



**United Nations/African Union Joint Secretariat
of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region**

**REPORTS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL THEMATIC
TASK FORCES**

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL THEMATIC TASK FORCE
« PEACE AND SECURITY »**

The TTTF on Peace and Security of the IC/GLR held its 3rd meeting in Nairobi from 5 to 11 September 2005 under the chairmanship of Tanzania. Reporting was done by Burundi.

The following ten items were on the agenda of the meeting:

A) Four revised documents:

1. Joint Border Security Management in the Great Lakes Region
2. Transnational Crime and Terrorism in the Great Lakes Region
3. Coordination of Activities and Reinforcement of Capacities to fight the Proliferation and Circulation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region
4. Development of Border Zones and Promotion of Human Security in the Great Lakes Region

B) Two new project documents:

5. Draft Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region
6. Disarmament and Repatriation of All Armed Groups in Eastern DRC according to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement

C) Three presentations of delegations from Member Countries

7. Demining in the Great Lakes Region (Tanzanian Proposal)
8. Common Border Management in Zone 7 (Angola, DRC, RC)
9. Disarmament of Armed Nomadic Pastoralists and Promotion of Sustainable Development in Zone 3 (Joint Kenya, Ugandan, Sudan Proposal)

D) Presentation by Secretariat:

10. Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in the IC/GLR

The participants agreed on the following methodology:

- Every topic on the agenda will be introduced by a presentation of a consultant, a delegate or a member of the Joint Secretariat;
- Presentations on revised documents should reflect the changes requested by the National Coordinators in Lusaka report;
- Presentation to be followed by a general discussion giving opportunities to all participants to contribute;
- Delegations were encouraged to make written submissions for changes in the revised documents;
- To consider issues of substance and format; substantial issues which cannot be resolved during the meeting can be forwarded to the next meeting of the National Coordinators;
- It was suggested to not change issues, which were adopted by the National Coordinators in Lusaka.

1. Joint Border Security Management in the Great Lakes Region

The changes made in the revised version of the document as well as the fact that a budget was attached to it were taken note of by the participants. The consultant was requested to review the list of requested changes in the Lusaka report. In the ensuing discussion the following issues were made for further consideration/ incorporation by the consultant into the final version of the document:

- Inclusion of a Zone 12 in the document comprising Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania due to the fact that refugees are a common issue in the zone;
- Inclusion of DRC in Zone 9 (Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia)
- Change of project title to Joint Security Management of Common Borders;
- Consistent and correct name of member countries throughout the document;
- Correct naming of the Nanyuki Memorandum of Understanding, which is not a protocol;
- Correction of typing mistakes in the English version of the document;

Written submissions were provided by a number of countries and forwarded to the consultant. Only those submissions presented, discussed and endorsed by the meeting should be included in the revised version.

2. Trans-national Crime and Terrorism in the Great Lakes Region

The presentation had focussed on the three points made in the Lusaka report, which were the following:

- Reflect consensus that Kenyan Centre on Terrorism should coordinate the project;
- Aspects of movement of populations in border areas must be further considered;
- Ascertain that the element of prevention is appropriately included in the approach.

Regarding the Kenyan Centre on Terrorism it was suggested that this question should be dealt with at the next meeting of the National Coordinators in Luanda.

Concerning the second issue it was recommended to include a reference to the inviolability of borders in the fight against criminality, as well as an appropriate flexibility regarding the movement of populations.

This, however, would require harmonizing respective practices in the border zones of all countries concerned and disseminating related information to the populations.

3. Coordination of Activities and Reinforcement of Capacities to fight the Proliferation and Circulation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region

The expert of the joint secretariat presented the relevant changes following the points made in the Lusaka report. After some points of clarification the meeting endorsed the revised document as the final version.

4. Development of Border Zones and Promotion of Human Security in the Great Lakes Region

It was acknowledged that the project touches on key issues in the GL region since it aims at transforming areas of conflict into areas of stability and development. Although the ultimate objectives relate to economic integration and development the priority issue of human security does not allow considering this project as purely economic in nature. For that reason the meeting decided to keep the project as a separate project.

