

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

PRESS RELEASE

African Union Commission Supports the Ethiopian Government Towards the Establishment of National Focal Point Coordination Bureau for Small Arms and Light Weapons

Nazareth, 24 November 2014: On the request by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the African Union (AU) Commission, in collaboration with Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), supported a three-day consultative meeting on the establishment of the National Focal Point Coordination Bureau (NFP) for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) For Ethiopia from 22-24 December 2014.

The meeting brought together several government officials, particularly senior officers from the Federal Police headquarters, Police Commissioners from the Regional States, and Chiefs of the Regional Administration and Security Sector of the Regional States. Also present were officials from the AU Commission and the RECSA Secretariat.

The meeting was opened by H.E Mulugeta Weletaw, State Minister for Federal Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In his statement, the Minister highlighted the scourge of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, and emphasized the renewed commitment of the Ethiopian government in the fight against illicit small arms. He expressed appreciation to the AU Commission for the support rendered towards holding the meeting, and the RECSA Secretariat for being part of the efforts towards the establishment and operationalization of the NFP for Ethiopia. The Minister called for continued support by the AU and RECSA in taking forward the process for the full operationalization of the NFP.

In his statement on behalf of the AU Commission, Dr. Tarek A. Sharif, Head, Defence and Security Division, highlighted that the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons takes on national, regional, continental and global dimensions, and that coordination and cooperation between the various stakeholders is critical. He highlighted that the National Focal Point will play a central role in planning and coordination of small arms efforts at the Federal and Regional levels. He thanked the

Ethiopian government for its commitment towards the establishment of the NFP. He pledged the continued commitment of the AU Commission to support the Ethiopian government in order to realize the full operationalization of the NFP for Ethiopia.

The statement delivered by Mr. Francis Wairagu on behalf of the RECSA Secretariat emphasized on the role of the NFP in providing a national platform for coordination between the relevant national line ministries. He pledge the continued support of RECSA Secretariat to Ethiopia.

The meeting received presentations from the AU Commission and representative of the RECSA Secretariat, which highlighted the global small arms problem and its regional dimensions. Participants also received presentations of the national and regional dimensions of the small arms problem.

During the deliberations, participants noted the challenges and dynamics associated with small arms proliferation and their illicit trafficking, and appreciated the urgent need for the establishment of the NFP. The meeting made suggestions on the structure, composition, and mode of operation for the NFP, and also proposed its areas of focus, roles and responsibilities.

The AU Commission, in collaboration with the RECSA Secretariat, will continue to work with the Ethiopian government on the next steps to support the establishment of a functional NFP for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in line with its proclamation Number 429/2004 related to the coordination and implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

-END-

2014-11-24

African Union Commission Supports the Ethiopian Government towards the Establishment of National Focal Point Coordination Bureau for Small Arms and Light Weapons

Peace and Security

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/6047>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository