



Co-operating to Disarm

June/July Report

Regional Brokering Meeting

RECSA hosted a regional seminar on small arms and light weapons (SALW) brokering in Kigali, Rwanda on 6th and 7th July 2009.

The meeting brought together representatives from UNREC, the African Union, RECSA Member States, inter-governmental organizations and civil society representatives from the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa, and Bordering States.

Participants discussed various issues on brokering of small arms and light weapons from national, regional and international perspectives, including challenges of enforcing brokering regulations, measures to counter illicit brokering, enforcement of relevant laws, among other topics. The meeting further revisited the provisions and regulations in the Nairobi Protocol and the best practice guidelines on the topic.

RECSA Member States got an opportunity to share their experiences in implementing small arms brokering best practices.

RECSA-SADC meeting on the UNPoA

The RECSA regional brokering meeting was held back-to-back with a UN meeting to strengthen the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons in the RECSA and SADC sub-regions. The meeting brought together 11 RECSA Member States, 7 SADC Member States, regional bodies and civil society organisations.

The end of the meeting saw regional implementation plans produced for the RECSA and SADC regions respectively. For the full outcome document visit <http://www.recsasec.org/pdf/UNPoA%20July%202009%20RECSA-SADC%20meeting%20outcome%20document.pdf>

RECSA at the 20th Interpol Conference

The 20th Interpol African Regional Conference was held in Cairo from 7th to 9th July 2009. The participants were mainly Police Chiefs from around the African Continent and invited observers.

The Conference is held every two years to take stock of the existing initiatives and programmes specifically developed for the African region and to review operational capabilities for policing in Africa.

The RECSA Executive Secretary, Dr Francis K. Sang made a presentation highlighting the overall situation of the small arms and light weapons problem in Africa. He also had a side meeting with the Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr. Ronald Noble. The two officials agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations at the earliest possible.

Interpol will offer RECSA technical support in its regional small arms and light weapons database project.

The next Interpol meeting will be held in Botswana in 2011.

Memoranda of Understanding Signed

- **RECSA/UNREC**

RECSA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) headquartered in Lome, Togo.

The MOU serves to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations in the promotion of peace and security in States under their respective mandates.

Under the joint agreement, RECSA and UNREC will collaborate in the following key areas:

- a) To reinforce the capacities of civil society organizations on practical disarmament and peace building in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States;
- b) To foster small arms transparency regimes and enhance the exchange of information among the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States by developing national and sub-regional databases that include information on imports, exports, transfers, manufacturers, holders, dealers, brokers, seized, stolen and lost, and destruction of small arms ;

- c) To build capacities of the Great Lakes Region, the Horn and Africa and Bordering States to manage and maintain computer-based databases and communications systems and;
- d) To develop initiatives in other areas of common interest in the field of arms control, disarmament, peace, and security as both organisations see fit

The MOU between the two organisations is in recognition of RECSA's mandate to coordinate action against illicit small arms and light weapons proliferation in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States. This is in line with the Nairobi Protocol and the Nairobi Declaration.

UNREC provides Member States of the African region, at their request, with substantive support for initiatives and other efforts geared towards the implementation of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament, in cooperation with the African Union (AU) and other sub-regional organizations.

- **RECSA/ISS**

RECSA has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Security Studies, a regional research institute operating across sub-Saharan Africa with offices in South Africa, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and Kenya.

A ceremony to mark the signing by the RECSA Executive Secretary, Dr Francis K. SANG, and the ISS Executive Director, Dr Jakkie Cilliers, was held at the RECSA offices in Nairobi and was attended by representatives from both organisations.

The MOU serves to formalise a long standing relationship between the two organisations. Its objective is to facilitate effective undertaking of complementary cooperation in small arms activities, projects and programmes.

Under the joint agreement, RECSA and ISS will collaborate in the following key areas:

- Capacity building and training of national focal points on small arms and light weapons (and related personnel);
- Research capacity building;
- Research on arms management, armed violence reduction and human security; and
- Technical issues relating to arms management, Cattle rustling, armed violence reduction and human security, in particular, the proliferation and management of small arms, ammunition and man-portable air-defence systems
- Information exchange in areas of mutual interest

The MOU between the two organisations is in recognition of RECSA's mandate to coordinate action against illicit small arms and light weapons proliferation in the Great

Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States. This is in line with the Nairobi Protocol and the Nairobi Declaration.

The mission of ISS is to conceptualise, inform and enhance the debate on human security in Africa in order to support policy formulation and decision-making at every level towards the enhancement of human security for all in Africa.

Development of National Action Plans: Djibouti and Eritrea

RECSA is currently providing support to Djibouti and Eritrea in the development of their National Action Plans (NAPs) in accordance with the **Implementation Plan of the Coordinated Agenda for Action on the Problem of the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa** of November 2000.

In **Djibouti** meetings with senior Government officials and other stakeholders have been held around the country to gather relevant information. The series of meetings kicked off with one that brought together national senior Government Officials on 1st July. It was officially opened by the Djibouti Government Minister for Interior Security who is also the Chairman of the RECSA Council of Ministers.