5. Draft Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region

The session has generated rich and productive debates on the first presentation of the document. The consultant brought many explanations of legal nature. No consensus was reached regarding Chapter 6, article seven, paragraph 6 g and h. It is therefore recommended that the plenary refers the issue to be discussed at the next meeting of the National Coordinators in Luanda.

6. Disarmament and Repatriation of All Armed Groups according to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement

This new project drew considerable attention from the participants, but certain issues could not be finalized in the session. It has been recognized that disarmament and repatriation in Zone 1 and 10 is more a political process than a project. It was recommended to the consultant streamlines the approaches in a regional framework and to stay focussed on the disarmament and repatriation of armed groups in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. The participants request to see an elaboration of urgent, concrete and priority actions. Since it was difficult to reach consensus on certain aspects, a sub-group was created consisting of delegations from the four countries of Zones 1 and 10 in the aim to make concrete proposal to the consultant.

7. Tanzanian Demining Approach

The program is called APOPO and it refers to an approach in mine detection by the use of trained rats. It is an approach which offers the following advantages:

- Rapid detection
- Reduced costs
- Low risks for personnel involved

The technology has proved efficient in Mozambique. The meeting proposed that this should be applied in the Great Lakes Region. The project was well appreciated by the participants. The meeting proposed to include it to the Border Security Management Project Document as an attachment.

8. Common Border Management in Zone 7 (Angola, DRC, RC)

The Angolan delegation complemented by statements from DRC and RC presented their experience in the management of common borders in zone 7. These countries had agreed on a well-functioning mechanism that could be useful for other zones as a good example of border security management. It could be concluded that this kind of cooperation will not be successful unless trust among the states is built and solutions to all pertaining problems are being worked on. It was, however, also mentioned, that the countries face financial problems and need external support for the cooperation to continue. The three countries were requested to elaborate a document summarizing the lessons learnt to be used as a point of reference for other countries.

9. Disarmament of Armed Nomadic Pastoralists and Promotion of Sustainable Development in Zone 3 (Joint Kenya, Ugandan, Sudan Proposal)

A draft document was presented by Kenya, Uganda and Sudan, which was highly welcomed and appreciated by the participants. The participants gave useful additional recommendations for the improvement of the document. The initiative is considered another good example, as well as the example from zone 7, how the Border Security Management Concept could be applied in different zones. The Secretariat was requested to elaborate the project further.

10. Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in the IC/GLR

A presentation was made by the joint Secretariat to summarize efforts so far to develop a project for conflict prevention, management and resolution (CPMR) under the IC/GLR. The presentation, which also referred to the recommendations made in Lusaka, underlined the view that the scope and challenges related to CPMR in the GL region go far beyond the capacity of a single project. As a matter of fact the conceptualization has gone already much further in the sense of developing a framework for CPMR, which is constituted by three main elements: an institutional structure (the future follow-up mechanisms), the protocol on non-aggression and mutual defence, as well as the regional programs of actions. Against that background the presenter suggested to adopt the present framework rather than insisting on an individual project which could cover all. These views were generally appreciated and accepted by the delegations, provided that some additional and specific issues are taken care of through the follow-up mechanism. This particularly refers to the following issues:

- Undertake efforts to support networking and strong involvement of civil society and utilize existing efforts (e.g. COMESA civil society network, which comprises already 8 of the IC/GLR member countries);
- Support development of CPMR capacities on national levels, promoting local capacities in the region;

In order to accommodate these ideas the joint Secretariat was tasked to produce a paper for the way forward and describing the framework for CPMR under the IC/GLR. The Secretariat committed itself to produce such a paper for further discussion and to sent it to the National Coordinators.

General Conclusions

The meeting took place in a climate of great serenity. The chairman of the meeting, the rapporteur, the Secretariat and the consultants received appreciation of the participants for their excellent work. The 3rd TTTF of the Peace and Security Commission has been very productive.