

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO LONG-TERM PEACE IN THE EXTENDED GREAT LAKES REGION

Co-organized by the National Assembly of Kenya, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

Nairobi, 7-9 December 2009
Kenyatta International Conference Centre



PROGRAMME

Monday, 7 December, 2009

8.45 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. Registration of participants and distribution of documents

9.30 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.

Inaugural session

- Mr. Martin Chungong, Director of the Division for the Promotion of Democracy, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Mr. Jean-Jacques Gacond, Deputy Head of Operations, Africa and Middle East, DCAF
- Opening remarks by Hon. (Prof.) George Saitoti, EGH, Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security, Member of the National Assembly of Kenya

10.00 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.

Session I: A regional human security approach

What does the concept of human security entail? What regional mechanisms are in place to promote its implementation? What contribution can parliamentarians make to these mechanisms and to the promotion of human security?

This session is designed to address the ramifications of a comprehensive security agenda and should look at what the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Amani Forum and others in the region do to promote a human security agenda and how parliaments and their members fit in.

Panellists:

- Hon. Jalia Bintu, Vice Chairperson of AMANI Forum and member of the Parliament of Uganda
- Ms. Isabell Kempf, Regional Human Rights Adviser of the ICGLR Secretariat and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr. Okey Uzoechina, DCAF point of contact for West Africa

11.15 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Coffee break

11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Continuation of Session I

2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Session II: Effective parliamentary oversight of the security sector

How can parliament be involved in devising the country's national security policy, in discussing and approving crucial military operations, including the presence of international troops or the participation of its own soldiers or police officers in such missions abroad, and in adopting and overseeing the national security budget?

This session will address the basic principles underpinning effective parliamentary oversight of the security sector, with a special focus on parliamentary involvement in the budget.

Panellists:

- Mr. Jean-Jacques Gacond, Deputy Head of Operations, Africa and Middle East, DCAF
- Mr. Takawira Musavengana, Senior Researcher, Security Sector Governance, Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)
- Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Member of the Defence and Foreign Relations Committee, National Assembly of Kenya

4 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.

Coffee break

4.15 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Continuation of Session II

Tuesday, 8 December, 2009

9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Session III: A security sector respectful of human rights

What measures can be taken to make the security sector aware of basic human rights standards and international humanitarian law? Are proper legislation and effective mechanisms in place to ensure that abuses are properly investigated and punished?

Accountability in the area of human rights is essential. Without it, there is a risk that those whose job it is to provide security may abuse or misrepresent their mission. If the police tortures a detainee or the military carries out summary executions, mechanisms need to be in place by which they can be held to account. This session will address the need for specific legislation, parliamentary oversight and budget allocations to prevent and punish abuses and inculcate a human rights culture in the security sector.

Panellists:

- Mr. Jean-Jacques Gacond, Deputy Head of Operations, Africa and Middle East, DCAF
- Mr. Chris Black, legal advisor of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- Mr. Njonjo Mue, Head of Office, Kenya, International Centre for Transitional Justice

11 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Continuation of Session III

2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Session IV: A response to violence against women in times of peace and conflict

What action can be taken to address the impact of conflict on women, in particular what steps can be taken to prevent and punish violence against them? How are women involved in peace-making and peace-building efforts?

During conflict, women bear the brunt of the violence. Often, crimes affecting women during and in the aftermath of conflict, in particular sexual violence, are not penalized, and little is done to tackle the stigma they suffer when they come forward to denounce their plight. The existence of highly patriarchal societies may compound their vulnerable position. The role of women in peace-making and peace-building efforts is crucial as their participation helps to ensure that such concerns are effectively addressed.

Panellists:

- Hon. Jalia Bintu, Vice Chairperson of AMANI Forum and member of the Parliament of Uganda
- Mr. Valens Munyabagisha, Senator (Rwanda)
- Ms. Cathy Katungu Furaha, President of the umbrella organization of human rights and peace associations [*Groupe d'associations de défense des droits de l'homme et de la paix*] and President of the women jurists defending women's rights [*Femmes Juristes pour la Défense de Droits des Femmes*] (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

4 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.

Coffee break

4.15 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Continuation of Session IV

Wednesday, 9 December, 2009

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Session V: Illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and effective border control

What measures can be taken to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons? How are borders protected?

The ease with which small arms and light weapons spread through the Great Lakes region has done much to facilitate the scourge of violence. 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* spells out a number of commitments that governments have made to address this phenomenon.

Panellists:

- Retired Lt. Col. Jan Kamenju, Director, Security Research & Information Centre
- Mr. Stephen Singo, ICGRL Programme Officer for Peace and Security
- Mr. Okey Uzoechina, DCAF point of contact for West Africa

12 p.m. - 12.15 p.m.

Coffee break

12.15 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Closing session

- Summing up by Hon. Ekwee Ethuro, Member of the National Assembly of Kenya, Rapporteur of the Seminar
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Director of the Division for the Promotion of Democracy, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Mr. Jean-Jacques Gacond, Deputy Head of Operations, Africa and Middle East, DCAF
- Closing remarks by Hon. Yusuf Haji, EGH, Minister of State for Defence, Member of the National Assembly of Kenya