



GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN SUDAN  
 SOUTHERN SUDAN BUREAU FOR COMMUNITY  
 SECURITY AND SMALL ARMS CONTROL  
 (SSBCSAC)

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**Report on Khartoum and Regional Visits.**

To: H.E. Minister of Internal Affairs, Gen. **Gier Chuang Along**  
 From: SSBCSAC Director Dr. **Riak Gok Majok**  
 Cc: Under Secretary, Major Gen. **Peter Wel Athiu**  
 Cc: File.  
 Date: September 30, 2009.



**Executive Summary.**

Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control has undertaken successfully in the last couple of months a number of activities in fulfilment of its mandate and programme. Some of these endeavours will subsequently be reported to your Excellency in full details. However, we view that our recent visit to Khartoum and the neighbouring countries is vital to be urgently brought to your attention, as it entails useful experiences and challenges as well.

Since the establishment of the Bureau toward the end of the year 2007, we have not been able to visit Khartoum and the neighbouring countries to meet with the National Focal Points on Small Arms and Light weapons Control. Such interactions with our counterparts would have enabled us to collectively identify potential areas of cooperation. This was due to the fact that the Bureau did not have budget when it was formed in 2007. However, the allocation of the budget for the Bureau in this fiscal year has not either fundamentally improved its operational capacity because of economic down turn that has been compounded by severe financial crisis.

As a result, we sought financial support from SaferWorld, a British non governmental organization, which has been assisting the Bureau in the areas of capacity building and policy development. This organization funded two Bureau's programmes, one exposure visits to Khartoum and the three neighbouring countries, two dissemination of the Mandate, Policy and concept paper on civilian population disarmament in Southern Sudan in the 5 States. These activities were almost conducted concurrently by two teams of the Bureau.

**Khartoum.**

In my capacity as Director of the Bureau, I led the team that was going to Khartoum and meanwhile my Deputy headed the dissemination group. We arrived in Khartoum on September 9, 2009 and in the following day we went to Northern Sudan

Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration Commission wanting to meet Dr. Sulafedeen Salih Mohammad, the Chairperson. We were unable to meet him as he had just left for pilgrimage when we arrived to his office. Nonetheless, the Deputy Chair directed us to meet Mr. El Sadig El Tayeb, NSDDRC Community Security Coordinator. We had a very constructive dialogue with him on how our two institutions could work closely to coordinate south- north cross border community security related issues. It remains to be seen, though whether that dialogue was a **cat and a rat interaction (heart-to-heart engagement)**. However, one thing is unmistakable, we are not rats.

Mr. El Sadig El Tayeb informed us that they were indeed looking for us and that they requested H.E. William Deng Deng, Chairperson of SSDDRC to communicate it to us. For one reason or another H.E. William Deng did not pass on the message to the Bureau as requested. Northern Sudan DDR wants to develop with the Bureau and UN a common strategic planning on small arms and community security issues. He told the Bureau team that they had been brainstorming with UN on how to develop the strategic planning, which was until then zero draft. It was therefore agreed that from then on the Bureau would fully participate in the development of strategic planning.

Northern Sudan DDRC community Security Coordinator advised us to meet Sudan National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light weapons control in the Ministry of Interior, Mr. El Sadig Mohammed. We could not meet that gentleman because no body in the Ministry seemed to know him or perhaps they deliberately pretended not to know him. Because our schedule was extremely tight and that it was not possible to prolong our staying in Khartoum, I decided to leave for Nairobi where I was expected to meet Kenya National Focal Point on small arms and light weapons control Coordinator on September 17, 2009.

#### **Action Points Agreed in the Meeting:**

- Bureau would be invited to participate in Strategic planning preparation meetings.
- Bureau to seek membership in DDR National Coordination Council.
- Bureau team should return to Khartoum as soon as possible to meet NFP.
- Follow up visits to Khartoum and Juba (NFP and NSDDRC Community security Coordinator) to consolidate working relationships.
- Bureau to be invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Affairs Desk to take part in the first meeting on small arms proliferation within pastoralist communities in Dar Salaam, Tanzania.

#### **Kenya.**

I arrived in Nairobi on September 16, 2009 and I immediately went to the office of Dr. Francis Sang, Executive Secretary of Regional Center on Small Arms and light weapons control in Horn, East and Central Africa. We discussed range of issues including possible membership of Government of Southern Sudan in the Regional Center on Small Arms and Light Weapons control Secretariat.

