

The AU-EU Security Dialogue

Towards a Common Agenda for De-mining and Disarmament

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

18-20 April, 2007

As part of PGA's increasing engagement in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons regulation and controls, PGA Executive Committee Member and Convenor of PGA's Peace & Democracy Program, Hon. Ibrahim Sorie (Sierra Leone), accompanied by two Senior PGA Secretariat Staff Members (Dr. David Donat Cattin and Peter Barcroft), participated in *The AU-EU Security Dialogue: Towards a Common Agenda for De-mining and Disarmament*, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18-20 April, 2007, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Mine-Ban Treaty.

At this Security Dialogue, the African Union Commission and the European Commission formally launched a joint dialogue on a wide range of issues related to Antipersonnel Landmines, Explosive Remnants of War and Small Arms and Light Weapons with a view to deepening and strengthening the AU-EU security dialogue.

The Co-Chairs of the Security Dialogue adopted a number of Conclusions at the end of the Joint Dialogue. As a result of the efforts by Hon. Ibrahim Sorie to highlight the unique importance of legislators as stakeholders in the overall Conventional Disarmament equation, which he undertook during his formal intervention as a Panelist in one Session and Chair of another Session at this Security Dialogue, these Conclusions made specific reference to the role of Parliamentarians in this area.

Further information and details on this AU-EU Joint Security Dialogue may be found at:

AU-EU Security Dialogue: Towards a Common Agenda for De-mining and Disarmament
http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2007/April/psc/18/eu_au_landmines_concept_paper.doc

Conclusions of Co-Chairs of AU-EU Security Dialogue

The African Union Commission and the European Commission have launched a joint dialogue on a wide range of issues related to Antipersonnel Landmines, Explosive Remnants of War and Small Arms and Light Weapons with a view to deepening and strengthening the AU-EU security dialogue.

Mindful of the need to ensure an inclusive and participative process involving all relevant stakeholders,

Aware that the problems caused by landmines and the illicit proliferation, circulation, accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons constitute a serious impediment to social and economic development, and that they can only be resolved within the framework of increased and well coordinated international cooperation,

Recalling the discussions of the first seminar held in Addis Ababa 18-20 April 2007, and

Bearing in mind the relevant policy documents of the AU and EU, the co-chairs identify the following areas to take forward in agreeing and implementing a common agenda, to:

- 1. Promote the full implementation by AU and EU Member States of their national, regional and multilateral obligations.*
- 2. Define and actively pursue common objectives in relevant international fora.*
- 3. Explore ways and means to pursue human security objectives within the disarmament agenda, in ways that enhance the coherence between security and development.*
- 4. Strengthen cooperation and exchange of information between relevant AU and EU institutions, **including the Pan African Parliament and European Parliament**, to promote a common peace and security agenda and facilitate its implementation.*
- 5. Enhance the capacity of civil society and all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute to the development and implementation of the AU-EU common agenda.*
- 6. Ensure that APL, ERW, SALW, disarmament and arms control are fully integrated into our common efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and to promote sustainable peace building.*

The co-chairs agree that this seminar constitutes a first and important step in what should become a regular dialogue within the larger AU-EU Dialogue.

The co-chairs stressed the need to bring these conclusions to the attention of the AU-EU Troika, with a view to mainstreaming them into the preparations for the EU-Africa Summit.

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