

## REPORT

Regional meeting of representatives of civil society organizations,  
engaged in the fight against illegal SALW  
In the 15 ECOWAS member states

**“Best practices in collaborating with civil society organizations,  
acquired during the project, financed by Germany for the SALW  
NatCom Côte d’Ivoire”**

(Hôtel Niablé, Abidjan, COTE D'IVOIRE, 22 Avril 2016)



Financed by GIZ

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## **I. SHORT PRESENTATION OF CONTEXT**

The National Commission for the fight against proliferation and illicit circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons has benefitted of technical and financial support from the German development cooperation executed by GIZ.

In regarding the end of this project « Appui à la ComNat ALPC – CI » the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany executed by GIZ and in partnership with the ComNat ALPC Côte d'Ivoire organizes a regional meeting with the ECOWAS sub-regional civil society representatives to transfer the best practices acquired during the three phases of the project in Côte d'Ivoire from November 2011 to June 2016.

The meeting has been organized the 22nd of April 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, at Hotel Niablé, Abidjan Cocody 8<sup>ème</sup> tranche.

## **II. OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

### **II.1 General Objective**

Le regional meeting intended to reinforce the SALW control in the ECOWAS-sub-region by transferring of best practices and the elaboration of recommendations between the different NatCom's and civil society organizations (CSO).

### **II.2 Specific objectives**

The meeting intended specifically to:

- Share possible cooperation models, especially between neighbouring countries to establish trans-border cooperation frameworks,
- Intensify the fight against illegal SALW by reinforcing the capacities of NatCom in every area of intervention and
- Identify the best practices, applicable in every country of the ECOWAS sub-region.

## **III. EXECUTION OF THE REGIONAL MEETING**

### **III.1. The participants**

The meeting has been attended by thirty-one (31) participants.

In detail there were representatives from:

- delegates from 15 ECOWAS member-states, members of CSO, principally from WAANSA/RASALAO:
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany
  - ECOWAS (Abuja, Abidjan)
  - UNODC
  - UNREC
  - GIZ, head-quarter Eschborn
  - GIZ, ECOWAS-project, Abuja
  - GIZ Abidjan

- MEMIS (Ministry of Interior and Security of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, represented by ComNat-ALPC)
- WAANSA/RASALAO (regional and Côte d'Ivoire)

### **III.2. Opening ceremony**

The chairman of RASALAO Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. KOFFI Sylvère TCHEDOH has been pleased to receive his colleagues from the West-African civil society. He underlined that the resultants obtained in Côte d'Ivoire are very delightful, but much remain to be done, because the challenges linked to security are numerous in the whole world and in the ECOWAS-region in regard of new threats and asymmetric wars. That is the reason, why it is suitable to unite the efforts for the well-being of peoples and communities, in the spirit of south-south-cooperation to be more effective at the ground.

For Mr. Amadou MAÏGA, chairman of regional WAANSA (West African Network on Small Arms) and coordinator of the West-African network, Côte d'Ivoire is an example in the field of fighting against the SALW traffic for the ECOWAS member-states to be proud, especially by the project financed by Germany, which will be closed in June 2016. That is the reason, why this experience has to be shared. He asked his colleagues from WAANSA/RASALAO to let them be enriched by the best practices to be disseminated in their respective countries and areas.

Mr. Tarmo DIX, representing Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, invited the representatives from civil society (CSO) and the populations to acquire the projects of human security and to play during the whole process an alerting role. He said, that politics can do all, but if the communities are not feeling themselves concerned by those projects, the resultants could not be obtained.

Mr. Anzian KOUADJA, Executive Secretary of ComNat, representing the MEMIS and the chairman and prefect hors grade of ComNat ALPC, KOUADIO Yao, thanked in his speech all the participants and especially the members of the West-African civil society, coming from far to be present at this meeting. He asserted viewing the challenges of reduction of SALW proliferation, stockpiles of collected arms, end of weapons detention by communities and border protection, that it is suitable to unite all efforts to fight against illicit circulation and SALW proliferation. For him the key-words to guide the participants are action-mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation and sharing of experiences. In the name of the State Minister, Minister of Interior and Security, Mr. Hamed BAKAYOKO, he opened the work of the meeting.

