



African Union

**DDR**Disarmament  
Demobilization  
Reintegration

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# Silencing the Guns by 2020: The practical steps and DDR interventions



*Amb. Smail Chergui,  
Commissioner Peace and Security*

Dear readers,

It is my pleasure to share with you this seventh edition of the African Union (AU) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) newsletter.

In this editorial, I would like to recall the AU 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration in which Heads of State and Government pledged to silence the guns and end all wars by 2020, as part of efforts to promote an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa. The value of this target is in mobilizing AU member states to make progress towards achieving the end of 'all wars in Africa' making it a collective responsibility of African states to prioritize people's participation in political and economic processes, promote sound and equitable livelihoods, and reduce violence at all levels of society.

In fulfillment of this, the AU Peace and Security Council convened an open session (430th meeting) under the theme 'Silencing the guns: pre-requisites for realizing a conflict-free Africa by the year 2020' and further called for the preparation of a road map to underpin the actions necessary for the attainment of the goal of a conflict-free Africa by 2020.

This roadmap will guide the fulfilment of this mandate through focusing on initiatives and practical steps for silencing the guns by 2020. In this issue, you will find mention of continued progress of the AU DDR program, which is one output of the roadmap, its continuous engagement and support to Member States on DDR and Security Sector Reform (SSR), both of which are crucial element of stabilization and recovery interventions.

With continued AU engagement with Member States on DDR initiatives, we see progress being made in the signing and implementation of peace agreements, whilst also looking at long term reintegration and development efforts which include right sizing of the armed forces and involvement in community based programs to ensure sustainability.

I sincerely hope that our readers, will enjoy this seventh edition and find the information captured both insightful and informative.

Best Wishes,  
H.E. Amb. Smail Chergui  
Commissioner, Peace and Security,  
African Union Commission

# Featured Article

## The Seventh Steering Committee meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and DDR hosted by IGAD in Djibouti



*Dr Tarek A. Sharif (Head DSD) and Amb. Tewolde Gebremeskel the IGAD Peace and Security Director*

The AU Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and DDR, held its seventh meeting at the IGAD Secretariat, from 19 to 20 October 2016, in Djibouti. The meeting was attended by COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, ICGLR, RECSA, SADC, UNREC, the EU and the World Bank – TDRP.

This meeting which is convened regularly, was held against the background of the continued proliferation of small arms and their ammunition on the continent, which contribute to fueling armed conflict and undermines stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts.

In his opening remarks, Dr Tarek Sharif highlighted that, the meeting was an important opportunity to review the progress achieved in 2016, consider the challenges encountered, and strategize for the year ahead. Dr Sharif noted that steady progress had been made in the collective efforts to combat illicit small arms proliferation and to implement

effective DDR interventions. He further informed members that the AU PSC was taking concrete steps to fully exercise its mandate and powers to prevent illicit arms flows into conflict zones and to extend its influence to strengthening DDR, as a critical component of conflict resolution and post-conflict stabilization.

The AU presented its priority areas for phase two of the DDR program which will run from 2017-2019, building on the gains made in phase one which focused on capacity support. Phase two will now move towards providing operational support to Member States and RECs in their DDR programs.

The other members also took this opportunity to share their 2017 work-plans in order to harmonize the planning of joint activities. The meeting deliberated on the respective roles and responsibilities of the members in the implementation of the Africa Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Roadmap for the period 2016-

2020, underlining ways on how to enhance ownership and leadership, in-order to ensure sustainable results and long-term impact.

As a way forward, the members took note of the priority areas presented by the AU for the next phase of the DDR program which are: Operational Support to Member States; Institutional building and partnership; Knowledge Development and Management. On implementation of these priorities, key areas of focus for 2017 will include: Follow-up on joint assessment missions conducted on first phase (CAR, Somalia-AMISOM, South Sudan, RCI-LRA, Sudan and Comoros). Support to Member States will expand to include interventions in Mali, MNJTF (Boko Haram) and Burundi as per request.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be hosted by SADC at its headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana, during the second quarter of 2017.



*Members of the steering committee meeting*



# AU Provides Operational Support to Member States

The AU, within the AU DDR capacity program has been providing technical and capacity support to Member States. In 2016,

the Commission was able to engage with Member States such as; CAR, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar and

AMISOM. The Commission will continue to engage with them in 2017 to implement the recommendations identified.

## AU convenes DDR and SSR Sensitization Workshop in Bangui, CAR



*H.E. Professor Faustin Archange Touadera (Centre) the President of CAR and Prof. Hacem Lebatt (far Right) AU Special Representative of Chair Person of the Commission and Head of MISAC*

From 17 – 18 August 2016, the African Union Commission assisted the Government of the Central Africa Republic (CAR) to convene and conduct a sensitization and training workshop on DDR and SSR for senior government officials and other stakeholders. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize senior officials and stakeholders on DDR and SSR to support the government in building the capacities of the CAR, as they prepare to start the country's new national DDR and SSR processes.

