



Co-operating to Disarm

PRESS RELEASE

RECSA and EAANSA Sign MOU

Nairobi, July 9th, 2008 – The Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) yesterday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with EAANSA (Eastern Africa Action Network on Small Arms) committing themselves to work together to address issues of small arms.

The MOU was signed by Dr. Francis Sang, the RECSA Executive Secretary, and Mr Richard Mugisha, the EAANSA Executive Secretary on behalf of the two organisations.

In line with the provisions of the Nairobi Declaration, RECSA Member States recognize the role of civil society organisations as partners in the fight against the proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons in the sub-region (EAANSA is the umbrella body of national NGOs in East Africa involved in addressing small arms issues).

The MOU will further collaboration between the two organisations and has spelt out areas of cooperation to address the problems posed by small arms in the region.

In his remarks, Dr Sang reiterated the important role of civil society in the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol and Nairobi Declaration especially in advocacy. “There is need to harmonise programmes between civil society in the region and RECSA to boost efforts towards reducing the number of illegal guns in circulation,” he stated.

In his statement, Mr Mugisha said, “Comprehensive strategies involving governments and the civil society at national, regional and international levels are required in order to find a sustainable solution to control these weapons.”

The signing of the MOU is an indication that governments and civil society are willing to work together on issues of small arms.

NB: Further information on the MOU can be obtained from the Legal/Legislation Officer, RECSA, Email: bmunube@recsasec.org; Tel: 3877456/3876203 Nairobi.