

**Report of the Proceedings of the 9th Meeting of the
CEWARN Technical Committee of Early Warning**

2-3 September 2012

Munyonyo Resort, Kampala, Uganda

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The introduction and opening proceedings were presided over by a representative from the IGAD secretariat Mr Mohammed Moussa, Director of Agriculture and Environment, as well as H.E. Ambassador Rhoda Kaisho, Director for Regional Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Republic of Uganda.

Introduction and Welcome Address by Mr Mohammed Moussa

Mr Moussa started off his introductory address by expressing heartfelt condolences to the Ethiopian delegation on the untimely passing away of His Excellency Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who was the current Chairperson IGAD.

Mr Moussa expressed gratitude to representatives of Ethiopia for attending the meeting under such solemn circumstances, and specifically on the day that the Prime Minister was laid to rest.

A minute of silence was observed in honour of the late Meles Zenawi.

Furthermore, the delegation from the Republic of Uganda was commended for hosting the meeting, as well as for supporting CEWARN in conference administration, and receiving participants with such grace and generosity.

In his speech, Mr Moussa reiterated the commitment and the support that the IGAD Member States have to strengthen CEWARN's work in preventing pastoralist and related conflicts during the last decade. He underlined CEWARN's journey to this point, and how it has entered a new phase of building on its successes. CEWARN embarked on a process of developing a strategy in the last year that will enable the mechanism to grow and continue to fulfil its mandate for the next period (2012-2019). As such, he stated that the priority of the TCEW meeting would be centred on the review of this draft strategy, along with other agenda items. Mr Moussa stated that the TCEW meeting is of particular importance as it precedes the annual CPS meeting (on 4 September), whose discussions are centred on the recommendations made by the TCEW. It was highlighted that Honourable Janet Museveni, First Lady and Minister of Karamoja Affairs would be the Guest of Honour to the CPS meeting.

Opening Statement by Guest of Honour- Ambassador Rhoda Kaisho

The opening statement by H.E. Amb. Rhoda Kaisho also started with a minute of silence for the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and another minute in remembrance of 'our brothers and sisters' who have recently fallen to terrorist attacks in Mombasa and elsewhere in the region.

Congratulatory sentiments were made to member states of Somalia and South Sudan.

Those directed to Somalia were for their achievement in electing their new Government, from what has been a transitional structure for a very long time. Specific mention was made of Somalia's election of the new speaker of Parliament Mr Mohamed Sheik Osman Jawari.

South Sudan was applauded for expeditiously incorporating its national early warning into the regional CEWARN structure, and more importantly, for managing to start setting up early warning and response institutions in place, hence strengthening its ability to respond. The launch of the CEWERU structure in South Sudan, as endorsed by Deputy President H.E. Dr.Riek Machar currently resides within the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission. This is an indication of the commitment and willingness of the South Sudan State to be fully entrenched as part of the regional early warning mechanism.

On the issue of conflict, Ambassador Rhoda Kaisho pointed out its evolving nature and mapped the different types of conflicts. She also highlighted that along with peace and securities being an evolving discipline, similarly the players and development actors have also shifted with time. She highlighted that it is therefore important for the region to continually demonstrate political will and leadership in taking responsibility for the unique needs of its region and by responding through reforms tailored to its context.

Lastly, Amb. Kaisho made some observations about how the Republic of Uganda has personally benefitted from CEWARNs efforts in the Karamoja Cluster, in which the Mechanism's efforts focus on 9 districts. She therefore stated that she believes in the relevance and function of CEWARN.

With those remarks, the meeting was declared officially open.

Election of Bureau

Ethiopia, the current IGAD chair, **proposed Dr.Kimani, the director of CEWARN to chair the 9th TCEW meeting temporarily** due to the fact that the meeting started on the day that H.E. Meles Zenawi was being laid to rest.

Dr Kimani opted to allot several countries to preside over different sections of the meeting. Accordingly, **Uganda and South Sudan** chaired the sections on the first day of the meeting. The CEWERU head of Kenya, Mr Samuel K. Maina was elected to be the secretary of the meeting. The participants agreed upon these suggestions. The chairmanship was taken by Ethiopia on the second day after the first session.

Adoption of the meeting programme

The meeting's draft programme was adopted without any amendments.

Endorsement of the Report of the proceedings of the 10th CPS meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya. 28 May 2011.

Dr Kimani brought to attention the Report that details the 2011 CPS meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya. He highlighted that the TCEW is not in a position to adopt this Report as it falls within the jurisdiction of the CPS and not the TCEW. However, he opened the floor to TCEW members to make comments or highlight areas that they felt needed substantive changes. There was assent over the report as it currently stands. As such, it was settled upon that a recommendation would be made to the CPS to adopt this report.

