

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM OF THE PEACE,  
SECURITY, & COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE DRC AND THE REGION**

**NAIROBI, KENYA, 22-23 JULY 2013**

**Introduction**

1. Further to its first meeting of 24 June 2013, the second meeting of the Technical Support Committee TSC took place from 22-23 July 2013 in Nairobi. Participants included senior officials from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia.
2. The meeting was co-chaired by the Special Adviser of the UN Special Envoy, Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Modibo I. Touré, and the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra. The ICGLR Executive Director, Dr. Frank Okuthe-Oyugi and Mr. Sam Ibok, DPA/Director of Africa I, and a representative from MONUSCO also attended.

**Opening session**

3. In his introductory remarks, Special Adviser Touré read a message from Special Envoy Robinson, stressing that the meeting was a significant step in the process and welcomed the cordial atmosphere in which the first meeting took place, resulting in a substantive draft benchmark document. In her message, she also called on the participants' sense of collective responsibility to ensure the process is moving forward. Mr. Touré noted that the timing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> TSC meeting was strategic (just a week before the ICGLR Heads of States Summit whose venue had now been changed to Nairobi) as the outcome of the meeting would inform the discussions that SESG Robinson would have on the margins of the ICGLR summit. This was also particularly important as the ICGLR summit would be the only forum for such discussions before the Heads of States meeting on the margins of the General Assembly in September. Mr. Touré expressed his appreciation with the strong skills and competencies of the senior representatives present and noted that it was a mark of commitment of the leaders of the region.

4. In the debate that ensued as to whether the national benchmark document needed to be discussed at this forum, Mr. Touré and Mr. Ibok explained that the TSC was established with a specific mandate, i.e. to define regional benchmarks for adoption at the Regional Oversight Mechanism. Mr. Touré further noted inputs provided by the Bujumbura conference on Women, Peace, Security and Development convened by Special Envoy Robinson in collaboration with *Femmes Africa Solidarité* from 9-11 July 2013, aimed at helping to develop a roadmap for women's engagement in peace efforts.

5. Recalling the guiding principles and key tasks of the TSC, Mr. Touré stressed that, in putting together the consolidated benchmark documents based on the comments provided by the Committee members, the Secretariat took into consideration benchmarks that were specific, measurable, achievable and time bound, and that would reflect the spirit and the letter of the PSC framework. He thanked the Committee for the substantial comments and inputs received and suggested that the timeline for deliverables be defined to 1 year (i.e. until Sept 2014). He further informed that, for ease of reference for the Principals, the Secretariat would prepare i) an outcome document; and ii) a matrix with benchmarks.

6. Ambassador Diarra recalled that, in addition to the women forum in Bujumbura, the AU, the World Bank and the O/SESG jointly organized a regional economic meeting at the ministerial level in Addis Ababa on 18-19 July 2013, whose outcome document could be useful in enriching the TRC regional priorities. He questioned what short, medium and long term measures could be put in place by the international community to make sure that the population in eastern DRC (particularly women and children) begins to see a direct benefit from current initiatives. Participants agreed that there was need for the implementation of some quick wins\high impact projects, (for e.g. to support the only existing centre on the ground that deals with issues of sexual and gender based violence). He noted with concern the continuing deterioration of the situation in eastern DRC and the resulting humanitarian crisis.

## **Discussions**

7. The ICGLR representative made a presentation on the existing regional initiatives, instruments, gaps, and challenges of the ICGLR and highlighted areas where the TSC could be strategic in reinforcing these commitments. He noted marked progress in areas such as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, but highlighted major challenges in the mobilization of financial resources for various projects in the region. Participants agreed that the commitments of the DRC, the region, and the international community were mutually reinforceable and therefore it was important to concentrate on existing projects rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.

8. Participants noted that there was an urgent need to do something in the short-term to maintain the relevance of the Regional Oversight Mechanism. They noted that in the last seven months, not many visible, nor tangible outcomes had be seen on the ground. They therefore called upon the TSC to look at something which would give "Hope" to the people in the east as SESG Robinson had said. In the debate that ensued, it was recalled that the deployment of the Intervention Brigade and the recently launched certification mechanism in Kinshasa were examples of concrete actions on the ground. These were in addition to various national initiatives. It was suggested that it would be helpful if each country constantly updates the O/SESG on projects carried out in the spirit of the implementation of the PSC framework.

9. Rwanda asked for urgent assistance from SESG Robinson and the international community in dealing with the issue of over 600 former M23 combatants who moved

into Rwanda recently seeking asylum, as they would not want to be blamed later in case any problems were caused by this group. Tanzania agreed that this was a concern that needed to be addressed. DRC stated that there was no reason why this group should be given any special treatment, as there were huge numbers of refugees from the DRC in other countries as well given the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the east.

10. Other issues of contention included the need for dialogue with armed groups particularly the M23, ADF-NALU, and FDLR and the inclusion of border demarcation issues as a benchmark. There was a consensus on the need to encourage existing regional peace efforts to tackle the crisis in eastern DRC with particular emphasis on political processes, including the Kampala talks between the DRC Government and M23, as well as other similar initiatives. Participants also noted the importance of the regional mechanisms created to build confidence between countries in the region, such as the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism and the Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre, and stressed the need to work through such mechanisms. They, however, recognized that these regional mechanisms needed to be strengthened. Comments and recommendations were also made on economic projects, including regional economic integration, and the critical role of regional economic bodies such as CEPGL, IGAD, SADC, COMESA and EAC. Finally, participants called on multilateral and bilateral donors' support for the successful implementation of the PSC Framework.

11. Though it was agreed that no amendments could be made to the DRC national benchmark document, there was consensus that the document be presented and inputs given for consideration. In this light, DRC made a presentation on its national benchmarks and participants made some inputs/comments to the document. In conclusion, Uganda reiterated that the refugee question was one which needed urgent attention as it posed huge challenges to the receiving governments. Mr. Touré responded that SESG Robinson was aware of the situation and was taking it seriously. He added that the SESG was already having discussions with some organizations on how best to handle the situation.

### **Closing session**

12. In his closing remarks, Mr. Touré thanked participants for the frank exchange and expressed his wish at seeing many of the participants again at the ICGLR summit on the 27 July 2013. It was agreed that the outcome document and the two matrixes would be circulated to participants by the 25 July and the Committee members would revert back with comments by 26 July. These documents would then be presented to the Heads of State during the ICGLR Summit in Nairobi by SESG Robinson. The proposed benchmarks and follow-up measures would then be presented to the Regional Oversight Mechanism on the margins of the UN General Assembly, in New York, in September.

Nairobi, 5 August 2013