

ANNEX V

CONFLICT EARLY WARNING & RESPONSE MECHANISM (CEWARN)



OF THE IGAD REGION

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE (TCEWR) OF CEWARN

**30 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2009
HARMONY HOTEL, ADDIS ABABA**

CEWARN, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

NOVEMBER 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the 7th Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) was convened from 30 November – 1 December 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its objective was to review the activities that CEWARN implemented since its last meeting held from 24-25 November 2008 in Kampala, Uganda; deliberate on the progress made on implementation of the 2007-2011 Five Year Strategy Plan and other programme activities that have been put in place to strengthen the Mechanism's work; and present these as recommendations to the Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) for discussion and approval during its meeting on 2 December 2009.

1.1 OPENING STATEMENTS

Welcome Address by the Ag. Director of Peace and Security Division, IGAD Secretariat, Mr. Yufnalis Okubo

Mr. Okubo in his statement thanked the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) for hosting the meeting and delegates for honouring the invitation to participate in the meeting.

The Ag. Director of Peace & Security of IGAD highlighted some key items on the day's agenda and stressed on the strategic importance of the meeting in terms of taking stock of the progress achieved by CEWARN in the reporting period and deliberating on the way forward. The main agenda items included review of CEWARN's annual activity report for the period between November 2008 and December 2009; progress reports from Member States on activities of national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs); country and regional updates; CEWARN's response initiatives; CEWARN's mid-term review of the 2007-2011 five year strategy plan; mapping of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as well as the adoption of TCEWR's report and recommendations to the 9th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) amongst others.

In addition he lauded CEWARN for the significant progress it had made in terms of implementing the recommendations of the last TCEWR and CPS meetings held on 24-25 November and 27 November 2008 respectively in Kampala, Uganda including the launch of CEWARN's Rapid Response Fund (RRF); finalisation of the Livestock Identification and Traceability Study (LITS); Mapping of peace actors and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Karamoja Cluster; progress in the development of operational guidelines for CEWARN's cross-border initiatives as well as finalisation of the proposed Response Framework.

In conclusion he acknowledged the vital support, advice and encouragement accorded to the CEWARN Mechanism by Member States and development partners such as USAID, GTZ, EU, SIDA, Austrian development Agency (ADA), Denmark, Italy, Belgium, and UK. **[See Annex 2 for the full statement].**

Opening Statement by Amb. Brook Debebe, Ethiopia's Special Envoy to IGAD

Amb. Debebe apologised for the guest of honour, State Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr. Tekeda Alemu, who was unable to attend the meeting. He then welcomed all delegates to Addis Ababa.

It was mentioned that Ethiopia has witnessed the various ways CEWARN has matured over the years since its establishment in delivering its objective of conducting conflict early warning and supporting Member States' initiatives in effective response to cross-border pastoralist and related conflicts in the IGAD sub-region.

He noted that clashes among pastoralist communities were caused by competition over limited resources - mainly water and pasture that are increasingly dwindling because of environmental and climate changes. He underscored that pastoralist societies require government support to benefit from economic and political developments of their respective countries. Accordingly, he cited commendable initiatives such as the establishment of the Ministry for Arid Lands in Kenya and the pastoralist strategy being implemented in Ethiopia. He expressed his belief that these initiatives coupled with infrastructural development will provide long-lasting solutions to pastoralist and related conflicts in the region.

Furthermore he added that CEWARN, in the mean time, plays a vital role in conflict prevention while governments strive to deal with the structural causes of these conflicts and achieve overall development. He also lauded CEWARN's innovative approach in terms of engaging state and non-state actors at all levels and concluded by wishing the meeting successful deliberations. **[See Annex 3 for the full statement]**

1.2 ELECTION OF THE BUREAU AND REPORT OF THE TCEWR REPORT OF 2008

The CEWERU Head of Ethiopia Mr. Abdeta Dribssa was elected as chair of the meeting while the CEWERU Head of Kenya Mr. Samuel K. Maina was elected as rapporteur. The meeting also considered and adopted the report of the last TCEWR meeting held in Kampala, Uganda in November 2008.

1.3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting's agenda was adopted without any amendments.
[See Annex 1 for adopted agenda]

2. SUMMARY OF REPORT ON CEWARN'S ACTIVITIES (Dec 08 – Nov 09)

Ag. Director of CEWARN Mr. Raymond Kitevu took delegates through the recommendations of the last 8th Meeting of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) in Kampala, Uganda on 27 November 2008 and informed that CEWARN had made significant progress in implementing many of the recommendations such as mapping of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Karamoja Cluster; roll out of the Rapid Response Fund; finalisation of the Livestock Identification and Traceability

Study (LITS) with Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Nairobi office; the development of CEWERUs operational guidelines as well as initiation of the conduct for the mid-term review of the CEWARN Five Year Strategy Plan for 2007-2011.

The major achievements of CEWARN during the reporting period included:

1. Opening up of five new areas of reporting in the Republic of the Sudan and recruitment of an assistant country Coordinator and five field monitors;
2. Significant progress in implementing the RRF including the establishment of the RRF Steering Committee and conduct of roll-out programmes for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda in the reporting period. CEWARN has also already supported two urgent projects aimed at mitigating conflicts in Ethiopia and Uganda in the period of reporting through the RRF;
3. Held the first joint CEWARN-CEWERU planning meeting in April 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
4. Convened a consultative meeting to establish a national CEWERU in Somalia in June 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
5. CEWARN-ISS joint study on Livestock Identification and Traceability (LITS) was completed and findings disseminated;
6. Incorporating Structural data in CEWARN's early warning analysis reports had begun;
7. CSO mapping exercise for Karamoja Cluster of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda side had been completed;
8. Training of Trainers (TOT) on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) in September 2009 was conducted for CPMR experts within the sub-region;
9. Member States have increased their contribution to CEWARN and CEWARN has also expanded its donor base both for its operational costs and the RRF;
10. New linkages with other organizations was enhanced while existing ones were strengthened through exchange visits, partnerships etc...especially with other Regional Economic Communities (RECs), CSOs, Research Institutes, etc...

