

EXCHANGE MEETING ON STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CNAP AND BUANSA ON AUGUST 22ND, 2014



Following the Burundian Action Network on Small Arms request, a meeting was held on August 22nd, 2014 in the premises of Police Officers' circle located in Ngagara in Bujumbura mayor council entitled a half-day meeting of exchange on strengthening collaboration and communication between the Permanent National commission on SALW (CNAP) and the Burundi Action Network on Small Arms (BUANSA).

Different personalities were present to the meeting namely: The National Focal Point, two deputy chairmen of the commission, 3 permanent secretaries, the BUANSA National Coordinator and Representatives of different CSO working actively in fighting armed violence in Burundi.

At the agenda was “strengthening collaboration and communication between CNAP and BUANSA”.

The opening word was delivered by the National Focal point CPP Maurice MBONIMPA whereby he first expressed his thanks to the participants for having responded to the invitation. He then reminded that after the different campaigns

organized to disarm the civil population, firearms still circulate within the population. He invited the participants to give out their contribution through sharing the various experiences lived by CSO in order to come up with a consent on how the disarmament process could be a real success.

In his intervention, the Burundian Action Network on Small Arms National Coordinator, Jean Claude SINZINKAYO, stated that the disarmament process started in 2006 by SCO. He continued showing that there are still many armed violence cases that are being noticed throughout the country for armed robbery and many killings using firearms are being reported hence the collaboration of the National Commission and CSO is paramount.

Before inviting the participants to speak, the NFP presented the actual facts concerning SALW. As far as the legal framework is concerned, Burundi has already set up SALW legislations. The government has already signed various conventions and treaties related to firearms.



Burundi has been the first to sign and implement those legislations and hence became the beneficiary of an Excellence Centre which is going to be built very soon.

The first intervening participant reminded that Burundi CSO collected firearms during the first campaign but the people who surrendered them never received any grant. He also stated that due to insecurity that has become an increasing problematic in DRC especially in southern Kivu where armed groups are found,

there is still circulation of arms. He suggested that anybody who surrendered his armed receives an encouraging item and that the border be tightened.

The second intervention appreciated the initiative of the CNAP sitting together with CSO because it has been clear that all the instances that succeeded to the National Commission in charge of SALW Leadership never wanted to collaborate with Civil Society organizations.

He proceeded saying that in 2006 CSOs Collected a lot of firearms without giving anything in counterpart.

However in 2009 CNAP granted some material items as encouragement to those who surrendered them unfortunately those who surrendered them since 2006 received nothing of that kind.

He also deplored that in the past despite their contribution, the role of CSOs has never been taken seriously. He concluded pleading that those who surrendered their arms since 2006 be regularized.

The third person to intervene proposed that a group for the disarmament of the civil population be targeted and urged that the government makes a particular effort.

The following person saluted the initiative of sitting together with the CSOs and proposed that there be:

- A short-term action plan
- A permanent dialogue framework
- A denunciation program
- A program of disarming spirits.

The following intervention thanked the National Commission and proposed to associate the CSOs in all the disarmament programs, collaborate with the true partners and multiply such meetings.

Replying to the first series of questions the National Focal Point thanked all the intervening participants. He stated that everyone is responsible of security for it is impossible to provide a policeman for each household.

Concerning all the issues that had come up during the different interventions, he said the National Commission on SALW is conscious of the important role of the CSOs hence he invited everyone to bring in his contribution.

He formulated a wish that before the end of this year another meeting of that kind be held to discuss an action plan, which will allow every actor to fully play his

role. In that perspective he wished that partnership with the CSOs could be strengthened.

Concerning the issue of the people who surrendered their arms between 2006 and 2009, he noted that it is important to analyze the facts in their proper time and promised to plan a sufficient time for another occasion in order to discuss about that issue once for all.

During the second series of questions, the intervening participants talked much about the role of women's integration in the disarmament process. Some organizations are investing in training the women in the knowledge and appropriation of their role in fighting armed violence and in Security Sector Reform. It was also suggested that the government foresees a budget to help the CSOs in their programs of reducing armed violence and insure a permanent communication with the SCOs and work in synergy with them to come up with an effective disarmament.

For that second series of questions, the National Focal Point reacted asserting that the women have an important role in the disarmament process.

He also noticed that foreseeing a budget is an excellent thing but we must be realistic and understand financial difficulties the government is facing.

As for the relationship between CNAP and CSOs, in case of a misunderstanding the best solution is to come together and settle it together.



The BUANSA National Coordinator, Jean Claude SINZINKAYO, reiterated his thanks to the National Focal point for having accepted to come with a considerable team of his collaborators and suggested that it is important for our nation that the two legal instruments namely the KINSHASA convention and the Arms Trade Treaty be ratified very soon to enable Burundi to be at the same line with the other states which have already ratified them. He also noted that the organizations which were represented at the meeting should learn, from its outcomes, that their contributions are also needed and that the present meeting opened new horizons.

The National Focal Point concluded the session with a vibrant hope declaring that the national Commission's doors are widely open for everyone.

The meeting which has started at 9h 36' ended at 12h 48' with the satisfaction of all the parties.

We should note that BUANSA is a national network gathering all Burundian civil society organizations intervening in the domain of small arms and the fight against armed violence, created in 2007.