



Co-operating to Disarm

RECSA/ADM/1A/36

28th March 2008

INVITATION TO MEDIA BREAKFAST AND REGIONAL ARMS MARKING WORKSHOP, MOMBASA

Nairobi, 26th March 2008 – Member States of the Regional Centre on Small Arms are signatory to the Nairobi Protocol and the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

In 2005, they committed themselves to mark all firearms in State possession and those held legally by civilians by the end of 2008. These markings are to comprise unique codes that will enable easy tracing of the country of origin and the eventual owner of each weapon. This is with a view to identifying illegal firearms circulating in the region. Records of these markings are then to be input into national databases on small arms for easy availability of information. Without this information, identifying and eventual control of illegal weapons will remain difficult.

In line with its mandate to coordinate efforts to control the proliferation of illegal firearms, RECSA has organized two workshops – the Regional Arms Marking Workshop and the Regional Database Creation and Management Workshop.

The workshops will run from 31st March to 4th April at Leopard Beach Resort in Mombasa.

The official opening will be at the same venue on Monday 31st March at 8.30 a.m. The Guest of Honour will be the Commissioner of Police, Major General Hussein Ali.

Members of the press are invited for a pre-workshop breakfast meeting slated for Sunday, March 30th at Castle Royal Hotel on Moi Avenue, Mombasa Town. The briefing will start at 9 a.m. and will serve to sensitise the media on this RECSA initiative.

This is a landmark gathering as RECSA is the first regional body on small arms and light weapons to hold such workshops in the ongoing efforts to address the menace of proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons.

The requirement of countries to mark arms in state possession and to keep effective records is in line with the Nairobi Protocol, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

The Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA), formerly the Nairobi Secretariat on Small Arms, is an intergovernmental organization charged with the responsibility of coordinating regional efforts and programmes to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

RECSA has 12 Member States from the sub-region signatory to the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa and the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa.

The countries are Burundi, Djibouti, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Secretariat is based in Nairobi.

For more information write to the Communications Officer, Regional Centre on Small Arms. Email: info@recsasec.org; Tel: 020-3877456/020-3876203 Nairobi