Some of the areas of focus in the coming year (2010) included continuing with efforts to expand CEWARN's areas of reporting; strengthening the capacity of CEWERUs and Local Peace Committees in response work; widening sources of information as well as enhancing advocacy on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution; commissioning of research on key priority areas as well as enhancing public relations and communication on CEWARN's work.

Following the presentation on CEWARN's Activity Report the issues raised included:

- a) **CEWARN's plan to make necessary preparations to expand its activities to cover other types of conflicts:** it was explained that CEWARN has over the years accumulated significant experience and gained the trust of stakeholders. It was further clarified that the result of the upcoming mid-term review exercise of the Mechanism's Five Year Strategy is expected to provide insights on the ways CEWARN can expand in the future to cover other types of conflicts and key security concerns in the IGAD region.
- b) **Importance of studying African Traditional Methods of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and the necessity of its inclusion in the training manual:** participants

agreed and CEWARN acknowledged the effectiveness of these methods and will continue to study and integrate them in the training manual.

- c) **CEWARN's possible role in the facilitation of the development of Peace Policies in IGAD Member States:** it was noted that CEWERU operational guidelines can serve as starting points for development of these policies. The distinct governance structures of Member States were recognized and that they will have to spearhead this initiative according to their relevance and needs.

3. REPORTS BY MEMBER STATES ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CEWERUS

3.1 *Djibouti*

The CEWERU Head of Djibouti Mr. Abdi Houssein Ahmed presented a report of key activities and achievements of the Djibouti national CEWERU in the period between September 2008 and September 2009. The following were some of the activities:

1. Conducted a joint workshop in collaboration with the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR) on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) for Djibouti CEWERU from 6-9 October 2008;
2. Facilitated the visit of the lead consultant of the CEWARN Response Framework Ms. Florence Omosa to Djibouti and her meeting with the Dikhil region's administrator and CEWARN field monitors on 12 October 2008;
3. Conducted a technical meeting of Djibouti's CEWERU on planning of activities on 15 October 2008;
4. Established a 17-member local peace committee in Dikhil region composed of local administration, army members, elders, women, religious and traditional leaders from 20-21 November 2008;
5. Conducted Peace meeting with local committees to prepare an annual action plan for 2009 from 7-8 January 2008;
6. Facilitated the visit of the lead consultant conducting the Livestock Identification and Traceability Study (LITS) to Djibouti on 25 February 2009;
7. Conducted the RRF sensitization workshop for Djibouti from 28 -29 September 2009;

The CEWERU of Djibouti participated in numerous consultations and meetings in the reporting period as well, and which were.

- The 6th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) and the 8th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) Meetings held in November 2008 in Kampala, Uganda;
- The 1st RRF Steering Committee Meeting on 16 January 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- Joint CEWARN-CEWERUs Planning Meeting from 7-9 April 2009 in Addis Ababa;
- Extraordinary Meeting of the CEWARN Rapid Response Fund (RRF) Steering Committee Meeting on 5 October 2009 in Addis Ababa;
- Validation workshop organised to review the draft report of the Livestock Identification and Traceability Study (LITS) from 3-5 May 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

3.2 Ethiopia

The CEWERU Head of Ethiopia Mr. Abdeta Dribssa presented a report of key activities and achievements of the Ethiopian national CEWERU in the period of reporting which included the following:

1. Formation of peace committees from Woreda (district) to Kebele level in the Nyangatom Woreda in November 2008;
2. Revitalization of peace committees on the Ethiopian-side of the Somali Cluster in September 2009;
3. Inclusion of regional and zonal administrations in the formation of local CEWERU structures;
4. Development and endorsement of Ethiopia CEWERU Operational Guidelines in July 2009;
5. Submission of draft guidelines on modalities of cross-border collaboration to CEWARN in October 2009;
6. Held the Ethio-Kenya-Sudan Cross-border Planning Meeting of the Karamoja Cluster from 4-5 July for the Nyangatom, Dassenech, Turkana and Toposa communities in Hawassa city;
7. Held an Ethio-Kenya cross-border peace meeting from 2-4 November 2009 in partnership and close collaboration with the CEWARN unit and ELMT/RELPA in Moyale;
8. Conducted the RRF sensitization workshop in Hawassa city in July 2009 and utilized RRF funds for the revitalization process of peace committees on the Ethiopian-side of the Somali Cluster;
9. Identification of new areas of reporting in the Benchmajji Zone of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNPR) region of Ethiopia as a process of expanding the Karamoja Cluster side of Ethiopia;
10. Operationalized early warning and response activities in a new area of reporting that is Moyale (Somali) woreda, found on the Ethiopian side of the Somali cluster.

The presentation was concluded with a mention of some of the focus areas of the Ethiopian CEWERU in 2010. Planned activities included the establishment of a new area of reporting in the areas bordering Dikhil Cluster of Djibouti and the expansion of the areas of reporting in the Somali and Karamoja Clusters as well as the finalization of cross-border early warning and response operational modalities.

3.3 Kenya

The CEWERU Head of Kenya Mr. Samuel K. Maina presented a report of key activities and achievements of the Kenyan national CEWERU in the period of reporting. He began his presentation by stating that the National Steering Committee (NSC)/ CEWERU of Kenya continues to undertake various initiatives geared towards peace building and conflict management in the country since its inception in the year 2003. He also stated that his presentation will not be confined to activities undertaken exclusively in CEWARN's areas of reporting.

Some of the activities highlighted by Mr. Maina included:

- 1) Strengthening the Capacity for Peace building and Conflict Management of District Peace Committees (DPCs) and administrative and law enforcement officers;

- 2) The NSC conducted RRF sensitization workshops in Nanyuki, Garissa and Kitale towns in August 2009;
- 3) Installation of an Early Warning SMS Centre for communication and issuing of alerts for rapid response in October 2009 at the National Research Institute (NRI) – that is the Africa Peace Forum (APFO);
- 4) Efforts geared towards small arms management and control including consolidation of the research reports on the status of armed violence and small arms in Rift valley and Northern Kenya;
- 5) Development of a Comprehensive Policy and strategic plan for Conflict Prevention and transformation including the Draft Policy on Peace building and Conflict Management alongside a Draft Bill and a Draft Policy on Small Arms and Light Weapons that are awaiting approval by Kenya Cabinet;
- 6) Enhanced Communication and information sharing including the inauguration of the regular Peace and Conflict Updates from the CEWERUs Conflict Analysis Group (chaired by the NRI) for circulation to stakeholders beginning September 2009;
- 7) Promotion of a culture of peace and advocacy including national and international Day of Peace celebrations in September 2009;
8. NSC embarked on a process of documentation and production of reports aimed at capturing best practices and having inventory of ongoing processes to be used as reference material and also reward achievers;
9. Conducted the Ethio-Kenya cross-border peace meeting in collaboration with the CEWERU of Ethiopia, CEWARN and ELMT/ RELPA from 2-4 November 2009 in Moyale Town, Ethiopia. The meeting discussed modalities of developing a framework of resolving conflicts across the Ethio-Kenya border in the Somali Cluster;
10. Participated in bi-lateral peace building initiatives of the Ethiopian and Kenyan governments and related consultations held respectively in July, October and November 2009 (in Hawassa Town, Ethiopia and Nakuru Town, Kenya).

3.4 Sudan

The Deputy Head of the national CEWERU of Sudan Hon. Gadwain Lopuke presented a report of key activities and achievements of the national CEWERU of Sudan in the period of reporting which included the following:

1. Participated in the validation workshop organised to review the draft report of the Livestock Identification and Traceability Study (LITS) in Nairobi from 3-5 May 2009 and facilitated the visit of the lead consultant undertaking the study to Sudan;
2. Conducted a CEWARN Steering Committee Meeting on 28 May 2009. The outcome of the meeting included a decision to establish a middle-CEWERU structure to be based in Juba, Southern Sudan as well as the formation of a committee tasked with drafting the terms of reference for the middle-CEWERU structure and operational guidelines for the national CEWERU;
3. Participated in the preparatory cross-border Meeting of the Karamoja Cluster for the Nyangatom, Dassenech, Turkana and Toposa communities in Hawassa Town from 4-5 July 2009. The meeting was undertaken in preparation for a comprehensive cross-border meeting targeting these communities. The CEWERU Head of Sudan, the Southern Sudan

- Peace Commissioner and the Country Coordinator participated in the meeting along with representatives of elders from the Toposa community;
4. Opened up, in close collaboration with the CEWARN Unit four areas of reporting on the Sudan side of the Karamoja Cluster (Naita, Narus, Lotukei and Ikotos);
 5. Facilitated the selection of an academic institution that would serve as CEWARN's National Research Institute (NRI). Accordingly, the Centre for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS) belonging to the University of Juba was selected.

3.5 Somalia

Mr. Mohammed Jama Ali, Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, gave a brief update on progress in the establishment of a national CEWERU in Somalia in the reporting period.

Mr. Jama noted that the process of the establishment of the national CEWERU for Somalia started with a consultative meeting from 28 -29 June 2009 in Addis Ababa that brought together about 40 representatives of governmental and non-governmental actors as well as traditional and religious leaders. Following the consultative meeting, an ad hoc CEWERU steering committee with nine members was formed and housed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the TFG of Somalia. Mr. Jama concluded by informing that so far, the committee had convened three separate meetings with government, parliamentarians and CSOs to inform and brief the process and its development and will proceed to conduct a conflict mapping exercise for the Somali-side of the Somali Cluster.

3.6 Uganda

The head of the national CEWERU of Uganda Mr. Ahmed Wafuba began his presentation by stating that the fact that Uganda has a ministry dealing with Karamoja affairs is indicative of the amount of attention accorded to the plight of pastoralist communities in the Karamoja cluster by the Ugandan government. In this regard, the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Programme (KIDDP) is also a programme by the government of Uganda that seeks to address problems of the Karamoja Cluster in a holistic manner.

According to Mr. Wafuba, some of the key activities by the national CEWERU of Uganda during the reporting period included:

1. Refresher training of Field Monitors in February 2009;
2. Peace meetings between Kraal leaders from the districts of Moroto, Kaabong and Kotido in February 2009;
3. Review of the composition of the CEWERU National Steering Committee in May 2009;
4. Sensitization Workshop marking the roll out of the RRF in Uganda in June 2009;
5. Hand over of 280 cows of the Pokot of Kenya which strayed into Riwo Sub-County Bukwo district to Kenyan Authorities by Ugandan counter parts (Bukwo District Peace Committee) in July 2009;
6. Field assessment mission for the ICT for Peace Project to the Karamoja Cluster districts in Uganda from 2-10 July 2009;
7. Mapping of Civil Societies participating in peace activities in CEWARN's areas of reporting in Uganda in July 2009;

8. Cross-border Peace consultative meeting with Turkana community leaders at Lodwar from 6-9 August 2009;
9. Bilateral meeting of the border Peace Committees with Kenyan counterparts in Nairobi from 18-20 August 2009;
10. Consultations with District Peace Committees (DPCs) to develop operational guidelines for CEWERU operations from August through September 2009.

Discussions arising:

- 1) A delegate asked whether there has been any progress in opening up areas of reporting on the Ethiopian side of the Dikhil Cluster. The CEWERU Head of Ethiopia, in response, informed the meeting that the national CEWERU and the NRI are planning to make a field assessment to the area before the end of the year and lay the ground for the opening of areas of reporting on the Ethiopian-side. The Ag. Director of CEWARN reminded delegates to refer to CEWARN's areas of reporting along Djibouti-Ethiopia border as Dikhil Cluster and not as Afar/Issa Cluster.
- 2) A delegate noted that the Kenyan NSC has a wide-ranging mandate to look at all issues of peace and security and not just confined to pastoralist and related conflicts. The delegate asked if this is the same for other CEWERUs. In response, the Assistant Country Coordinator of Sudan Mr. Alfred Okech said that the Southern Sudan Peace Commission (SSPC) that hosts the Sudan middle-CEWERU structure in Juba has a much comprehensive mandate. He also mentioned that the SSPC is in the process of establishing an early warning mechanism and there is an indication that it will be using the middle-CEWERU structure. The CEWERU Head of Uganda Mr. Wafubua also noted that the CEWERU of Uganda also looks at Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWS) issues as matters of small arms and disarmament and are key elements of the dynamics of peace and security in the Karamoja Cluster.

4. PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY UPDATES

4.1 Djibouti: Dikhil Cluster (From September 2008 – August 2009)

The Country Coordinator of Djibouti Mr. Elmi Awaleh began his presentation of Djibouti Country Updates for the period from September 2008 – August 2009 by informing that the reporting locations on the Djibouti side of the Dikhil Cluster are three: As-Eyla South-West sector, As-Eyla South-East sector and Dikhil town sector.

It was noted that during the period of reporting there were no recorded losses of life in the areas of reporting but there were reports of raids leading to the loss of 8 livestock. Two of the eight recorded incidents took place on the Ethiopian-side of the Cluster and involved members of Afar and Issa communities from the two neighboring countries, Djibouti and Ethiopia.

Some of the recommendations put forward are towards mitigating violent conflict on the Djiboutian side of the Dikhil Cluster included putting in place the requisite security and humanitarian measures to prevent conflict precipitated by environmental pressures as this factor played a key role in causing violent conflicts. He also cited the need to control internal displacement or livestock migration through provision of emergency fodder and water whenever the situation demanded. He also recommended for the establishment of an ad-hoc emergency consultative mechanism through which government authorities, traditional leaders and civil society can work together to coordinate humanitarian and conflict prevention activities. He concluded by underlying the need to launch cross-border peace initiatives with the national CEWERU of Ethiopia.

4.2 Ethiopia: Karamoja and Somali Clusters (September 2008 – November 2009)

The CEWARN Country Coordinator for Ethiopia Mr. Bizusew Mersha presented the Country Updates for the Ethiopian sides of the Karamoja and Somali Clusters for the period September 2008 and November 2009.

Tabular comparison of violent incidents were provided at both national and cross border levels, human lives lost, and livestock losses for both the Karamoja and Somali Clusters including their respective analysis and conclusions.

The Ethiopian-side of the Karamoja Cluster consists of three areas of reporting namely Kibish, Nebremus and Bubua that share borders with South-Eastern Sudan and North-Turkana district of Kenya; Nyangatom and Dassenech communities on the Ethiopian side; Turkana on the Kenyan-side and Toposa on the Sudanese side. Mr. Mersha noted that almost all recorded incidents in the Karamoja cluster were cross-border in nature and noted the increasing importance of the Toposa community in the Cluster's peace and conflict dynamics.

He also cited the phasing out in 2008 of a joint South Omo-Turkana Conflict Mitigation Project by EPARDA of Ethiopia and Riam Riam of Turkana, Kenya as well as weak cross-border collaboration between local administrations as main conflict aggravating factors. He also added limited capacity or absence of government law enforcement institutions on the ground and inability to provide security for communities as well as persistent drought as other factors aggravated conflicts.

Some of the recommendations put forward included the need for pursuit of a community led and all inclusive peace process in the Karamoja cluster; the need to bring communities to share limited resources to help them cope with increasing environmental pressures as well as beefing up of security presence in these areas.

In the Somali Cluster, the CEWARN Mechanism has six areas of reporting namely Moyale (Oromiya), Moyale (Somali), Dillo, Dire, Miyo and Dolo Ado which share borders with the Eastern and North Eastern Provinces of Kenya. The Borana, Gabbra and Garri (Somali clan) communities live on both the Ethiopian and Kenyan sides of the border. The majority of the violent incidents recorded in the cluster were internal and factors such as contested borders as well as the activities of the insurgent Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and severe drought contributed further to the conflict in these areas of reporting.

Recommendations proposed to mitigate violent conflict on the Ethiopian-side of the Somali Cluster included expansion and consolidation of the Dukana/Maikona Peace processes that are community-led with marked success, tackling the internal Gabbra, Garri and Borana conflict and the need to follow up and implement the recommendations of the Moyale cross-border peace meeting for the Somali Cluster held from 2nd to 4th November 2009. In conclusion a suggestion was made to rename the Somali Cluster as the majority of communities – on the Ethiopian side of the cluster - are Oromo and are contesting the use of the term “Somali” for the cluster.

4.3 Kenya: Karamoja and Somali Clusters (September 2008 – August 2009)

The Assistant Country Coordinator of Kenya Ms. Irene Tulel presented the updates for the Karamoja and Somali Clusters from September 2008 and August 2009.

The report began by highlighting CEWARN's areas of reporting in the Karamoja Cluster that are: Turkana North-West; Turkana North-East; Turkana-central; Turkana-South; West Pokot; Trans Nzoia; Lokichoggio; Samburu North; Samburu Central; East Pokot and Pokot Central districts.

The Assistant Country Coordinator noted that the Kenyan-side of the Karamoja Cluster continues to experience a high-level of violent raids and human deaths. Failed attempts to craft social contracts that could assist in ensuring resource sharing and lack of shared vision between communities as far as development is concerned are some of the factors behind escalation of violent conflicts in the cluster. Other emerging concerns in the Karamoja cluster included high level of raids during drought as well low levels of recovery of stolen animals. Furthermore, reports of high incidences of banditry for the reporting periods in these areas is indicative of the need of putting initiatives that could assist pastoralists to have alternative livelihoods.

On the Kenyan side of the Somali Cluster, CEWARN's areas of reporting include Moyale, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa and Mandera. As opposed to the situation in the Karamoja Cluster, the low recordings of violent incidents from Somali Cluster could be attributed to the dominance of one religion and culture thus making it easy to mobilize for Peace. In addition, peace agreements such as the Modogashe Declaration which is a community led peace agreement brokered amongst Somali clans and other communities that saw communities pledge to stop conflicts.

Other structural factors behind pastoralist and related conflicts on the cross-border areas of the Karamoja and Somali Clusters included systemic marginalization; small arms and light weapons proliferation; vastness of the administrative districts and high levels of poverty.