The workshop was officially opened by the President of CAR, H.E. Professor Faustin Archange Touadera, together with the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission (SRCC) and Head of the AU Mission for CAR and Central Africa (MISAC), Professor Mohamed El Hacem Lebatt. The meeting was attended by more than 200 participants including the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Karim Mekessoua, several government Ministers and Heads of republican

institutions, senior officials, representatives of the diplomatic community including the African group, the United States of America, France and China, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the United Nations (MINUSCA), the European Union, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and other important stakeholders.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Professor Faustin Archange Touadera, highlighted the importance of completing the DDR and SSR processes to complement the implementation of the country's socio-economic, poverty reduction, human rights and good governance reform processes. H.E. Touadera stated that all these national programs including DDR and SSR could not succeed without the assistance

of the international community.

On his part, the SRCC and Head of MISAC, Professor Mohamed El Hacem Lebatt highlighted the important role played by the neighbouring countries, the regional body ECCAS, and by MINUSCA, to provide a secure environment for the implementation of national development activities. He stressed in particular, the necessity to respect the free choice of the democratic institutions established in CAR, and the full right of ownership by CAR, of the national DDR and SSR processes.

The meeting presented an opportunity for presentations on CAR DDR/SSR National Strategies, support received from partners, as well as presentations from three DDR/SSR experts from the continent (Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Rwanda), who shared their national experiences.

As a way forward, the AU will continue to work with the government of CAR, including in assisting with the development and coordination of the implementation of DDR and SSR programs.



*Panelists from Rwanda and Madagascar sharing their DDR experiences*

## AU convenes an SSR and DDR planning workshop in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau



*Opening Session: from left Dr Tarek A. Sharif (AU Head DSD), Dr Eduardo Costa (Minister of National Defense), Amb. Ovidio Pequeno (SRCC and Head of Mission in Bissau) and Brig.Gen Malla Camara (Coordinator of National Defense and Security Reform)*

At the request of the Government of Guinea Bissau, the AU and the Government of Guinea Bissau jointly convened a planning workshop on the on-going national DDR and SSR processes as a follow up to the joint SSR needs assessment mission that was undertaken by the AU and partners in March 2015.

The workshop which was opened by the Minister of National Defense and National Liberation Ex-combatants, Dr. Eduardo Costa Sanha, was conducted in Bissau over a 3-day period from 22 to 24 November 2016 and was convened with the aim of reinforcing the capacities of actors and focal points responsible for DDR and SSR in Guinea Bissau. The workshop was attended by high level government officials, senior security officers, representatives of the AU, ECOWAS, UN, EU, and civil society organizations.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of National Defense and National Liberation Ex-combatants, stated that he was attending the meeting on behalf

of the Prime Minister and pointed out that there is national consensus for the implementation of DDR and SSR in Guinea Bissau. He further encouraged members of the security sector to take advantage of the presence of the partners and experts from other Member States present such as Liberia and Madagascar, to learn as much as possible on how to implement these two processes.

Speaking at the same occasion, the AU SRCC to Guinea Bissau, Ambassador Ovidio Pequeno, highlighted the importance of strong national ownership for the successful implementation of DDR and SSR in Guinea Bissau.

On behalf of the AU Commission, the Head of the Defense and Security Division of the AU Peace and Security Department, Dr. Tarek A. Sharif, highlighted the commitment of the AU to assist the government and people of Guinea Bissau, and commended the important role played by international partners such as ECOWAS, the UN, EU and the Community of

Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

The workshop received a summary of the report on the AU-led joint assessment Mission conducted in March 2015, an update from the Government on developments in the national DDR and SSR processes, as well as an update from partners on their support to the DDR and SSR process in Guinea Bissau by ECOWAS, the UN, and the EU. The workshop also presented an opportunity for representatives from Madagascar and Liberia to share their experiences.

As a way forward, the ideas generated at the workshop will assist the Government of Guinea Bissau in mapping priority activities, as they continue to implement their SSR and DDR programs. The AU through its Liaison Office in Bissau, will support in the implementation of the recommendations identified.



*Dr Tarek A. Sharif (Head DSD) and Dr Eduardo Costa (Minister of National Defense)*



## AU procured and transferred Five Arms Marking Machines and supporting equipment to AMISOM as part of the DDR program



*Couth MC2000 dot-peen percussion marking machine in use.  
(C) Nikhil Acharya/ BICC*

As part of AMISOM's offensive activities in Somalia against Al Shabaab, undertaken since 2007, AMISOM has seized and captured weapons and ammunition which it has then handed over to the Government of Somalia. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) currently works with the Somali National Army (SNA) to ensure that government weapons stocks are physically secure and safely managed. However, a gap exists, as there are currently no structures within AMISOM to mark and register these weapons before they are handed over to the SNA.

To address this gap, the AU Commission, with technical support from the Regional Center for Small Arms (RECSA), procured five (5) mobile

arms marking machines, together with their spare parts, to be used as part of DDR direct support to AMISOM.

This support ensures easy traceability of these weapons and ammunition and will also compliment ongoing efforts to improve the internal reporting and handling of weapons seized and captured by AMISOM.

As a way forward, the Commission will also work with RECSA to provide training to focal points on the use of these arms marking machines. This training is scheduled for February 2017.