Summary Report on CEWARNs Activities (April 2011- August 2012)

Dr. Kimani gave a brief presentation outlining some activities that CEWARN has fulfilled in the past year. He referred the meeting to a more detailed account in a comprehensive report included among the conference reading materials. In summation, Dr Kimani stated that the recommendations that came out of the Mombasa meeting necessitated that CEWARN continue to fulfil its responsibilities, and yet at the same time develop a regional strategy to take the mechanism forward.

As such, some of the accomplishments of CEWARN to continue fulfilling its responsibilities, particularly to strengthen the institutional capacity of the mechanism are seen in the following examples: establishing the CEWERU structure in South Sudan; strengthening of the Local Peace and 60 Sub-County Committees in Uganda; and availing a sizeable budget for peace dividend projects through the Rapid Response Fund, amongst others.

Dr Kimani gave a brief overview, simply because many of these issues would be further expanded and would come out in the country report activities. Further, he encouraged participants to engage CEWARN staff if they needed further clarification on some points.

- Emphasis was made on the idea of approaching and understanding early warning as a form of governance. It was also noted that 'conflict' is normal, but what CEWARN aims to do is to prevent these conflicts from escalating and becoming violent.
- The CEWARN Director commended efforts in Uganda where the peace agenda is being incorporated into schooling, as well as how Djibouti has continued to prioritise entrenching the concept of peace in the daily conversations amongst its citizenry.
- Ultimately, CEWARN is widening its sources of information through greater ICT use. It is believed that the use of these systems will enable greater analysis. For example, using SMS technology as a way of capturing information will enhance speedy alerting. Further, the development of such a system continues to place CEWARN at the forefront of conflict early warning and response developments in the continent.

- Comments were made on the development of CEWARN's Public Relations and Communications in the last year. A CEWARN compendium is being drafted, which will document and showcase the experiences of CEWARN since its inception. Two key seminars on emerging conflict trends in South Sudan, as well as the Global Trends Seminar resulted in CEWARN gathering a large pool of decision makers and offering a platform where pertinent discussions are made.
- Lastly, he highlighted the changes that CEWARN has made in its human resource contingent. The employment of a conflict analyst as well as a monitoring and evaluation officer have resulted in a strengthened workforce who are all contributing to greater efficiency of CEWARN. In the ensuing year there are plans to engage more staff across the mechanism.

A few comments were made on the presentation. They are captured in the following:

Many participants offered congratulatory remarks to CEWARN on their accomplishments in the past year. To this it was highlighted that it has been a collaborative effort and everyone in the room, and beyond had contributed to the successes of CEWARN. He then stated that in receiving the praise together, we also have to take our portion of blame together, where we have had shortcomings.

Some comments were also made by the Country Coordinator of Ethiopia, as well as the South Sudan Civil Society Representative, who gave clarification on some points in the report that Dr Kimani had given. These corrections were noted and will be made to his presentation.

Reports by Member states on Activities

Each country shared their activity reports through the CEWERU heads. It is important to note the similar ideas and experiences that came out to avoid repetition across the seven countries represented here.

1. All the CEWERUs stated that their greatest involvement in the mechanism in the last year was with regards to their **contribution to the strategy development process**, mainly through holding and participating in local convenings, national meetings and the regional dialogue. The strategy itself has had positive implications for CEWERUs who have contributed to and learnt from the process itself. Also, the development of the process meant that gatherings became spaces of networking amongst various actors. As such, many of the member state activities are embedded in the process of developing the strategy. Further, they felt that it was important to align themselves with this new strategy so that they would not be disjointed from the greater regional direction. As such, this accounts for much of the reporting period activities revolving around the strategy.

2. **ICT, social media forum** were referenced by all CEWERUs. Countries like Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda welcome the ICT direction that CEWARN is following in initiatives such as the upcoming SMS project; the use of HF radio's, and purchasing computers and related equipment for field monitors. However, others felt that ICT remains a challenge for them. There were issues in countries such as Somalia, South Sudan and Djibouti of access to ICT resources. Further, it was stated that where these resources could be availed, there were still capability challenges which then become an impediment to their effective use.
3. Overall, the CEWERUs felt that they needed to continually be **capacitated** to do their work, not just with regards to ICT, but in a larger scope of disciplines. These include their ability:
 - To report well and document their learnings
 - To function in peace committees as well as their mediation skills
 - To deal with trauma, IDPs, migration, child trafficking which are becoming challenges
 - To learn from each other through scheduled peer visits
 - To monitor and evaluate their activities
 - To raise and administer their own funds
 - To be more visible to policymakers.