4.4 Uganda: Karamoja Cluster (September -December 2008; January – April and May – August 2009)

The CEWARN Country Coordinator for Uganda Mr. Joseph Muhumuza provided an update of the peace and security dynamics in CEWARN's areas of reporting in Uganda for the above-mentioned period. With regard to summary of violent incidents, there were 112 recorded incidents for the months September to December 2008; 135 for January – April 2009 and 152 for May –August 2009. Out of these recorded incidents the incidents between May to August 2009 had the highest instances of cross-border incidents. It was also noted that for the last consecutive periods of reporting a large number of rapes have been reported from Moroto District alone.

The Country Coordinator put forward recommendations aimed at mitigating pastoralist and related conflicts on the Ugandan side of the Karamoja Cluster including the need for CEWERUs to champion the cause for the development of national peace policies, provide support to local peace committees and security and relief aid to communities whenever necessary. He also suggested support by the national CEWERU for emergency livestock marketing interventions (ELMIs). In terms of roles local communities and non-governmental organizations can play, it was further mentioned that mobilisation of communities for development, support to agreements and cross-border initiatives, support education for boys and girls as well as using available resources such as the RRF to engage in research were important.

Discussions arising:

- 1) A delegate asked how CEWARN can step in to fill the gap caused by the phasing out of projects with no exit strategies such as the former joint South Omo-Turkana Conflict Mitigation Project by EPaRDA and Riam Riam. It was clarified that it was not possible for CEWARN to step in to fill the gap as CEWARN had no engagement in the initial project planning but currently the Ethiopian CEWERU has plan to co-opt the peace committees into its structures to ensure their continuity.
2. Another question raised was on why the recommendations of bi-lateral initiatives such as the Ethio-Kenya bi-lateral consultations of October 2009 in Nakuru and a follow up meeting in Hawassa Town on 1 November 2009 are not being implemented. It was explained that the implementation was interrupted due to the cycle of incidents (raids and counter-raids) that continued, making it difficult for communities and local administration to honor the peace agreements.

It was further mentioned that there were a number of Alerts¹ issued and violent incidents prevented within the reporting period. There were 20 Alerts issued from Kenya and more than 3 from Ethiopia and Uganda that successfully mitigated escalation of situation and violence.

5. PRESENTATION OF REGIONAL/CLUSTER REPORTS KARAMOJA, SOMALI AND DIKIL CLUSTERS (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2008; JAN-APRIL & MAY-AUGUST 2009)

The IT and Data Management Officer (IT&DMO) of CEWARN Ms. Bethlehem Abebe presented on the regional conflict and peace dynamics in the three above-named clusters. She highlighted the impact of the conflict, prominent features common in all the clusters, influential conflict aggravating as well as conflict mitigating factors in the clusters for the reporting periods. The impact of the violent conflicts included, the total number of violent incidents being 270, the number of human deaths being 199 and the total number of net livestock raided being 22, 627. Of the total violent incidents only 8% were cross-border.

6. ALERTS AND SUCCESS STORIES

¹ Full report of Alerts and Success Stories are on CEWARN website www.cewarn.org

The features of the conflicts which were common in the 3 clusters during the reporting periods inter alia included:

1. Dependence on pastoralism as a livelihood means and negative cultural beliefs and practices;
2. Drought affected areas inhabited by pastoralists (Karamoja, Somali and Dikhil);
3. Border/land disputes due to lack of clear demarcation during the creation of new Woreda/Districts and other administrative areas;
4. For the first time large number of women raped were recorded for the reporting periods of Jan-April 09 being 32 while previously in Sept-Dec 12 from Uganda all in Moroto District of Uganda.

The conflict aggravating factors, inter alia, included:

1. Continued availability of arms and ammunitions;
2. Impact of climate and resultant environmental outcomes;
3. Formal cross-border structures not effectively and timely addressing cross-border conflicts;
4. Breakage of traditional alliances eg. Pokot and Luhya in Tran-Nzoia;
5. Situation in Somalia resulting in refugees and challenges to dealing with perpetrators who fled to Somalia.

On the other hand, the **conflict mitigating factors** in the clusters for the reporting periods were described to have been the following:

1. Provision of relief food for drought affected areas both by governmental and civil society institutions;
2. Efforts to sustain existing intra and inter peace agreements and new ones;
3. More reports of efforts of government institutions to recover raided livestock specially by Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) in Uganda;
4. Provision of social services by both government and CSOs;
5. Community alliances for peace such as Mursi and Nyangatom, Jie and Dodoth, Tepeth of Uganda and Pokot of Kenya, Samburu and Turkana of Kenya etc in the reporting period etc...

Discussions arising:

After discussions the meeting agreed to seriously consider the implementation of the recommendations provided in the regional and country reports of CEWARN and to involve the IGAD Climatic Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) based in Nairobi in addressing issues related to climatic and environmental pressures.

7. BRIEF ON CEWARN'S RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Response Coordinator of CEWARN, Mr Abdirashid Warsame, presented on CEWARN's Response initiatives/activities. He gave an outline of the structure of his presentation which covered various response activities implemented including the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), the

Proposed Response Framework, Livestock Identification and Traceability Study (LITS), peace meetings and consultations. The Response Coordinator summarized his presentation on CEWARN's response initiatives with the following call for action including the complete roll-out of the RRF, implementation and institutionalization of the Response Framework, Member States assess the costs and benefits, and make informed decisions on implementing the findings of the LITS, provide platforms for peace and security dialogue or consultation and policy forums as well, support the peace/response initiatives and build the CPMR capacities of stakeholders and coordinate efforts and harmonize approaches of responding to conflicts and addressing threats to human security.

The CEWARN Acting Director called upon all the CEWERU Heads to come up with concrete ideas on the way forward regarding the adoption of the response documents including the operational guidelines which were discussed and endorsed by the participants.

8. MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE CEWARN STRATEGY (2007-2011)

The CEWARN Acting Director, Mr Raymond Kitevu shared with participants the rationale for the mid-term review of the CEWARN Strategy Plan 2007-2011 and the selection procedure of the consultant to undertake the exercise. He mentioned that the identified consultant Dr. Kindiki Kithure is the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Nairobi, and has also been contracted by the IGAD Secretariat to develop the Peace and Security Strategy of IGAD. This will help link the role of CEWARN within IGAD Peace and Security Strategy and clearly outline the future direction of CEWARN in terms of possible expansion to cover other types of conflicts. The consultancy will begin in December 2009 and two feedback forums will be held in March and April next year (2010) for the purpose of presenting and deliberate on its findings.

