

## SHARING EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP ON MI-RPD ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND SETTING UP THE 2012 ACTIVITY PLAN (28 /12/2011)

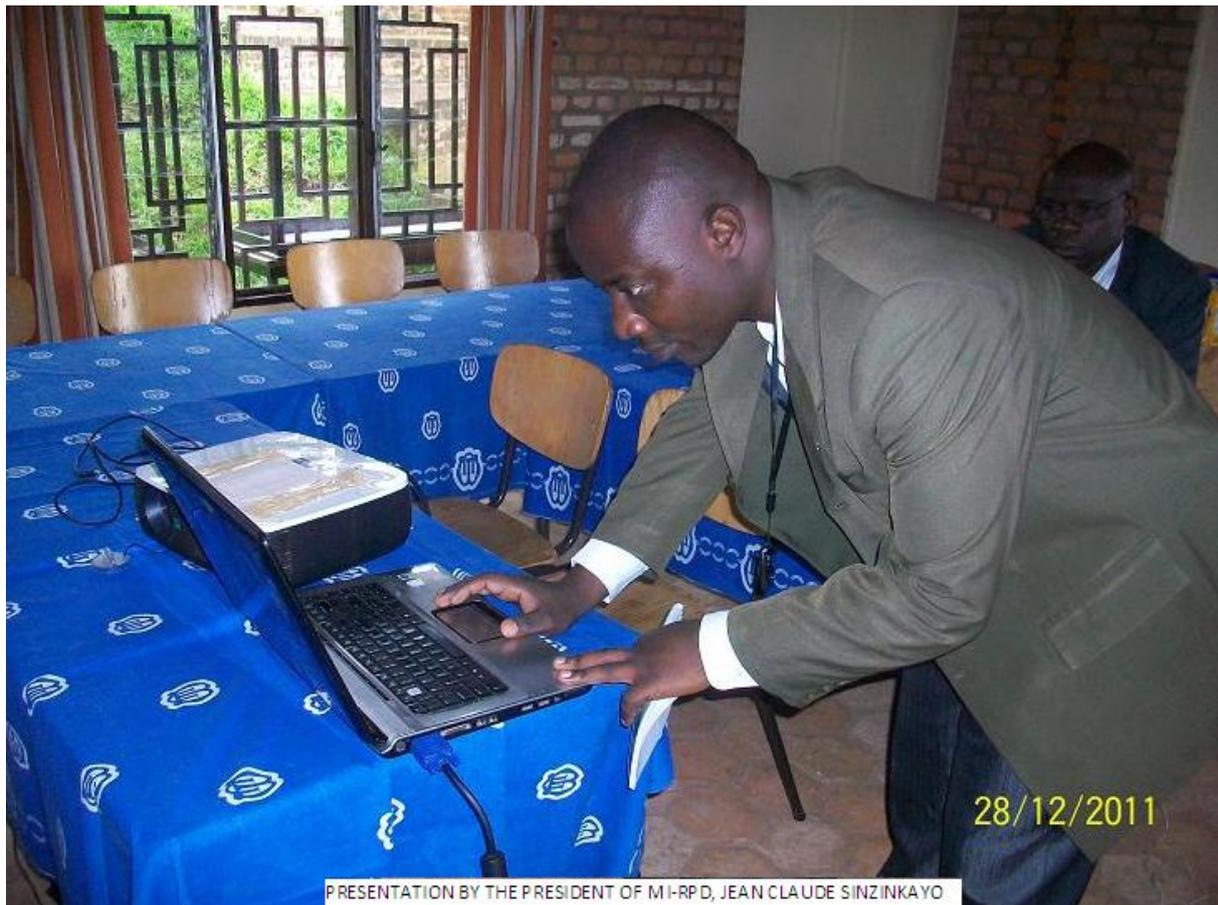
The workshop took place in the CDF premises (GITEGA) with the aim of strengthening the members' spirit of volunteering and improving the ways of doing things. The vision of the workshop was to enable every member to recognize his contribution in the last five years activities which was a self assessment aiming at encouraging them to become more ambassadors of peace.

At the agenda were the following points:

- Opening speeches
- MI-RPD 5 years experience: Vision, Mission and Objectives
- Relationship between MI-RPD and other organizations
- Outcomes of the Kampala CSOs regional levels meeting
- Projection of the documentary film on MI-RPD achievements during the last five years
- Briefing on the Burundi NAP
- Adoption of the 2012 activity plan
- Closing speech



The opening speeches presented successively by the MI-RPD representative, SINZINKAYO Jean Claude, and NINGABIRA Aloys, a MI-RPD honorary member turned around the same message: appreciating the good deeds and avoiding the evil in order to be able to live peacefully with all the people, whether individually or in groups. It is then important to open one's heart and understand one another and above all be aware that being a member of an organization requires a sacrifice and thus keep supporting it in a significant manner in peace building. The hardships the organization went through in its early days should rather strengthen the organization's structures and help it to grow in the pursuit and execution of its goals.



In the first talk, the MI-RPD representative briefly presented the organization's vision, mission and objectives. The organization has to see to it that the government of Burundi honors its commitment as far as the domain of small arms is concerned in the respect of all conventions and treaties that it has signed as well as the NAP that it has adopted. MI-RPD is then ready to intervene every time that there will be a breach of duty on the government's part as it has always done. The members were reminded that each one should work for the organization according to his possibilities not try to do what is beyond their possibilities or take too many duties they are not able to handle. In the same way they shouldn't expect to develop their organization unless they work hard because that is the only way to get the organization develop.