As such, all of the CEWERUs reported training sessions to be one of the activities that they pursued the most in the past year. This highlights the need for CEWARNs facilitator corps and the strong focus on more teaching and mentoring facilities in CEWARN.

4. **Resources, but with a specific focus on Human resources.** Amongst all the CEWERUs there were concerns raised about the number of field monitors to an AOR where some areas of reporting are home to over 70,000 citizenry and are manned by one field monitor (as quoted by Mr Wafuba, CEWERU head of Uganda). In the expansion of the CEWARN, this would need further consideration.
5. **Research.** A significant number of CEWERUS have started undertaking research projects and baseline studies of various natures as a means to document occurrences in their AORS, but also to get a greater contextual reality of their areas. An example is Ethiopia where the study sought to understand the causes and emerging trends of pastoralist conflict and lifestyles in the Karamoja cluster. As the mechanism looks to incorporate research into its strategy implementation, it must be continually mindful that such practices are also now happening amongst CEWERU structures that are also becoming increasing knowledge producers and consumers. These structures therefore need to be synchronised with the greater mechanism,

and more specifically with NRIs, to share learning's and to avoid the duplication of efforts.

6. All of the CEWERUs exhibited a concerted effort to **address issues of the marginalisation of women and youth**. This was seen in several activities, such as the cross-border youth tournament between Kenya and Ethiopia meeting, along with the women conference. The Uganda CEWERU reported recruitment as affirmative action to over 2000 youth being incorporated into the police force, thus contributing to peace in the communities through the added security machinery, and in turn, the youth making a living as opposed to being unemployed.
7. **Peace dividend projects and activities** were regarded by all of the CEWERUs as a priority and a welcome instrument through which to realise many socio-economic and developmental needs which have bearing on peace and security in the communities such as water scarcity and drought resilience efforts.
8. **Strategic placing of CEWERUS within relevant ministries** to enhance effectiveness, eg. Ethiopia with the Ministry of Federal Affairs.
9. All MS highlighted the impact of **small arms and light weapons** in the region.

As all the countries have different focal [points, over and above the mentioned convergences listed above). The following are a summation of some of the individual points that were made by the CEWERUs. Please refer to their full presentations that will be annexed to this report for more specific details of activities.

Djibouti	Of importance to the Djibouti CEWERU in the last year was the issue of visibility. As such, the majority of Djibouti's activities have been to create a greater presence of their local, national and regional early warning system. This has included engagement with several media houses, communications departments and journalists who have recorded and put the Djibouti CEWERU and their activities on the map.
Ethiopia	In the past year there was a deliberate move to align the local CEWERU with National and Regional CPMR structures. Further, Local peace committee structures gained prominence in Ethiopia and were seemingly a medium that proved to be making an impact in addressing potentially conflictual situations in the communities.
Kenya	Much of Kenyan CEWERU activities have gone towards promoting of peaceful election in preparation for the March 2013 ballot including Uwiano platform for peace, enhancing capabilities of the national CEWERs. Other initiatives include supporting communal agreements i.e. Modogashe

	and Lokiriama peace accords.
South Sudan	The South Sudan CEWERU shared about their process of institutionalising its structures. The CEWERU head highlighted some of the issues that they are facing in the country: namely ongoing conflict between the cross border areas and the priority areas which are affected. He also shared some of the successes that the CEWERU has made especially through their local peace committee structures under the banner of the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation commission. Further, he reiterated that there has been a huge commitment from various stakeholders, including the government to develop early warning and response.
Sudan	Updates on Sudan are that there are tentative plans in the ensuing year to roll out the local CEWERU structures; decide upon the Areas of Reporting; concretise their plans; and, be strengthened in the skills that they need to carry the work forward.
Somalia	Somalia, due to the transitional government set up and the political occurrences that are being dealt with within the bigger IGAD structure, shared some comments on their journey. The CEWERU head highlighted that there have been significant developments that Somalia has made in aligning itself to the regional early warning structure. These include developing for the CEWERU work-plan as approved in the 2 nd Annual General meeting of the CEWERU in Mogadishu in 2011 and launch of a Somalia CEWERU website. Together with mapping out activities; identifying AOR's and undertaking studies on the context- the CEWARN handbook has been translated into Somali to enable people within the local context to be conversant with it. Thus far, 8 district peace committees have been trained in early warning and response.
Uganda	Uganda has made commendable strides particularly in the establishment of the 60 sub-county peace communities and the 3 District peace committees. A lot of their activities have been about building capabilities for these new institutions and the logistical support. Further, the Uganda CEWERU has taken time to strengthen its networks and has seen its engagement with high-level government and policy institutions increasing. Further, the Ugandan CEWERU made some comments about the disarmament process as they have experienced it. Whilst it was successful, the CEWERU Head expressed fears that some disarmed communities may be arming themselves. Therefore that disarmament needs to be approached from a regional perspective as opposed to from a national or

