

**Report of the 12th Committee of Permanent Secretaries
(CPS) Meeting on Early Warning and Response of
CEWARN**

Sarova Mara Game Camp

Narok County

Kenya

4th December 2014

- **Introduction**

The 12th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) of IGAD was attended by the Permanent Secretaries from Member States, Ambassadors and CEWERU heads from Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. They adopted the report and recommendations of the 11th meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) of CEWARN. The CEWARN Unit staffs were also present. Mr. Barno, The Director of IGAD-CEWARN opened the meeting by thanking the CPS for coming over to Sarova Mara Game Camp, to review and adopt the outcome of the Meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning, which took place prior to the CPS.

- **Opening Remarks¹**

Ambassador Benson H. Ogotu, Political and Diplomatic Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Republic of Kenya made the first opening remarks. He opened his remarks by recognizing the Republic of Kenya at this 12th CPS Meeting, as a proud host nation, and in particular in regards to the adoption and review of the TCEWR recommendations. He thanked all the members present and on behalf of the Government of Kenya, welcomed everyone to Kenya, and to Maasai Mara, which is one of Kenya's great national parks. He said that the CPS Meeting usually provides an opportunity for IGAD Permanent Secretaries of Foreign Affairs to review CEWARN progress in discharging its mandate as well as to provide advice and input on next steps.

He asked the CPS to recall that they endorsed the CEWARN Strategy for 2012-2019 that was held during the 11th CPS Meeting on 4 September 2012 in Kampala, Uganda. He said that the endorsement set pace for enhanced cooperation in the implementation of the Strategy. The new Strategy requires, among others that CEWARN expand the coverage of conflict themes and geography beyond pastoral cross-border conflicts that it is currently reporting on.

Given the peace and security challenges we are currently facing in the region, including extremism and terrorism, we are encouraged by the decision, and the progress of CEWARN-IGAD's expansion of its conflict coverage. IGAD is underscoring the complexity and dynamism of drivers of insecurity. The efforts of IGAD has encouraged our work in making an expansion in the participation of stakeholders including civil society organizations and private sector in enhancing peace and security in the region. Growth and development prospects in IGAD region are being threatened by the emerging security challenges especially global terrorism. An integrated approach to early warning and early response has a great potential to strengthen our collective efforts in addressing these challenges.

These challenges play a big role in bilateral and multilateral cooperation among IGAD Members States. Thank you to CEWARN-IGAD for the notable efforts and contributions it has made in reducing risks of violent conflict in the region through consistent early warning and early response. As a government, the CPS meeting notes with appreciation the commendable work being done by Kenya CEWERU in supporting the Government of Kenya to address security challenges. It is hoped that, with much more support, the CEWERUs will be able to play much bigger role.

In this opening remark, it is stressed that the 12th CPS comes at an opportune time and provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our cooperation in light of the threats we are currently facing as a region.

¹ The full text of the opening remarks is available in a separate document.

- **Guest of Honor²**

Professor Laban Ogallo on behalf of the IGAD Executive Secretary, Ambassador Mahboub Maalim thanked Excellencies, Chairperson of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS), Permanent Secretaries representing IGAD Member States, Director of CEWARN, Mr. Richard Barno, Heads of CEWARN national CEWERUs and all the distinguished participants present, presented the opening remark.

He apologized that the IGAD Executive Secretary Ambassador Mahboub Maalim could not be here today. He expressed his great pleasure and honor to welcome all present to this 12th Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) meeting in the beautiful Masai Mara.

The Professor reminded members that when the last CPS convened in September 2012 in Kampala, its main agenda was to launch CEWARN's new Strategy framework for 2012 – 2019, which ushered a new operational phase for CEWARN. The meeting urged CEWARN to expand its mechanism's focus to a broad spectrum of conflict types and geographic areas - as opposed to its earlier narrow focus on cross-border pastoral conflicts.

It is a pleasure that today, the CPS is convening – two years later - to appraise CEWARN's progress in developing requisite methodologies for data collection and analysis as well as the expansion of its networks and structures in member states in a manner that matches its expanded mandate. Our region is grappling with an ever increasing and fast evolving myriad of security challenges. We need to increase our regional cooperation on conflict prevention through early warning and response, an urgent matter.

The scourge of violent extremism and terrorism; violent criminal acts and the overall increasingly diffused security challenges related to the easy availability of arms is of key concern to IGAD. IGAD continues to play a key role in regional peace processes such as in Somalia where international efforts are focused on consolidating peace; as well as setting up governance structures and institutions to lead the country on the path of rehabilitation and sustainable development.

The key priority on IGAD's Peace and Security agenda at the moment is restoring peace in South Sudan, which has been caught in internal conflict since December 2013. While the IGAD-led Mediation Process, which has been set up almost immediately after the breakout of the conflict is still on course, the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict remains at agonizing levels with over a million and half of the country's population displaced. Currently, conservative estimates suggest that well over 500,000 South Sudanese are currently seeking shelter as refugees in neighboring countries.

These and other regional security challenges that our region is currently facing suggest that member states need to do much more and invest much more in strengthening national and regional conflict early warning systems that enable them to take joint early action to mitigate violent conflicts before they get out of hand.

IGAD regards CEWARN as a specialized unit with a great promise. CEWARN has not only been a pioneering conflict early warning system in the continent but largely continues to set the pace for data-based early warning systems in Africa and beyond. One of its key achievements is its collaborative platform design that enables governments and civil society organizations to work together and mutually leverage their comparative competencies in addressing security challenges. CEWARN also utilizes state of

² The full text of this second part of the opening remarks is available in a separate document.

the art technology tools in information sharing; analysis; data base management and visualization in making its early warning system efficient and in line with latest trends in data-based analysis.