The marking of seized and captured weapons and ammunition contributes to more effective arms control. When a weapon is marked, a unique set of

numbers and symbols is imprinted onto an essential part of that weapon. These numbers and symbols provide information on the weapon's country of origin, country of last import, and on the last owner of the weapon. Crucially, marking should also be accompanied by record-keeping, so that a particular small arm can be linked to a unique record for that item. This record should include details on the weapon, its history, manufacturer and owner. A robust marking and record-keeping system provides a way for armorers to understand when weapons and ammunition stocks are missing, and for investigators to assess when and how arms and ammunition were diverted to the illicit market.

More generally, Peace Support Operations are increasingly required by the UN Security Council to engage in the disarmament of disengaged combatants and to manage arms and ammunition captured during offensive operations. While such stabilization operations are important, PSOs do not always possess the operational and technical capacities to manage, mark and register such weapons. The challenges faced by AU PSOs in this regard are also partly due to the absence of protocols and procedures to regulate and harmonize the handling of captured weapons, with the management of mission-owned weapons and capabilities. Further work to develop Standard Operating Procedures for AU PSOs, for seized and captured weapons, will begin in 2017.

## The AU supports a Security Sector Reform (SSR) Strategic Planning workshop in Antananarivo, Madagascar



*Amb. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf, Special Representative of Chairperson of the Commission and Head of Mission for the AU Liaison Office in Madagascar*

From 29 August to 10 September 2016, the AU and partners supported the Government of Madagascar in conducting an SSR strategic planning workshop in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

The workshop was convened as part of the on-going national SSR process for the implementation of the Madagascar National Policy on SSR, which was endorsed by the president

of the Republic in January 2016.

The meeting was officially opened by the president of Madagascar, H.E Mr. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, in the presence of the Prime Minister, H.E Mr Olivier Solonandrasana Mahafaly, and the Speaker of the National Assembly, H.E Mr Jean-Max Raktomamonjy, as well as the representatives of international partners.

The workshop brought together three hundred and twenty (320) participants representing state and non-state security actors from the eight SSR pillars stated in the SSR National Policy Paper: 1) the National Army; 2) the National Police; 3) the Gendarmerie; 4) the Intelligence Services; 5) the Justice System; 6) Territorial Administration, including paramilitary forces; 7) Parliament and 8) Non State Actors.

This workshop aimed at enhancing the capacities of state and non-state actors on SSR planning, in order to develop national strategic and operational plans, that are aligned to the national SSR policy.

The participants at the meeting discussed outcomes and objectives specific to their thematic area and concluded by highlighting the following salient issues; (i) The need to set up an SSR coordination structure such as a High Council of Defense; (ii) The need for further trainings to reinforce capacity; (iii) Further emphasis on gender mainstreaming and (iv) The need to embark on resource mobilization efforts to fund strategic and operational plans.

## AU DDR News Corner

### Technical co-ordination meeting held between the AU and World Bank- TDRP

As part of the continued collaboration between the AU and the World Bank-TDRP in the implementation of the AU DDR Program, a technical team comprising of representatives from both organisations met between 5 - 9 December 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The teams discussed priority areas in phase two of the DDR program, developed a

work plan based on the grant received from the Nordic Trust Fund and finalized the draft AU DDR program document including implementation matrix, and three year budget. This meeting was held as a follow-up to the previous AU and WB meetings in February and March 2016 that clearly outlined the strategic directions of both institutions in the sec-

ond phase of the AU DDR program.

As a way forward, the team will work on ensuring harmonization and cross referencing of strategies with other strategic documents such as the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), PCRDP policy, Africa Standby Capacity Guide and African Governance Architecture (AGA).



# AU Convenes an SSR Consultative Planning Workshop for RECs/ RMs



Participants at the planning workshop

the majority of RECs and RMs are still in the early stages of the development of their SSR structures, but SSR has not yet taken root in the NARC region because of the many conflicts that took place in North Africa in the past few years.

From 14 to 15 December 2016, the AU conducted a Security Sector Reform (SSR) Consultative and Planning Workshop for Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/ RMs) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was convened in light of the increased engagement of international actors in supporting nationally-led SSR processes.

The main objective of the workshop was for the AU, the RECs, RMs and partners to share experiences in SSR, reflect on the challenges of SSR implementation, improve coordination in the provision of SSR support to Member States, and to highlight the SSR priorities for 2017 and 2018. The workshop brought together twenty five (25) people including AU staff, representatives from RECs/ RMs headquarters, RECs/ RMs Liaison Officers at the AU, the United Nations, the European Union, the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), the

International Organization for the Francophone, (OIF), the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), the Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) and the Africa Centre for Security Studies (ACSS).

The workshop received presentations from the RECs and RMs (NARC, IGAD, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC, and COMESA). ECOWAS has already developed the ECOWAS

Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance and it was adopted in June 2016. It was noted that

On the way forward, participants proposed that similar workshops be conducted at least twice every year to improve collaboration and coordination of AU, RECs, and partner support to the SSR initiatives of Member States.



Participants at Group Photo



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