	communal context.
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Presentation on the major emerging trends in the cross-border clusters by Mr Moses Chrispus Okello, CEWARN Conflict analyst Officer

Mr Okello highlighted that the bulk of the analysis and discussion he made is based on monthly and quarterly reports as received from field monitors, other CEWARN documentation as well as through secondary external sources speaking to the region within the last decade. He stated that his greatest findings are that there are more commonalities than they are differences that are experienced in the clusters. Whilst most information gathered has been from clusters that have areas of reporting to the exclusion of Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan he was pleased to note that their experiences as highlighted in the previous session corroborated his findings that their realities too, are similar to those of the rest of the region.

In saying this, he was mindful of the fact that there are also contextual differences.

However, his observations in the presentation were the following:

Firstly, that that whilst violent conflict in the region remains high, the last ten years of CEWARN documentation highlights that it is on the decline. And two this, he cited three reasons which may be offered as explanations:

1. The deployment of civil policing mechanisms such as the Anti-Stock Theft Unit in Uganda, and an overall greater presence of policing structures in the region have combated violent eruptions
2. Disarmament processes such as new legislation and regulations for gun possession and use, as seen in countries like Ethiopia which have mitigated and reduced access to illegal SALW.

However, he added that the aggravators to these positive developments that have resulted in continued violence are:

1. Breakdown in relationships amongst communities, where there were more concerted efforts to sustain these relations in the past
2. The influx of IDPs and refugees all fighting for the same services
3. The absence of social services
4. Redrawing of counties and boundaries (for example as seen in Uganda and Kenya) means that pastoral areas are split into administrative units. Seemingly these divisions tend to result in ethicised politics and violent occurrences tend to erupt in these areas.

The second observation made was on peace trends. The presenter mentioned that peace initiatives, largely led through peace committees structures are durable and lasting if they are owned by communities and supported by government and other key institutions.

Some of the reflections on the contextual realities included issues such as the abundance of youth; the proliferation of small and light arms; ecological factors; terrorism, socio-economic and political realities are all mitigating factors. They tend to result in cycles of violent conflict, which cannot be broken. He stated that the reason has been that many institutions have tried to combat conflict by looking at non-linear causal factors and dealing with that, and yet conflict is entrenched in many larger interlinked factors. As such, it is no longer adequate for CEWARN to respond to conflict simply through a pastoralist lens.

He further added that there are shifts in the nature and forms of violence across the region. For instance, the use of guns, over the years has had an impact and has resulted in an exacerbated number of human lives and animals lives lost, as opposed to an era when war was conducted using simpler weaponry. In addition, the way that an animal and humans die (e.g., at the hand of a gun), tends to aggravate communities further and inflate violence when they feel that it was inhumane. Revenge violence becomes prevalent in these areas.

Lastly, Mr.Okello stated that the nature of the conflict in the region continues to be within a state, as well as across border.

Comments from the floor were the following:

Many participants tended to agree with the analysis, particularly on the shifting nature of conflict and as has been seen in conflicts now, whose casualties are larger, and whose combat is conducted differently. For example, it was indicated that pastoralist access to the media and social networks like twitter and face book, have affected (both positively and negatively) the way that conflict occurs.

With regards to the link that Ecological fragility has on the escalation of violence, it was suggested that CEWARN link with IGADs drought resilience early warning system. The director Martin Kimani highlighted that this is already in progress and CEWARN as a whole is also linked to other IGAD structures.

Lastly, a participant from South Sudan said that he observed that the analysis seemed to concentrate on some member states over others- particularly to the exclusion of Sudan and South Sudan. The response to this from CEWARN staff was that due to the secession of South Sudan, from Sudan, there have been some challenges in transferring data to the new system, under the two different countries that they now are. Despite the periodic reports that have been received by CEWARN from newly emerged South Sudan, they may not necessarily have been as amplified in this reporting cycle due to those reasons.

