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**AU Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Program**

**Start-up Consultation with Experts from the AU Regional Economic Communities (RECs)  
and the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs)**

**Addis Ababa, 21 – 22 February 2012**

**CONCLUSIONS**



## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The African Union Peace and Security Department (PSD) held a start-up consultation with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs) in Addis Ababa on February 21 and 22, 2012 to discuss the AU Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Program (AU-DDRCP).
2. The meeting had three objectives: (i) to introduce the AU-DDRCP initiative to RECs and to RMs, second, (ii) to seek advice, input and commentary from experts within the AU RECs and RMs on the design of the AU-DDRCP, and (iii) to inform the design of the AU-DDRCP and base it on lessons and experiences with all aspects of DDR ranging from negotiations, civil-military arrangements to demobilization and early and long-term targeted and community-based reintegration.
3. The meeting was attended by AU staff from various Divisions of the Peace and Security Department and representatives from the following RECs and RMs: Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), East Africa Standby Force Coordination Mechanism (EASFCOM), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Regional Centre for Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Northern African Regional Capacity (NARC), and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).
4. The meeting was also attended by the following participants: a civil society representative, the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNREC), and the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP) of the World Bank. A representative from the European Union (EU) also attended as observer.
5. During the opening sessions, statements were made by Mr. Stavros Stavrou, Senior Conflict and Development Specialist at the TDRP of the World Bank; Mr. Colin Stewart, the Chief of Staff at the UNOAU and Dr. Tarek A. Sharif, the Head of Defence and Security of the African Union Peace and Security Department.
6. The representative of the World Bank underscored that one of the main objectives of the TDRP was to transfer the accumulated knowledge on DDR from the Multi country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) and the TDRP to an African institution. Since May 2011, the TDRP initiated discussions with the Defence and Security Division (DSD) of the PSD at the African Union Commission and started the preparation of the AU-DDRCP, in collaboration with the DDR section of the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) and the UNOAU. The TDRP offered to cover trainings, consultations, and the establishment of a DDR Resource and Research Center at the AUC.



7. On his part, the representative of the UNOAU highlighted that this initial consultation with RECs and RMs was the most appropriate way to develop the AU-DDRCP. He reminded participants of the various UN initiatives in DDR around the world and in particular in Africa, and noted that the UN in general is committed to supporting the AU DDR capacity building process in the long term.

8. The Head of the Defence and Security Division of the AUC highlighted the main components of the proposed AU-DDRCP. He also stressed that the AU-DDRCP is envisaged to equip member states with the renewed strategies of how to develop and implement best practices on DDR.

9. During the first day of the meeting, participants were reminded of the AUC programs and policies relevant to DDR: the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) policy of July 2006, the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) program, and the Security Sector Reform (SSR) program. The UNOAU and TDRP presented their respective experience with DDR. Following these introductions, the RECs were given the opportunity to share their experience with DDR and present their organizational structure and relevant policies with regards to DDR. This experience varied greatly from one REC to another depending on which countries they included, the way they are organized and their respective mandates. The meeting also heard interventions from the AUC on its DDR programs in the Central African Republic, from the AUC liaison office in Comoros, and from the European Union Delegation to the AU. Overall, participants agreed that the DDR process is complex and that it needs to be embedded in the political processes of Member States. It was also noted that the political, security and technical processes related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are not linear and that it must be regarded as concentric processes that should be measured against a concentric understanding of human security, state security and regional security. The need to comprehensively deal with gender issues in DDR processes was also emphasized.

10. On the second day of the seminar, the AUC presented the outline and funding proposal of the draft Program Document for the AU-DDRCP, which was discussed by the participants divided into three groups. Participants made suggestions and input into the sections that would comprise the AU-DDRCP Project Document. Participants also discussed the process and timelines for the development of the AU-DDRCP Project Document with a suggestion to complete the process by October 2012.

11. The meeting agreed on the proposed way forward presented by the AUC, including having a first draft AU DDRCP program document in June 2012, a validation workshop of with RECs and RMs in September 2012 and start of the three-year AU DDRCP in January 2013.