It was recognized that cross border security issues and small arms proliferation on Southern Sudan borders with the neighbouring countries could only be resolved by GOSS. It is worth mentioning, Dr. Francis Sang expressed his disillusionment over

the fact that he had written eight letters to the GOSS Liaison office in Nairobi, seeking permission to come to Juba to meet relevant authorities on small arms proliferation matters, but his letters were not even replied, as a matter of courtesy. He wanted to come here to discuss with GOSS the potential areas for RECSA intervention, such as provision of marking machine and capacity building of the intuitions that are tasked to oversee small arm issues.

#### **Action Points Agreed.**

- Bureau to invite RECSA Executive Secretary in the last week of October 2009.
- Saferworld to support the Bureau logistically.
- RECSA to make presentation, highlighting the areas of their possible intervention (October 28, 2009).
- RECSA will participate in the Bureau capacity building.
- RECSA will support GOSS request for membership in the Secretariat.
- Big workshop will be organized in Juba to be attended by major Stakeholders, including RECSA.
- RECSA will identify the needs of the Bureau and possible areas of intervention.

After having met RECSA Executive Secretary, I went to Saferworld office where I had very informative, reflective and fruitful meeting with Mr. James Ndugu who thoroughly briefed me about his organization activities in Kenya and about Kenya National Focal Point programmes prior to my meeting with its Coordinator, which was scheduled for September 17, 2009. In the process, we were able to develop tentative agenda items for my meeting with Kenya National Focal Point Coordinator as follow:

- ❖ Bureau introduction.
- ❖ Introduction of Kenya National Focal Point on SALW.
- ❖ National Steering Committee for peace Building.
- ❖ Potential Areas of collaboration.

On September 17, 2009, Mr. James Ndugu of Saferworld went with me to Mr. David Kimaiyo KNFP, National Coordinator office. He cordially received us in his well set up office. The KNFP, National Coordinator gave us historical backgrounds of KNFP, the vision and its mission were underscored in the briefing.

Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and light weapons operates within the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security; in the President Office. It is present in 8 Provinces, 254 Districts, 22 regions, locations and Sub locations. Its mandate is driven from different international, regional and sub regional legal instruments to which Kenya is a signatory, such as:

- ☒ The UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all aspects (UNPOA, 2001).
- ☒ The UN Protocol against illicit manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and components and Ammunition (2001).

- ☒ Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (2000).
- ☒ The Nairobi Declaration on the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa(2000).
- ☒ The Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (2004).

Like the Bureau, the Kenya National Focal Points on Small Arms and light weapons coordinates relevant institutions. It has inter-Agency membership that includes ministries and civil society groups. KNFP also coordinates national policy on small arms proliferation, development of national action plan for arms control management and implementation of international and regional legal instruments, such as UNPOA, Bamako Declaration, the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol. The KNFP conducts public awareness meetings and activities on negative effects of illicit SALW in select conflict-prone areas.

The first action carried out by the KNFP when it was established in October 2002, was national assessment of the small arms situation in Kenya. The assessment was crucial for the Kenya National Focal Point on SALW to better understand the magnitude of small arm issues in the country and also to identify specific problems, which then required to be addressed in the National Action Plan.

#### **Action Points Agreed.**

- ✚ Kenya National Focal Point Coordinator pledged to support the Bureau when seeking RECSA membership.
- ✚ Bureau through H.E. Minister of Internal Affairs discuss the membership in RECSA with Sudan Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- ✚ He also vowed to build Bureau capacity.
- ✚ Follow up visits to Nairobi and Juba to build up strong relations.

#### **Uganda.**

I joined my colleague, Choul Gew Nhial in Kampala on September 21, 2009 who arrived in Uganda in the previous day and had introductory discussions with Uganda National Focal Point on SALW Coordinator and his team in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. When I met the UNFP team on September 22, 2009 was extremely impressed and amazed by the level of commitment and organization displayed by the team. Clearly speaking Ugandan have understood a simple hard fact, nothing can be achieved without proper organization and dedication, such commitment and dedication, need to be emulated.