- Presentation of NatCom regional conference recommendations and best practices, applicable in the sub-region.

The moderator, Mr. Faman TOURE, presented the resolutions, resultants of the four days' work of NatCom's from ECOWAS-region.

**III.3. Presentation of the principal activities, realized during the three phases of the project « Appui à la ComNat ALPC- CI » in collaborating with civil society organizations in Côte d'Ivoire, engaged in the fight against illegal SALW**

- First communication: The best practices of work between the GIZ project and RASALAO
- Mr. Sylvère TCHEDOH, chairman of RASALAO Côte d'Ivoire presented the best practices realized with the GIZ project. Especially the concept of “Football for hope” permitted to create a climate of confidence between communities and lead to collection and disposal of illegal arms. He underlined, that the production of numerous supports for communication activities, especially the models for diffusion in local languages facilitated the sensitization activities. Finally, the impact studies permitted to measure the level of appropriation and knowledge about the SALW problem in the communities.
  - Second communication: the best practices of work between the GIZ project and SERENTI foundation
- Mrs. Michèle PEPE, Vice-chair person of the SERENTI foundation, presented practical issues of work between the GIZ project and the institution, which she leads. These supports are to reinforce the capacities of women about the SALW problem, the lobbying and pleading activities for the ratification of ATT, for the victims of armed violence and the activities for the regulating and legal framework.
- Exchange:
  - It results of this exchange, that a strong implication of communities and of CSO in the sensitization activities are a guarantee for success.
  - The CSO have a big influence to reinforce the NatCom's by pleading and lobbying methods, especially in the field of reinforcement of legal frameworks.
  - It is important to integrate in the NatCom action plans a line for sensitization, exclusively reserved for CSO.
  - The reinforcement of the role of CSO, especially that of WAANSA/RASALAO has to be done by recognizing in every member state a status for them as institutions of public utility.
  - The implication of community leaders and even of women is an important factor to achieve the resultants in the field of sensitization and community disarmament.

**III.4. Working in groups to identify the challenges and best practices in the field of fighting against the circulation of illegal SALW by civil society organizations, applicable in the sub-region**

- Working in groups:
  - The participants constituted them in two groups (English and French speaking) to identify best practices, applicable in the sub-region, in the fight against illicit SALW circulation, especially by synergy of action between NatCom's and civil society. The procedure was to identify risks, challenges, difficulties and opportunities to work out recommendations for a good and

robust implication of CSO in the activities to fight against SALW traffic in the ECOWAS-region.

- o The annex i.1 (French) and i.2 (English) are containing their conclusions.

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **IV.1. Evaluation of work**

In taking an evaluation scheme, it was possible to measure the four (4) following indicators.

FIELD	FREQUENCE
Punctuality	98%
Participation	86%
Appropriation and level of exchange	80%
Variance of best practices	65%

##### **IV.2. RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES**

1. Reinforce the collaboration between civil society and NatCom's.
2. Reinforce synergy action and exchange of information between actors implicated in the fight against SALW proliferation and terrorism.
3. Reinforce the support to the regional office of WAANSA/RASALAO by ECOWAS for the mobilization of funds to elaborate national action plans for every national section of the network.
4. Reinforce the institutional capacities of WAANSA/RASALAO member organizations in the field of good governance and realizing activities.
5. CSO, even WAANSA/RASALAO, have to apply the gender dimension and integrate these activities in putting an accent on young people and women.
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the federal Republic of Germany has to initiate and duplicate a similar regional program as the project in Côte d'Ivoire in the 15 ECOWAS member states by GIZ.
7. Implicate the media in the fight against SALW proliferation and terrorism.

Done in Abidjan, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2016

Translated the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2016

**The rapporteur**

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