



Co-operating to Disarm



RECSA Secretariat receives funding of US\$ 1,400,000 from the United States Government to counter the proliferation of small arms and light Weapons in eastern DRC.

The proliferation and misuse of small arms is a worldwide, progressively complex and multifaceted phenomenon that affects people from all backgrounds. Due to their easy availability, low cost and manageability, small arms and light weapons (SALW) have become the weapons of choice in most conflicts in the world today and have helped raise levels of fragility and armed violence even in areas at peace.

In order to deal with the menace of small arms proliferation in the RECSA sub-region Member States of RECSA took a collective commitment to address the problem through the signing of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa, 2000 (Nairobi Declaration) and the Nairobi Protocol on the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, 2004 (Nairobi Protocol).

To institutionalize the above intent, the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) was established in June 2005 with the mandate of coordinating efforts to controlling the accumulation, trafficking and misuse of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) amongst the 15 State Parties to the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALW.

RECSA Secretariat is happy to announce that it is receiving funding of US\$1,400,000 from the U.S. Government to enhance regional security by curbing the illicit trafficking and the availability of state-held weapons and ammunition to terrorists and criminals. This objective will be achieved through marking of government stockpiles in DRC in partnership with the National Commission for Control of Small Arms and Reduction of Armed Violence (CNC-ALPC). The two-year grant is to focus on three DRC provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. The marking of government stockpiles is expected to improve firearms identification and tracing. This will increase accountability at the individual, unit and departmental levels within the armed units thus curbing diversion of government stockpiles to wrong hands.

The U.S. Government has been the largest Bilateral donor to RECSA Secretariat in the fight against small arms proliferation since 2006. RECSA has received funding amounting to approximately US\$ 6,800,000 from the U.S. Government. The funds have been used to implement various interventions on Weapons and Ammunition Management in selected RECSA Member States. These interventions have contributed to reduced risks of diversion of government stockpiles.

RECSA Secretariat remains committed to comply with grant conditions and rules in the coordination of the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol and other international SALW instruments by its Member States.