As for the Relationship between MI-RPD, the government and other organizations, MI-RPD is in good terms with the administration in all the provinces where it has worked, other organizations as well as the government. However, MI-RPD has stopped collaborating with organizations with different objectives.

The participants got the opportunity to get informed on the outcomes of the Kampala CSOs regional levels meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 aiming at deliberating on the outcomes of national levels consultations in order to generate regional position for EAANSA presented by Mrs. Jeannette BUDURI who had attended the meeting on behalf of the organization. All the delegates from the five countries members of the East African Community agreed on the implementation of the strategic plan of each country in order to banish violence caused by illicit arms in the region. It is then in that scope the MI-RPD is going to operate. They were also informed on other workshops namely those of Cape Town in south Africa, DRC, KENYA, TANZANIA, RWANDA, Kampala.....)

The projection of the documentary film on MI-RPD achievements during the last five years brought the participants to appreciate the organization's actions and enabled each one to rejoice of his/her contribution in peace building through armed violence reduction.

A word was said about the NAP of the government of Burundi. As all the organizations working in the small arms domain, MI-RPD will have to comply with the NAP and plan nothing that does not appear in its dispositions. Activities that are to be carried out by Civil

Society organizations are those related to awareness creation. It was made clear that Civil Society organization members have no longer the prerogatives of touching any arms.



Some questions have been raised. Amongst them were to know if it is still possible to reintegrate the MI-RPD for those who left the organization. Other questions were relative to the inner organization of MI-RPD, the structures, actions and the finances.

Answers that were given can be summarized into the following:

- a. Every member who wants to recover his membership will be welcomed. He will only address his request by a written note.
- b. The MI-RPD wish is that all the members find jobs and occupation. Unfortunately, after getting the job, most members become ungrateful towards the organization and end up in quitting the organization. A clear policy will be set up to find remedy to that problem.
- c. The government of Burundi has already accepted verbally the second phase of disarmament of the civil population which constitutes a success on the MI-RPD side which had always challenged the Burundi National Focal Point saying that 85% of illicit arms have been removed from the population after the October 2009 national campaign without any official report or preliminary studies on the number of arms

that were in circulation before the campaign. Nevertheless we are waiting for it to be decreed for the general great satisfaction.

- d. The Burundi Civil Society is putting forward its proposals to contribute in peace and security in Somalia. That will be one opportunity for MI-RPD organization to operate outside the frontiers.

The workshop proceeded to an important work was done in groups whereby participants first analyzed achievements and failures of the organization during the last five years and then the assets and obstacles and future actions.

Discussions lead to the following results:

- Achievements
  - ✓ An important number of firearms were surrendered by the population due to awareness creation
  - ✓ The population was reconciled
  - ✓ Awareness creation was carried out towards the population on the dangers of detaining arms and many surrendered them
  - ✓ Organizations and individuals both national and international learned about the MI-RPD vision and supported it.
  - ✓ Assistance to survivors of armed violence
  - ✓ Ex combatants have been well trained and organized into self help groups
  - ✓ The MI-RPD initiative of awarding prizes to those who have been the first to act exemplary in surrendering their arms has been appreciated and supported by the government of Burundi
  - ✓ Conniving with other CSOs, MI-RPD the organization pleaded for the government's funding of the civil disarmament
  - ✓ The civil population has been encouraged to willingly surrender their arms n awarding
  - ✓ The population has been encouraged in development actions such as agriculture and livestock through distribution of goats and the multiplication of seeds
  - ✓ Plea towards prisoners
- Strengths :
  - ✓ Members' voluntary service
  - ✓ Collaboration between MI-RPD, the administration and partners
  - ✓ An important number of members received a technical training on the management of organizations and non violent communication
  - ✓ Strong leadership willing to solve conflicts
  - ✓ Transparency in the organization's management
- Weaknesses:
  - ✓ Problem of funds deficiency in execution of different activities
  - ✓ Lack of necessary funds to carry out certain programs
  - ✓ Most of the members did not understand well how to go about with Income Generating Activities which prevented the organization to develop financially
  - ✓ Inactive members

- Obstacles:
  - ✓ Lack of organization's own financial means
  - ✓ Lack of the common vision on the national level concerning the disarmament process
  - ✓ Language barrier
  - ✓ Difficult conditions of certain backers
  - ✓ Repetitive sociopolitical conflicts especially during the 2010 electoral period
  - ✓ Constant change of the structures of the national commission
  
- Future actions:
  - ✓ Strengthen income generating activities to promote the organization's self-sufficiency
  - ✓ Conference with state and non state leaders on the outbreak of armed violence
  - ✓ Setting up THE HEROES (INTWARI) school club
  - ✓ Spreading the content of the law on small arms
  - ✓ Sharing experience workshop with Rwandan SCOs operating in Small Arms
  - ✓ Plea for the second phase of voluntary disarmament
  - ✓ Women's conference on the role of a common Burundian woman in fighting armed violence
  - ✓ Creation of a broadcasting radio station
  - ✓ Creation of a research center on small arms
  - ✓ National survey on the impact of the Burundian media, the civil society and religious confessions in fighting small arms proliferation and reduction of armed violence



After commentaries and questions on different reports from different groups, participants proceeded to elaboration and adoption of the 2012 activity plan.

The chairman thanked greatly participants and asked them to work hard in the implementation of the activity.

Presented by

Approved by

Joseph BUKUBIYE

Jean Claude SINZINKAYO

The reporter

Coordinator

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