporary firearm importation and we offer our expertise to help craft any needed firearm regulations.

Our goal would be to ensure that such regulations address illicit small arms trade, but not harm hunters, sport shooters or collectors.

As you can see from the examples offered today and the data collected at the World Forum's symposium, hunting provides jobs and economic growth to developing nations that are desperately in need. I leave you today with only one request. Please remember the important economic and humanitarian role that hunting and the use of hunting firearms play as you work on the Programme of Action. Consider that any action that this body takes to inhibit the transportation of firearms will not just affect the illicit trade, but will affect the millions of deserving individuals who benefit from hunting in the developing world.

Thank you for the opportunity to address a topic so vital to the success of hunting worldwide.