The Ugandan National Focal Point on SAWL was formed in 2001 after Uganda signed and ratified international and regional legal instruments. It is composed of relevant ministries, including the President's Office, Prime Minister's Office, departments and civil society organizations. Its prime role is to implement the Nairobi Declaration, the Nairobi Protocol and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Institutionally, Uganda National Focal Point on SALW is part and

parcel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is established in 91 police Units where it has carried out marking of firearms.

When we met on September 22, 2009 UNFP National Coordinator, Mr. Ahmed Wafuba and his team in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, they conducted extraordinarily useful three presentations on establishment, roles, functions and structure of National Focal Point, Mapping process and Uganda National Action Plan and main tenets. Uganda National Action Plan (NAP) presentation focuses mainly on the follow:

- Institutional framework- strengthening of UNFP and establishment of Regional Task Forces.
- Policy and legislation – development of national firearms policy and review of firearms legislation.
- Stockpile management – national record keeping, stock controls and provision for collection and destruction.
- Public education and awareness.
- International and regional co-operation and information exchange.
- Border control and refugees.
- Human development planning- linking initiatives on small and development; promoting police community relations.
- Training and capacity building – UNFP and law enforcement Officials; Regional Task Forces.
- Research- additional action-oriented research.
- Critical areas support- data collection and analysis on firearms; material support for law enforcement agencies.
- Strengthening cooperation with civil society groups.

#### **Action Points Agreed.**

- UNFP to help build capacity of the Bureau.
- UNFP will support GOSS RECSA membership request.
- Bureau and UNFP will work closely to implement international and regional legal instruments.
- The Bureau team will return to Uganda to visit Karamoja region for civil population disarmament experience sharing.
- The Bureau and UNFP will advocate for the establishment of empowered traditional conflict settlement and management at the common border.

#### **Ethiopia.**

The Bureau team left Kampala for Addis Ababa on September 22, 2009. In the following day, we went to GOSS Liaison Office where we were well received by our Representative. The Liaison office team immediately contacted Mr. Raymond Kitevu of Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism Coordinator for IGAD Member States, namely Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It is worth to note the fact that Southern Sudan is also not a member of this important regional organization that

is tasked to receive and share information concerning potentially violent conflicts in the IGAD region.

Mr. Raymond Kivetu received us on September 23, 2009 in his office during which we discussed range of issues including possible intervention of CEWARN to support the Bureau to execute its activities. He informed the team of the Bureau that IGAD Member States Council of Ministers signed the protocol agreement on establishment of CEWARN in January 2002 and it was officially opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2003 after having thoroughly debated and deliberated on early warning and response systems and assessments conducted in all IGAD member States.

Amazingly, CEWARN the team learned from Coordinator the fact that they were operating in Eastern Equatoria State, precisely in the Karamoja cluster zone and that they had already appointed field Coordinators to collect data on potential violent situation that can be analysed and used for conflict prevention. The field Coordinators were going to be trained in the same hall in which we were meeting in the following day.

Meanwhile, the GOSS Liaison office team could not locate Ethiopia National Focal Point on SALW, as that country does not apparently have a Ministry of Internal Affairs. AS the Bureau visiting team was travelling to Juba the following day, it could not make further attempts to arrange a meeting with any institution in charge for community security related issues in Ethiopia. The team requested the Liaison office to identify the ENFP for future interactions.

#### **Action Points Agreed.**

- CEWARN Coordinate will assist Head of GOSS Mission to identify Ethiopia National Focal Point on SALW.
- CEWARN will include the Bureau in it programme in EES.
- CEWARN will support GOSS membership request in RECSA and CEWARN.
- Bureau team will return to Ethiopia to meet ENFP.

#### **Conclusion.**

Undoubtedly, the Bureau team has benefited immensely from these exposure visits. We learned considerably from our counterparts who have acquired over the years tremendous experience on community security issues, Small Arms and Light Weapons control. The results of these visits have dramatically exceeded our expectations. It has however, become clear to the team that the Government of Southern Sudan is not represented in the regional legal instruments on SALW proliferation. We do therefore take this opportunity to urge relevant authority to officially request the membership of GOSS in these instruments. Finally, we would like to sincerely express our gratitude to Saferworld for facilitating financially and logistically the Bureau team with out which these visits would not have been fulfilled.

*Regards.*