



Consultative Dialogue: What is Next for DRC and the Great Lakes Region in the implementation of the PSC Framework?

Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa

Monday 27 January 2014

Following the February 2013 signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region in Addis Ababa, Mrs. Mary Robinson was appointed the United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region in March. The PSC Framework outlines actions for the DRC government, governments in the region and the international community in order to bring an end to the recurring cycles of violence in the DRC. Eleven states are party to the agreement and the UN, African Union Commission (AUC), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) signed on as guarantors.

The Special Envoy's mandate includes linking peace and security in the DRC with development and human rights. It also focuses on the empowerment of women and regional economic integration. Her vision, outlined in 'A Framework for Hope' document and the "Six Point Plan" makes clear her ambition to "expand her activities beyond inter-governmental discussions by focusing also on civil society". By this, she seeks to encourage civil society to actively participate in the implementation of the PSC Framework. A key aspect of this participation revolves around civil society initiatives that will hold their governments accountable for the commitments they have made.

During the African Union Summit in May, 2013, OXFAM International – AU Liaison Office (OI AU) facilitated a meeting between the Special Envoy and civil society organizations at which meeting Mrs. Robinson expressed the wish that there be open lines and dialogue between her office and CSOs, particularly those working in the DRC, in order to share information about progress on the implementation of the Framework.

With this in mind, the UN Special Envoy's Office in close collaboration with OI AU will again during the 22nd African Union Summit in January 2014, hold a consultative dialogue with non-state actors. The dialogue is aimed at exchanging ideas on progress of the Framework thus far. This particular consultation will look for ideas on ways by which civil society can monitor implementation of commitments and hold governments accountable; basically focusing on how to encourage and support greater civil society engagement in monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Framework and mechanisms available to assist in holding governments accountable for failing to live up to the commitments they have made.

The Office of the UN Special Envoy, H.E. Mary Robinson and Oxfam International Liaison Office to the African Union invites interested Media and Non-State Actors (NGOs, Think Tanks and other CSOs) working on peace and conflict resolution issues in DRC and the GLR to participate in the 'Consultative Dialogue : *Engaging Non-State Actors on What is Next for DRC and the Great Lakes Region in the implementation of the PSC Framework,*' on Monday 27th January 2014, 2:30 – 4:30 pm in Addis Ababa. Please let us know by email to Brenda.mofya@oxfaminternational.org or Tel: +251 930079062 to confirm your attendance.