



*Co-operating to Disarm*

## **April 2009 Activity Report**

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### **RECSA Council of Ministers Meets**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers' meeting was held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009. It brought together Ministers and Plenipotentiaries from the states of Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Also in attendance were various RECSA partners.

The Council, Chaired by the Minister of Public Security of Burundi and the immediate former Chairman of the Council, Hon Alain Bunyoni, received with satisfaction a progress report on the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol from the Executive Secretary, Dr Francis K. Sang and a report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chairman, Mr. Onesphore Mbazumutima, on the proceedings and recommendations of the Committee on various strategy documents of the organization.

The meeting approved RECSA's key policy documents – Five year strategic plan and budget; the Information, Education and Communication Strategy; the two year work plan and budget; and audit reports for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years.

At the end of the meeting, the Republic of Burundi handed over Chairmanship of the RECSA Council of Ministers and the Technical Advisory Committee to the Republic of Djibouti. The Chairmanship will be for a period of two years. The new Chairman of the Council is Hon. HON. Yacin Elmi BOUH, the Djibouti Minister for Interior.

### **Republic of Congo is RECSA's 13<sup>th</sup> Member State**

The Executive Secretary informed the 5<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers' meeting that the Secretariat had received a request from the Republic of Congo to be admitted as a Member Country of RECSA. The country had earlier acceded to the Nairobi Protocol.

The Council considered this application and reached a unanimous decision to admit the Republic of Congo as the 13<sup>th</sup> Member of RECSA.

### **RECSA at Experts' Seminar on Stockpile Management**

The meeting convened by Institute of Security Studies (ISS) brought together small arms experts from around the region and beyond. The forum sought to identify the prevailing needs in the management of small arms and light weapons stockpiles and to determine the best engagement points with various partners to enhance stockpile management.

The meeting was further aimed at providing support to ISS in designing the best approach for an envisaged study on stockpile management in Africa.

The experts discussed implementation of the UNPoA and regional instruments on SALW, specifically the area of stockpile management. The issue of ammunition and explosives was identified as being among the least addressed hence needing attention.

### **RECSA holds a donor briefing**

The Executive Secretary led a RECSA delegation to London at the beginning of the month to meet a team of donors from the US, UK (DFID and the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Common Office), Sweden, Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, Germany, and the European Union.

Representatives from the donor community received a briefing on RECSA's new five year strategic plan, two year work plan and budgets. The Executive Secretary further gave a progress report on the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol in the region.

Further side meetings were held with the EU, Sweden, US and Norway on future funding for RECSA's programmes.

### **May Highlights**

- Launch of RECSA Disarmament Project
- Regional Disarmament workshop
- Development of RECSA's regional strategy
- Baseline surveys on SALW in RECSA Member States