



*Co-operating to Disarm*

## March 2010 Activity Report

### **Kenya Receives Software to Control Small Arms Brokering and Brokers**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) formally handed over to the Kenya Government a standardized electronic register for small arms brokers.

The software was developed by UNREC within the framework of its project titled "Regulating Small Arms Brokering in Eastern Africa" and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed with RECSA in July 2009. The software will manage information on arms brokers and keep records of brokering licenses 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 project is being implemented in Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Its purpose is to reinforce the capacity of Eastern African States to regulate brokers and brokering activities within their territories.

Kenya is the first beneficiary to receive the brokering software, which was installed on a new computer purchased under the project at the Central Firearms Bureau on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Through close and active collaboration with the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and with support from a consultant, a number of arms brokers operating in Kenya have been identified and will be registered and their activities monitored using this software. This is an important practical tool to assist Eastern African States to control the illicit small arms and light weapons proliferation and transfers within territories.

### **Induction for Republic of Congo**

RECSA visited the Republic of Congo (ROC), the 13<sup>th</sup> and latest Member State to create awareness on the Nairobi Protocol among Government Ministries and Departments. The visit, which served as an orientation exercise by RECSA for the new Member State, discussed the structure for the soon to be formed National Focal Point on Small Arms Control and Management (NFP). During the visit, RECSA officially handed over an electronic machine for marking arms purchased for the Government. Training in arms marking will follow in April.

In order to guide ROC in the establishment of the NFP, RECSA sponsored a visit by Government officials to Burundi to learn from the country's experience in running a Commission to handle matters of small arms and light weapons.

### **Visit to Zambia**

During the month RECSA partnered with ICGLR to visit Zambia to sensitise senior Government officials on the work of the organisation and the Nairobi Protocol, and to conduct arms marking training on the operation and use of Couth 2000 marking machine. The arms marking training was conducted for officers from the Police, Army, Wildlife and Air force. Zambia is one of the countries RECSA is working in under the ICGLR-RECSA collaboration.

### **Implementation of Rwanda National Action Plan**

RECSA provided support to the Rwanda NFP to undertake awareness creation in six districts about the disarmament exercise being undertaken by the Government. The sensitisation is aimed at mobilising community support for the voluntary surrender exercise being carried out in the country. The exercise is part of the implementation of the country's National Action Plan on small arms and received media attention.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nairobi Declaration Day**

RECSA joined efforts with the Djibouti National Focal Point to create awareness on small arms during the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Nairobi Declaration. Financial support was also provided to the Kenya NFP to sensitise the public about the day and the problem of small arms through the publishing of a newspaper supplement and production of information materials. Both events in Djibouti and Kenya culminated in the destruction of 50 and 2545 recovered and/or obsolete arms respectively. (See separate story on Djibouti below).

### **RECSA Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

The RECSA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in Djibouti on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Kempinski Palace hotel. The meeting considered and approved the draft Gender Policy completed in December 2009. The Policy will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers in their next sitting.

In addition, three TAC sub-committees were formed to consider matters of finance and audit, human resource, and planning and operations. The creation of the committees is aimed at enhancing efficiency in the operations of the Secretariat. The meeting also received a report from the Executive Secretary, Dr. Francis K. Sang, on status of implementation of the Nairobi Protocol since the 5<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers' meeting held in April 2009.

On 15<sup>th</sup> March, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, TAC members joined RECSA and Djibouti Government officials, civil society and the media in a street march to create awareness on small arms. The celebrations culminated in a public arms destruction ceremony graced by Hon. Yacin Elmi BOUH, the Chairman of the RECSA Council of Ministers. Hon. BOUH is also the Djibouti Minister for Interior.

## **Arms Marking**

RECSA is currently undertaking visits to the member states to monitor progress in arms marking. A visit to Ethiopia in March revealed that 4,824 firearms had been marked at the Federal Police Armoury in Addis Ababa.

Similar visits to Uganda, Tanzania and Seychelles recorded thousands of weapons marked to date. In Seychelles, army has marked over 1,000 weapons while the police have marked over 300. The Uganda army has marked over 19,500 weapons (4,500 of these were for army officers destined for peacekeeping work in Somalia) while the Police has marked 4,598.

## **Country Briefs**

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### **Seychelles**

Seychelles National Focal Point produced and aired over our National and only Television Station a 10 minutes feature on fire arms and weapons control procedures inline with the Nairobi Protocol to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nairobi Declaration. Such was aired on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 after our main news bulletin as we could not get the peak hour slot on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>. In that particular feature, Seychelles NFP Coordinator, Police Commissioner Ernest Quatre, the main interviewee addressed issues like close collaboration which exist between local stakeholders, exchange of information with RECSA Secretariat, member states and other international body, fire Arms marking, escorts for high foreign officials coming to Seychelles and also piracy. The programme came out well.

### **Uganda**

The country undertook stocktaking and verification of Uganda Police Firearms in the Kampala Metropolitan/Southern Region and the Central Region Police Units as part of efforts to enhance stockpile management in the country. From 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March, the NFP hosted legislators from the East African Legislative Assembly on a fact-finding mission on the status of implementation SALW projects in Uganda funded by the East African Community.

## **Burundi**

From 9 to 12 March, the Burundi NFP hosted the Security and Conflicts Prevention Commission of the East Africa Legislative Assembly. The Commission's visit was to follow up on progress in the country in disarming of civilians and to monitor progress in projects funded by the East African Community.

The NFP also hosted a visit by UN-BCPR based in New York to take stock of achievements of the disarmament process in Burundi and the measures undertaken to eradicate proliferation and circulation of illicit arms.

## **Sudan**

The Sudan NFP has now been converted into a Permanent Committee on small arms and light weapons through a ministerial decree by the Minister of Interior. Its membership includes the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, security and intelligence agents and the DDR Commission.

A survey has been conducted in 15 northern states on the proliferation of small arms in the Northern part of the country. This was done in collaboration with the DDR Commission in the North.

Sudan has automated its small arms management system. The NFP continues to update the database with small arms information and is currently focusing on licensed arms owned by civilians.

A decree was issued by the Deputy Director of Sudan Police to compose a committee to look into the issue of arms marking of civilian and state-owned firearms. The committee is in the process of making a comprehensive plan under which the marking will commence.

## **Tanzania**

The country is in the process of reviewing its National Action Plan on small arms. The plan, which was developed more than five years ago, was partially implemented. The review process is aimed at updating the Plan. A draft for consideration has been developed.

**ENDS**

# Regional Centre on Small Arms