



Co-operating to Disarm

October Activity Report

BPG validation workshop

RECSA hosted a regional meeting to discuss draft guidelines on practical disarmament developed for the region. The guidelines focus on the categories of armed civilians that are not targeted for disarmament under conventional DDR approaches, such as organised criminal gangs/groups; militias; pastoralists; among others. DDR is geared towards situations where conflict is just ending and this does not apply to all countries in the RECA Region. This is the background against which the guidelines were developed. The meeting adopted the guidelines. RECSA is embarking on raising awareness on the best practices in the Member States.

Software piloting Uganda

RECSA commenced piloting of the small arms data management software in Uganda. The exercise brought together officers in charge of record keeping and those previously trained in arms marking. Changes were made to the software to reflect the situation in Uganda. Data entry has now commenced. The MCT System, the software being used, has been installed on a laptop supplied by RECSA.

Mobilisation meeting CAR

RECSA provided support to the Government of the Central African Republic to establish a National Focal Point on small arms and light weapons and to train the Focal Point on the day to day operations of an NFP. Government officials were informed about the Nairobi Protocol on small arms and related instruments that form the basis of small arms work in the RECSA region. During the visit, RECSA handed over an arms marking machine. Training on the use of the machine will follow in November to enable the country to commence the marking of arms held by the Police and Military in compliance with the provisions of the Nairobi Protocol.

*** Although CAR is not a RECSA Member, a RECSA-ICGLR Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 mandated the former to implement small arms projects in additional countries.**

RECSA Cooperating with Police Chiefs Organisations

- **SARPCCO**

RECSA participated in a meeting organised by the Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Corporation in Cape Town, South Africa. The Secretariat got an opportunity to make a presentation on the progress of implementation of the three year EU-funded inter-regional project being coordinated by RECSA. A meeting for the SADC region is planned to take place before the end of the year to give an opportunity to the Southern Africa region to identify its priorities under the project.

- **EAPCCO**

RECSA was invited to the 12th Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Corporation Annual General Meeting held in Khartoum. During the meeting, RECSA shared its experiences in providing support to law enforcement in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States. RECSA will continue to cooperate with INTERPOL and Police Chiefs organisations in addressing the problem of small arms and light weapons.

LOME VISIT

RECSA held a meeting with the United Nations Centre for Peace and Disarmament Affairs in Africa (UNREC) to discuss implementation of an MOU signed in 2009. The two organisations reaffirmed their commitment to work together, to cement their existing working relationship and to look for new areas of partnership. The meeting took place within the context of the Memorandum of Understanding. Potential areas for cooperation and possible joint activities were identified and will be implemented on a priority basis.

REDCOM meeting

RECSA provided support to ICGLR in convening a meeting for Ministers responsible for Disarmament affairs from Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia. The meeting was held within the framework of implementation of the ICGLR Project on Disarmament of Armed Nomadic Pastoralists and Promotion of Sustainable Development in Zone 3. Among other things, the Ministers adopted RECSA's Best Practice Guidelines on Practical Disarmament.

*** Zone 3 is the border area between the four countries represented at the meeting.**

Country Briefs

- **Ethiopia**

The country has so far marked 4,500 firearms. Marking of arms at the Police University College has commenced.

- **Uganda**

Marking of Uganda Police Firearms continued in the Mid-Eastern Region of the Country with financial support from the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS). The NFP was represented at the ICGLR Conference on Disarmament convened in Nairobi, Kenya.

With funding from EAC/GTZ, the NFP conducted a second Capacity Building Workshop for Senior Officers from Uganda Peoples Defence Forces, the Uganda Police, the Uganda Prisons Service and the Uganda Wildlife Authority on the Supervision and Management of SALW.

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