



*Co-operating to Disarm*

## September Activity Report

### **AU-EU small arms project regional meet**

RECSA, in collaboration with ECOWAS, hosted a regional seminar for the West African sub-region under the Africa Union-EU small arms project. The meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September in Accra, Ghana brought together representatives from the African Union, the UN, ECOWAS Parliament, Security Services, Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and the West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA). Participants reviewed the activities under the project and prioritized areas of intervention for security services, parliamentarians and civil society in the ECOWAS region. This was the second regional seminar to be held under the AU-EU small arms project that is to run for three years. Similar seminars are to be held in the Southern and Central regions to enable these regions to prioritise interventions in the area of small arms to be funded under the project.

### **Study trip to Sierra Leone**

RECSA led a group of nine to Sierra Leone to learn from the country's experience in the implementation of post-conflict Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR). The trip was undertaken in the context of a regional project on disarmament being coordinated by RECSA in its member states. While in Sierra Leone the team met a number of former officials of the now wound up National Commission on DDR. Discussions highlighted the successes and challenges faced during implementation of the programme. Lessons learned from the visit are being used to inform the development of best practice guidelines on practical disarmament for the RECSA region under the Japan funded project. A similar mission was undertaken in Liberia in July 2010.

### **Arms destruction Ethiopia**

RECSA provided support for the destruction of 3,220 firearms, 358,411 ammunition, 7,639 UXOs, 200kg of explosives and 1 MANPAD. The support was provided under a Japan-Government funded project on disarmament. The aim of arms destruction in the Member States is to reduce the number of illegal firearms in circulation. This contributes to reduction in overall levels of crime and violence perpetrated with the

use of arms. Destruction further averts risks associated with storing recovered arms for extended periods of time such as 'leaks' from storage facilities.

### **Juba training**

The control of small arms in Southern Sudan is coordinated by the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (CSSAC). RECSA is stepping up collaboration with the Bureau in this endeavour. In a bid to strengthen CSSAC's capacity to effectively implement small arms projects, RECSA provided training to the Bureau staff. The exercise covered issues of gender, financial management, and procurement. The training further sensitised the officials on the provisions of the Nairobi protocol and legal harmonisation currently underway in a number of RECSA Member States. Also in attendance were representatives from civil society and UNDP, and a disarmament specialist from the UN Mission in Sudan.

### **Zambia development of guidelines for marking**

The Secretariat has donated one electronic machine to the Government of Zambia to mark its firearms in a bid to enhance control of SALW. Training on the use of the machine has been undertaken. Zambia has approached RECSA to provide assistance in the development of arms marking guidelines to guide the arms marking process.

### **Country Briefs:**

- **Seychelles**

The Seychelles Police Department under Commissioner Ernest Quatre, the National Focal Point Coordinator on Small Arms Control and Management, marked the 2010 International Peace Day with two series of events. The first was a one day sports tournament with the theme "Sports for Peace" which took place on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September at the Freedom Square field in Victoria.

In his speech, the NFP Coordinator reiterated the importance of peace and the need to safeguard and maintain it. He also highlighted the suffering and grief caused by the use of small arms and light weapons in the region and called on all partners in society to unite in the fight against their proliferation. Participants in the Sports for Peace Day included the Police, Seychelles People Defence Forces, clubs at district level, an Airlines team, the Red Cross, Seychelles Sports Federation, among others. On the agenda were events such as football, volleyball, netball, dominos and other recreational activities.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 60 students aged 15-16 years from different secondary schools in Seychelles were given a tour of the Police Headquarters. They were lectured on programmes offered to Police officers and other partners.

The students also attended, in the company of Minister Joel Morgan who is responsible for Home Affairs (Police), the swearing in of 27 officers. They then

witnessed silent drill demonstrations by officers under the Police Young Leaders Programme.

In his remarks to the students, Com. Quatre stressed the role of Police officers as guardians of Peace. He further highlighted the department's commitment to capacity building of the Force to ensure that peace always prevails in the community, society and the region.

All events to mark the International Day of Peace were publicized and covered by local media.

- **Uganda**

The Legal Drafting Committee to Review the firearms legislation met on 15<sup>th</sup> of September to draft Chapter 1 of the draft legislation.

On 23<sup>rd</sup>, an assessment was undertaken of recovered, redundant small arms and light weapons under the UPDF in the Northern and North Eastern Regions. The assessment was in preparation for destruction of the SALW. Arms marking of police firearms was undertaken in the North Western, North-Northern, Central Northern and Mid-Western Regions. Under the Conflict Early Warning Programme, Uganda was represented at the Mid-Term Review Programme of PACT KENYA that was held in Garrisa, Kenya.

The International Peace Day was successfully commemorated in Uganda with the Hon. Minister for Disaster Preparedness officiating as Chief Guest at Kololo Airstrip where the highlight was the awarding of Certificates/Awards to persons nominated and recognized for having made significant contributions to peace-building in Uganda.

**ENDS**