The meetings created awareness among members of the public and cultivated government support for the process. Information was collected from law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations during the regional meetings. A consultant is currently undertaking a population survey to further inform the writing of a national report to guide the development of Djibouti's national action plan.

In **Eritrea**, a meeting was held with members of the National Focal Point Steering Committee. The meeting reviewed the current NAP and agreed on a way forward for its review to address existing gaps in the strategy. A nation wide research has been carried out to update the strategy and available literature on small arms and light weapons in the country.

A team is currently compiling the amended National Action Plan which will be submitted to RECSA for review. A meeting will be held with stakeholders to validate the strategy. When approved the NAP will be launched officially to kick-start implementation.

Once the process is complete, the two countries will join Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda which already have NAPs in place.

The Netherlands Government is supporting the exercise in Eritrea; UNDP-BCPR is supporting the same in Djibouti.

Harmonisation of Legislation

RECSA participated in a meeting convened by the IGAD Capacity Building Program Against Terrorism (ICPAT) that brought together legal and other experts to consider a report on legislative harmonization relating to laws on corruption, arms trafficking, narcotic drugs, money laundering, organized crime and anti-terrorism in Kenya. The report was the result of a commissioned study by IGAD to review these laws for compliance with international and regional agreements signed by Kenya.

Presentations were made by experts from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (EAASMLG) and Uganda.

The participants reviewed the report and recommended amendments. ICPAT will organize for a follow up meeting to look at the amended document.

In attendance were representatives from UNODC, ICPAT, ESAAMLG, the Kenya Bankers' Institute, Transparency International, Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission and Government officials from Central Bank, the State Law Office, Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Donor Conflict Group Meeting

RECSA participated in a meeting called by the Donor Conflict Group in Nairobi on 15 July 2009 convened to discuss small arms and related issues.

Discussions revolved around presentations by the Kenya National Focal Point (KNFP) Coordinator, a UNDP Consultant, and two faith based organizations i.e. *Centre for Conflict Resolution* and *Christian Reformed World Relief Committee*. The KNFP/C provided an overview on the status of implementation of SALW activities in Kenya. The UNDP Consultant and the two faith based organizations made presentations on research that they had carried out on the Post Election Violence in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya. RECSA gave inputs to the meeting on its coordination of SALW programmes in its Member States.

The Donor Conflict Group comprises representatives from embassies and high commissions of European Governments based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Country Briefs

Burundi

- On 21st July 2009, the National Assembly adopted a draft revised small arms law. This will now be examined by Senate on August 4th 2009.
- In June the NFP undertook a fact-finding mission in the provinces of Bubanza, Rutana, Makamba, Cibitoke, Bururi and Kayanza where a total of 623 arms and 9344 ammunitions were collected. Civilians who voluntarily gave up their illegally held arms received building materials, bikes, cell phones and television sets. This was followed by a sensitization campaign.
- In July, the NFP on SALW in collaboration with MAG picked arms which had been already collected in the provinces of Bubanza, Rutana, Gitega and Makamba. A total of 392 arms and 9072 ammunitions were picked and destroyed at Mudubugu National site of destruction in Bubanza province.
- On 22nd and 23rd July, the NFP collected arms in the provinces of Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga, Muramvya and Mwaro and gave volunteers equipment with which to start businesses. A total of 615 arms and 1672 ammunitions have been collected.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- On 19th July 2009, the NFP was involved in a hand over ceremony of the arms collected by the national NGO PAREC (Peace and Reconciliation) to the Congolese Government through the Ministry of Internal Security
- The 22nd July 2009, 9,000 small arms and 30 tons of ammunitions were destroyed in Lubumbashi, in the Katanga Province
- In July a sensitization workshop was held on the voluntary disarmament strategy in the North Kivu Province

Kenya

Army Receives Marking Machine

The Kenya Army has received an electronic machine to be used to mark its small arms. The machine was purchased with funds provided by RECSA through the financial support of the US Government.

Officers from the Kenya Army have attended several trainings on arms marking organised by RECSA in Kenya and South Africa and will commence the marking exercise in due course.

The machine was handed over to Department of Defence officers, Col. Muvengi and Brig. Bukhala, by the Kenya National Focal Point Coordinator, Mr David Kimaiyo during a brief ceremony at the NFP.

The Kenya Police has so far marked over 12,000 weapons with a similar machine also donated by RECSA.

Uganda

Development of Implementation Plan for National Action Plan

The army has been instrumental in the implementation of the NAP by undertaking small arms related activities especially in the area of disarmament and stockpile management such as undertaking destructions in collaboration with the Uganda NFP and other partners such as UNDP.

A work plan has been developed with the Uganda Police Force. Similar workshops will be held with other institutions that make up the NFP to develop specific implementation strategies for them.

The various work plans are developed bearing in mind defined technical roles and functions of each institution at the NFP. The exercise aims at mainstreaming the NAP into the work of these agencies.

The development of the implementation strategies demonstrates commitment to addressing SALW related issues in accordance with the RECSA Best Practice Guidelines for the Implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

This process in Uganda is being supported by various partners: Netherlands Government, UNDP, RECSA and Safer World.