8. UPDATE ON MAPPING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) IN THE KARAMOJA CLUSTER

The CEWARN Research & Training Officer, AbdelMoneim Elhoweris, notified the meeting that the CEWARN Unit commissioned a CSO Mapping exercise in the Karamoja Cluster sides of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda on 5th June 2009 with the objectives to:

1. Identify CSOs engaged in peacebuilding and development work in CEWARN's areas of reporting for possible partnership;
2. Map-out geographical areas covered by such initiatives and gaps in terms of areas not covered;
3. Gauge the level of knowledge and capacity of the CSOs in relation to Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR);
4. Identify challenges and lessons learned by CSOs in their CPMR work;
5. Identify areas of success by CSOs in CPMR initiatives;

6. Explore further opportunities for CPMR based organizations to further build their capacities;
7. Assess internal and cross-border peace initiatives and networks of CSOs in the Karamoja cluster.

The study was undertaken and presented by the country coordinators of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. The participants commended the initiative and recommended that the study should be availed to all CEWERUs to assist them in their selection of CSOs for Local Peace Committees and partnering in their activities. Application and dissemination of the study is to be left to each CEWERU for internal consumption and decide on how to utilize the study's findings.

9. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICT FOR PEACE PROJECT

Ms. Bethlehem Abebe briefed the meeting on the current status of the implementation of the ICT4Peace project by stating the following that:

1. The HF Radios have been bought and imported by USAID and were awaiting disbursement to the three Member States of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda;
2. Informed by field mission visits and consultations with CEWERUs and Local Peace Committees partners, sites for each HF Radios have been identified for installation;
3. An institution, Navcom agent for Codan HF Radio in Nairobi, has been selected to do the training for trainer-of-trainers (TOTs) on the usage of the HF Radios;
4. The process of procuring license for frequencies have started in each targeted Member State;
 - a. Uganda is in the process of finalizing the licensing of its frequencies;
 - b. Kenya - it was agreed to partner with already existing organizations using HF radio in that it would request for expansion of coverage of existing frequency. Letters for expansion request by Riam Riam is in the process of being submitted to the Kenya Government. Faulty HF radios of partners were transported from Todonyang and Lodwar to Nairobi for repair;
 - c. Ethiopia – it was agreed that the process of frequency application would start as soon as the HF Radios were transported to Ethiopia from Nairobi.
5. Sudan - differed until the process of setting up information collection network and CEWERU in Southern Sudan is finished;
6. High gain antenna for areas with weak signal for cellular was identified as another way of enhancing communication. Weak signal for hot spot areas have been identified as well. The service provider for the high gain antenna has been selected for Uganda while in Kenya proposals are still being awaited from service providers.

Way Forward:

CEWARN was tasked to do the following for the full implementation of the project:

- To expedite contracting a company to do the disbursement of HF Radios to both Ethiopia and Uganda;
- Ensure that the trainings of TOTs were done before end of December 2009;
- Identify partner institutions and expedite installation of the equipment.

CEWERUs were tasked:

- Obtain the frequencies/license of HF Radios;

- Send names and addresses of partner institutions where the high gain antennas would be installed.

10. ADOPTION OF THE TCEWR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT SECRETARIES (CPS)

The meeting approved, with amendments, the adoption of the TCEWR report and recommendations to be presented to the meeting of the 9th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) scheduled to be held on 2nd December 2009, in Addis Ababa.

Closing Session:

After extending gratitude to the organizers of the meeting and the host government, the Chairman of the TCEWR meeting invited the Ag Director of CEWARN to provide closing remarks.

The meeting was thereafter officially closed at 5:00p.m.

Recommendations of the 7th meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) of CEWARN to the 9th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS)

The 7th Meeting of the Technical committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) of the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) in the IGAD region convened from 30 November - 1 December 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting reviewed the activities of CEWARN for the year 2008/9 and gave recommendations on its future direction. The meeting, among other things also held fruitful discussions on the CEWARN activity report, response initiatives, the mapping of civil society organisations in the Karamoja Cluster as well as the upcoming Mid-term review exercise of the Five-Year Strategy Plan for 2007 -2011.

After discussing the various set agenda items, the meeting came up with the following recommendations to be presented for endorsement to the 9th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) to be held on 2 December 2009 at the same venue.

- I. The meeting approved and endorsed the activity report of the CEWARN Mechanism for the period November 2008-November 2009 and commended the Unit for the activities undertaken during the same period.
- II. That CEWARN and CEWERUs ensure implementation of the recommendations presented in the Country Updates and the Regional Cluster reports at local, national, and cross-border/regional levels.
- III. Commends the Unit for commissioning and conducting the Mapping of Peace Actors and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Karamoja Cluster—sides of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The meeting urges that CEWARN uses the findings of the mapping exercise in Karamoja Cluster to support CEWERUs to ensure that there is a comprehensive approach to deal with pastoralist conflicts as well as effective coordination and collaboration between the various stakeholders within the CEWARN Mechanism.
- IV. That the CEWARN Mechanism adopts the proposed Conflict Response Framework. The meeting also endorses the concept note on the operationalization of the Response Framework and recommends that the CEWARN Unit assists the CEWERUs of Member States in the implementation and operationalization of the framework.
- V. Recognizes the progress made in the implementation of the CEWARN Rapid Response Fund roll-out programme. The meeting recommends that the CEWARN Mechanism (CEWARN Unit and national CEWERUs) complete the RRF roll-out programme by developing and implementing capacity building programmes/projects at all levels in the following year 2010.
- VI. That CEWARN expedites the final implementation of the ICT 4 Peace Project within the areas of reporting to facilitate communication and relaying of early warning information for effective response and action.

- VII. That CEWARN continues to explore and link with existing international, continental, regional/sub-regional, national initiatives and mechanisms in addressing the disarmament of pastoralist communities and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs).
- VIII. The meeting takes note of the finalization of Livestock Identification and Traceability Study (LITS) jointly commissioned by the CEWARN Unit and the *Mifugo* Project of the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) Nairobi which partners with the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) in order to come up with a regional approach to deal with the issue. The meeting recommends that CEWARN Unit makes the study findings available and for Member States to assess the costs and benefits of Livestock Identification and Traceability System, and make informed decision about the implementation of the recommendations of the study.