Brief on Response Activities by Mr Tibebu Kifle

The presenter highlighted some successful initiatives that the Rapid Response Fund has fulfilled in the past year. He made many examples. And they are not limited to the following:

- The 2nd Ethio-Kenya cross-border peace tournament in the Somali cluster
- The women networking for peace meeting
- Disarmament occurrences in Zone 3 (Karamoja cluster),
- Engagement with development partners, and
- Field missions amongst others

He highlighted that the RRF has kept clean financial records and has accounted, reconciled and periodic reports which have been prepared for review. The presenter spoke about the funds that the RRF has raised (\$1,319,000), and how much it has disbursed (\$727,700). There is a commitment for approved projects to the value of \$367,500.

Several observations were made from the floor:

Many CEWERUs stated that they find the RRF application process curtailing of speed of disbursement and therefore implementation. The response to this was that there is the RRF handbook will be simplified and application processes will be reviewed in the ensuing year.

Also, it was stated that there is an evident increase in projects through the RRF that are addressing women and youth.

Lastly, some participants requested that the funding amount be clarified. To this, Mr Kifle responded and said that emergency grants are to the value of \$10,000 and are rapidly disbursed, whereas regular projects can be as much as \$50,000 and are disbursed in tranches.

Presentation on the 2012-2019 Strategy Framework by CEWARN Director

In his introduction, Dr. Kimani referred the TCEW to a full strategy framework document amongst the reading materials for the meeting. His presentation was a summation of this document, and reference to it would give more in-depth understanding.

The CEWARN Director spoke about the strategy framework. He mentioned how the development of a new strategy was recommended in the last CPS meeting, and the intense process that CEWARN has undergone in the last year to actively fulfil this recommendation. It is important to earn buy-in and the commitment that was shown by the local communities, Member States and the collective region through various consultation and

validation processes. Dr Kimani referred to the mammoth task of collating all of the verbatim information, and thus, the idea to use visuals to capture and synthesise everything was pursued. This offers explanation for the visual strategy framework which has been developed.

The ultimate **big prize** of CEWARN is to contribute to building *an IGAD region in which conflicts are resolved peacefully and justly and whose peoples live in shared prosperity*.

The strategic outcome is thus to become a *network of excellence that works to advance an IGAD region in which reducing the risks of violent conflict through structured and consistent early warning and early response is central to local, national and regional governance in the Mechanism's priority areas of intervention*".

He therefore took time to describe the current reality of the IGAD region, and the critical imperatives that need to be put in place in order for CEWARN to achieve its success. Furthermore it was indicated that the strategic pillars will guide this framework, and an implementation road map which will steer the process forward, after this.

Discussion after the presentation of the Strategy Framework

There were several amendments that participants made to the strategy framework. These were noted and will be endorsed in the Strategy Document. These include, but are not limited to:

1. The absence of **Djibouti's** contribution to the regional dreams in the document was highlighted. It was recommended that CEWARN staff meet with the Djibouti delegation after the meeting to ensure that this is captured.
2. The Somalia delegation stated that some of their strategic pillars were incomplete. They wanted issues such as piracy, political instability, terrorism, proliferation of small arms, and the war economy to be included.
3. The Ethiopian country coordinator pointed out that an amendment needs to be made to the conflict priorities mentioned under Ethiopia, with the following correction " land grabbing should be changed to land commercialization and be part of examples listed under resource based conflict"

Additionally, the following reflections were made:

- Issues such as gender and partnerships with civil society organisations should be made more visible within the framework. In response he drew the attention of the participants to a section of the strategy entitled what CEWARN 'should stop doing'. The section mentions that CEWARN shall stop ad hoc engagements on these issues

and will work towards mainstreaming gender and youth in its entire programme. Further, he stated that efforts are already being planned to align all these activities within the mechanism and through other external partners.

- A participant stated that the document did not articulate a road map on taking the framework forward after the endorsement. To this, it was replied that there are already plans to convene the CEWERUs to domesticate the strategy and come up with specific implementation plans that will assist in taking the process forward. CEWARN Unit has already identified some of the tasks ahead which include logistical support to its partners.
- One of the comments centred on the fact that the framework seems to emphasise early warning, and less on response. Thus the need to equally prioritise response. This was noted and a decision taken to address this concern by making the additional proposed points.
- Somalia CSO requested that a short conclusion be added to the framework to reflect the regions dream on peaceful co-existence.

At the end of the meeting the TCEW endorsed the draft proceeding of the meeting as well as the recommendations of the TCEW to the 11th CPS for further deliberation. In addition the technical committee reviewed the comments and modifications made to the Strategy Framework and agreed to present it to the 11th CPS for their review.