In this regard, Member States are expected to hold internal consultations and seek ways to best implement the recommendations of the Study.

- IX. Commends CEWARN for organizing and supporting various cross-border peace initiatives and urges it to continue supporting meetings and providing platforms for peace consultations/dialogue. It also recommends that CEWARN should support policy forums aimed at addressing pastoral and related conflicts in the region.
- X. The CEWARN Unit continues the establishment of strong linkages and institutionalization of periodic consultations and collaboration among CEWERUs including initiating exchange visits, so as to promote cross-border peace initiatives at both national and local levels and respond to both potential and actual conflicts in the reporting areas in an effective and timely manner.
- XI. Recognizes the development of draft Operational Modalities/Guidelines for Cross-border Response for the CEWARN Mechanism by the CEWARN Unit. The meeting agreed to proceed to implement fully the operational guidelines as some Member States have started implementing for the effective undertaking of response at cross-border levels.
- XII. The CEWARN Unit to oversee the conducting of the mid-term review of its 2007-2011 Strategy and Member States, CEWERUs and other stakeholders, partners and experts are requested to facilitate the exercise. It was also suggested that in early 2010 all stakeholders to meet and deliberate on the findings.
- XIII. In connection to the above, that the CEWARN Mechanism establishes a monitoring and evaluation system so as to measure the effectiveness and impact of its projects and programmes aimed at promoting early warning and early response work.
- XIV. That CEWARN continues to provide assistance to CEWERUs in order to strengthen their institutional capacities in conducting Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) activities within the areas of reporting with a view to integrating conflict response and peace-building systems and efforts from grass-roots to national levels.

- XV. While recognizing the financial support and contribution of the Member States and Partners to the operational budget of the Mechanism and the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) and calling for the continued support therewith; the CEWARN Unit is encouraged to continue its efforts in mobilizing new sources of funding.
- XVI. That CEWARN and CEWERUs coordinate the establishment of local peace structures for response; and review and strengthen them where they exist.
- XVII. That CEWARN undertakes more capacity building initiatives at local, national, and cross-border/regional levels in consultation with CEWERUs through activities such as Training of Trainers (TOT), research, etc.
- XVIII. Calls upon IGAD Member States to continue involving CEWARN in their bi-lateral peace and security mechanisms and initiatives including Joint Border Commissions (JBC).
- XIX. Recognizing the need to have national policies on peace-building and conflict management to provide guidelines on the design and implementation of CPMR activities in the region CEWARN will facilitate the completion of such policies where they have been initiated, and support their development where they are yet to commence. Furthermore, CEWARN will ensure harmonization of such policies that have cross-border implications to neighbouring Member States.
- XX. Local peace structures should be linked to Member States' peace and security mechanisms for the purposes of presenting and contributing to deliberations on peace and security dynamics in the cross-border areas.
- XXI. It was recommended that the CEWERUs of Ethiopia, Kenya and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia consult to come up with a more appropriate term for the Somali Cluster.
- XXII. CEWARN is requested to expedite the finalization of fully operationalizing the Sudan-side of the Karamoja cluster to enable it benefit from activities being implemented.
- XXIII. CEWARN is requested to coordinate its work with organizations with similar mandate such as the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).
- XXIV. CEWARN is requested to enhance its collaboration with other institutions working on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in order to initiate harmonized regional disarmament within IGAD Countries.

ANNEXTURES

Annex I



Agenda of the 7th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) 30 November – 1 December 2009 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

I. Opening Statements:

Introduction and Welcome Address.

Mr. Yufnalis Okubo, Ag Director of Peace & Security, IGAD.

Opening Statement.

Amb. Brook Debebe Ethiopia's Special Envoy to IGAD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Ethiopia

II. Election of the Bureau.

III. Adoption of the Agenda and Program.

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1. Presentation of Summary Report on CEWARN's Activities December 2008- November 2009
2. Reports by the Member States on activities and progress of CEWERUs
3. Presentation and discussion of the CEWARN Country Updates: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.
4. Presentation and Discussion of CEWARN Regional Reports
5. Brief on Response Activities and Developments
6. Mid-term Review of the Strategy (2007-2011)
7. Update on Mapping of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Karamoja Cluster
8. Update on Implementation of the ICT4 Peace Project
9. Adoption of TCEWR Report and Recommendations for the Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS)
10. AOB
11. Closing of the Meeting

Annex II

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. YUFNALIS N. OKUBO, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PEACE AND SECURITY DIVISION, IGAD SECRETARIAT, AT THE 7TH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE (TCEWR) OF CEWARN.

Harmony Hotel, Addis Ababa, November 30, 2009

Your Excellency, The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
The Chairman of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR), Mr. Abdeta Dribssa
The Acting Director of CEWARN, Mr. Raymond Kitevu
Heads of CEWERUs,
Esteemed Guests,
CEWARN Staff
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the IGAD Secretariat and the Executive Secretary, H.E. Eng. Mahboub M. Maalim, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for the 7th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) of CEWARN. I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting us and the support it accorded to us in organising this meeting. I would also like to commend you all for taking time off your busy schedules and availing yourselves for this important event that aims at deliberating on ways to effectively implement the activities of CEWARN in the New Year 2010 and beyond.

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

Today's agenda contains several issues of strategic importance to CEWARN that we need to deliberate on and agree upon the most effective ways of implementing them. Some of the issues include the following:-

- Summary report on CEWARN activities from November 2008 to November 2009;
- Reports from Member states on the progress and past activities of CEWERUs;
- Presentation of Country Updates and Regional Reports;
- CEWARN's Response Initiatives;
- CEWARN mid-term review of the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan;
- Findings of the Mapping of Peace Actors and CSOs in Karamoja Cluster – sides of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda;
- Adoption of TCEWR's Report and Recommendations to the 9th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) meeting that will take place later this week; amongst others.

As we conduct our business today, I wish to underscore the importance of deliberating and agreeing on the way forward on the above issues. Equally important to note is that CEWARN has continued to implement its five-year strategic plan in 2009, which included, among other things, the development and initiation of response initiatives geared towards strengthening the response side of the mechanism at the local, national and cross-border levels.

Esteemed Participants,

I wish to acknowledge the achievements made by the CEWARN Mechanism in 2009 implementing the recommendations of the last TCEWR and CPS meetings on 24th-25th and 27th November 2008 in Kampala, Uganda, which included:

1. Launching of the Rapid Response Fund of CEWARN with the establishment of the RRF Steering Committee;
2. Implementation of the 1st and 2nd phases of the RRF roll-out programme i.e., finalization of the managerial system for the implementation of the fund and RRF sensitization workshops conducted in four IGAD Member States;
3. Finalization of the Livestock Identification and Traceability Study (LITS) in collaboration with the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) Nairobi to prevent livestock-raiding related violent conflicts in the region;
4. Commissioning and conducting a Mapping of Peace Actors and CSOs in Karamoja Cluster to ensure a comprehensive approach and identify effective and relevant institutions to address pastoralist conflicts as well as effective coordination and collaboration between the various stakeholders within the CEWARN Mechanism;
5. Started implementation of the ICT 4 Peace Project within the Areas of Reporting (AoRs) to facilitate communication and relaying of early warning information for effective response;
6. Developed a proposal for Operational Modalities/Guidelines for CEWARN Mechanism's cross-border responses;
7. Sought input from CEWERUs in finalizing the Proposed Response Framework and developed a concept note on the operationalization of the framework; amongst others.

The implementation of all these activities demonstrated the Mechanism's commitment and capacity in undertaking activities as directed by its senior policy organs; something which we at the IGAD Secretariat acknowledge and support as well.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On another note, I would like to commend the CEWARN Unit, the IGAD Secretariat and donors which contributed to and made the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) of CEWARN a success and reality. The RRF, Proposed Response Framework, Livestock Identification and Traceability, as well as Peace Meetings are the initiatives aimed at strengthening the early response side of the mechanism as interventions to address some the concerns raised by our early warning reports.

Allow me to state that at the IGAD Secretariat's level, we initiated various resource mobilization activities in 2009 to support various initiatives such as CEWARN i.e. JFA signing etc.

Finally,

I wish to conclude my remarks by acknowledging the support, advice and encouragement from our development partners including USAID, GTZ, EU, SIDA, Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Denmark, Italy, Belgium, UK and others in the implementation of our activities, as well as the support from Member States as we continue to make CEWARN the leading early warning and early response initiative, not only in Africa but also in the world. Last but not the least, I wish to express my appreciation to my fellow CEWARN and IGAD colleagues in organising and making this event a success.

I once again welcome you to Addis Ababa and wish you fruitful discussions and successful outcomes.

I Thank You.

OPENING STATEMENT BY AMB. BROOK DEBEBE, SPEICAL INVOY TO IGAD, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA, DURING THE 7TH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE (TCEWR) OF CEWARN

Harmony Hotel, Addis Ababa
November 30, 2009

Mr. Yufnalis N. Okubo, Acting Director of Peace and Security Division, IGAD Secretariat,
The Chairperson of the TCEWR, CEWERU Head Ethiopia, Mr. Abdeta Dribssa
Mr. Raymond Kitevu, CEWARN Acting Director,
Esteemed Guests,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the People and Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, it is my sincere honor and pleasure to welcome you all to Addis Ababa for this 7th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) of CEWARN. I believe you will have a pleasant and enjoyable stay for the few days that you will be here, and ask you to find time and see the beautiful city of Addis Ababa, the headquarters of Africa.

The pastoralist arc of the Horn of Africa, which also includes Member States of the IGAD sub-region, continues to be plagued by conflicts that largely stem from competition over scarce resources, disputes over grazing land, access to water points and proliferation and availability of small arms, amongst other numerous peace and security challenges. This has led to enormous loss of lives and property and continues to pose a great threat and danger to peace, stability and development in the sub-region.

Since the establishment of CEWARN by IGAD Member States in 2002, the Mechanism has provided a unique early warning opportunity for member states to address cross-border pastoral and related conflicts by monitoring and providing warnings early warning information on a range of issues that may trigger and influence conflicts among pastoral communities such as environmental pressures, banditry, proliferation of small arms, resource-based conflicts to name but a few.

Esteemed Delegates,

As you will agree with me, to effectively address many of the conflicts prevalent in our region, it is imperative to provide full support and engagement to CEWARN so that it may be able to efficiently and reliably provide and respond to emerging or existing violent situations in the cross0border pilot areas where it is being implemented. To this end, as the current chair of IGAD, Ethiopia fully commends CEWARN in developing its five-year strategic plan for the year 2007-2011 and strongly supports appropriate initiatives being undertaken to implement the various strategic objectives in the CEWARN Strategic document to enable the Mechanism to fully implement its mandate.

I am particularly pleased to see response initiatives being undertaken by CEWARN in order to strengthen its early response side of the mechanism. In this regard, the development of the Response Framework and the launch and roll-out of the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) of CEWARN, ICT 4 Peace Project as well as the finalization of the Livestock Identification and Traceability study (LITs) are such initiatives that must be supported by IGAD Member States, the national conflict early warning and early response units (CEWERUs), CEWARN's Development Partners, other Partner Organizations, as well as those stakeholders at national and local levels for synergy and better coordination.

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently, the IGAD region is facing myriad human security challenges which warrant concerted regional approach to address and resolve. As we work together with the international community to respond to these challenges in our region, we must actively engage CEWARN, IGAD's other specialized Units such as ICPAC and ICPAT as well as other regional projects that address the priority areas of IGAD as the need for an integrated approach and their contributions to addressing peace and development in the region becomes extremely useful.

Finally, let me thank you all for availing yourselves and attending this meeting. My challenge to you is that you all positively and exhaustively contribute to our meeting's agenda, and embrace this opportunity to map out realistic and achievable strategies that will ensure that CEWARN and indeed all IGAD's programmes succeed as envisaged by Member States in the near future.

It is therefore my utmost pleasure and humble duty to declare this meeting officially open and wish you fruitful deliberations and outcomes.

I Thank You.

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