Member States are urged to continue to extend tangible support to this mechanism as they have always done and ensure that it delivers the promises of its expanded operational mandate under the new strategy framework. He urged members to look at the key proposal that is tabled before them that proposed a new data collection, analysis and response architecture. The adoption of the report will create the institutional foundations for CEWARN to begin to operationalize its expanded mandate in earnest. He also requested members to look at the broad policy direction and continued support in what CEWARN is setting out to do.

- **Adoption of the Report of The 11th Meeting of CPS held on 4th September 2012 and November 2014**

In leading the session, Ambassador Solomon Abebe, the Chair of the CPS, asked the CPS Members to adopt the agenda of this 12th CPS Meeting. The agenda was passed without any recall of items. The Ambassador went on to request the Members to adopt the report of the 10th meeting that was held in Kampala in September 2012. The CPS Members passed the decision and adopted the report for endorsement.

The Ambassador requested the CPS meeting to take the opportunity to listen to the Director of IGAD-CEWARN, Mr. Richard Barno who presented and updated CPS Meeting delegates on the achieved activities and those that were proposed for implementation from September 2012 to November 2015 respectively.

- **Updates on Major Implemented Activities between 2012 and November 2-2014³**

The Director of IGAD-CEWARN, Mr. Richard Barno presented the progress report of the 2013-2014. Mr. Barno emphasized 4 priority areas based on the CEWARN Strategy. These areas includes; a) upgrading of CEWARNs system; b) enhancement of the capacity of CEWARN Mechanism; c) Scaling of Responses including Cross Border Response and influencing policy by supporting/facilitating all the responses, and d) establishing and strengthening networks. The CEWARN Unit staff, Betty Abebe presented the upgraded Integrated Data Collection System, i.e., Upgraded Reporter.⁴

- **Discussion Points**

The discussion points presented here are not arranged in the order in which they were made. Rather, remarks on similar issues and their responses have been grouped, to ensure ease of flow.

Funding: The Ambassador representing Djibouti, Abdallah questioned why some CEWERUs, including Djibouti, did not funding to implement their activities. In response, Mr Barno said that the problems of funding have been highlighted in his report and how they became to be. This was supported by Ambassador Oguttu who noted that in order to limit reliance on donor support, which is always a challenge, CEWERUs should commit to looking for alternative sources of funding in their respective countries, just like Kenya has done. In his response to this issue, Mr. Barno also said, the TCWER has

³ Mr Barno's presentation is available in a separate document.

⁴ Betty's presentation is available in a separate document with CEWARN.

recognized the need for CEWERU to seek for individual funding in respective countries, and CEWARN will assist them in such regards.

Additionally, Mr Barno noted that, CEWARN has a general action plan for some of these problems. We have not prepared separate workplans for each CEWERU (Member states) to identify particular donor, since each country has different context and requires individual approaches. There were also administration problems that CEWARN needed to deal with internally. Otherwise, fully supports CEWARN and prioritizes the suggestion of seeking funding from member countries. Since the capacities of MS are different, the kind of support requires support through a 2-budget line support to CEWERU, and not to rely solely on Rapid Response Fund, which is also used for capacity building. We have various tools to address this problem, but above all, we will have to prioritize and work together.

Within the unit, we have funders who have defaulted their payments to CEWARN despite their promises. Donors have different requirements, for example, USAID, GIZ, etc. would all want to see different form of work plan based on their format. CEWARN is conducting global peace foundation campaign that brings big corporations from the region to seek employment opportunities for our youths.

Emerging Threats to Peace: The Amb of Somalia noted that the issue of terrorism should not be looked at as an isolated issue to be dealt with by Kenya and Somalia, who are most affected. Given that terrorism acts, such as those of, Al-Shaabab, can strike anywhere, the need to work together, beginning with the Somali Cluster was highlighted. While we could find a pipeline of activities that target the business community, Ambassador Oguttu noted, a major challenge relates to youths and they too have to be involved in peace, since they are the ones most lured into activities of terrorism. Within this context, it was also noted that CEWARN ought to find opportunities for supporting communities as a whole and to create more interactions with CEWERUs, business communities, youths, in order to instill confidence in our donors as well.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Amb. Solomon Abebe inquired about how CEWARN monitors the training that is conducted with Field Monitors. In his remarks, he inquired about whether CEWARN has a feedback mechanism for the trainees, and whether that mechanism informs the design of future programs. In his response, Mr Barno said that during the training of trainees, Filed Monitors are asked on the questions regarding Monitoring and Evaluation. Field Monitors are expected to report on their activities and progress during the training. The training, which is coming from community development fund of CEWARN, is used as a platform for Monitoring and Evaluation. He also noted that CEWARN evaluates the work of Field Monitors and CEWERUs through the MERL Framework [Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning Framework] for both CEWARN and CEWERU. In the evaluation work, we follow all CEWERUs as we work with them, Barno added.

Joint Border Commission: Similarly, Amb. Solomon commented on the question raised by the Amb [of Djibouti] about the existence of border commissions in other border areas: the question was wheather different countries have bilateral joint border commissions, and if so, whether these border commissions share experiences. For example, in Djibouti it was decided in 2012 to involve the border commission in meetings in Dajura, as a national programme. Given the similarities between the border issues dealt with by CEWARN, Barno noted that there are a lot of similarities and complementarities. Mr. Barno went ahead to agree that CEWARN has attended border committee meeting in 2012. This year IGAD was not able to attend. In all cases IGAD must get official invitation. In Kenya, a meeting of border committees coincided with the Mombasa meeting. IGAD has bilateral border meeting with Kenya. These responses were also made in line with the question on how CEWARN can get enough information from CEWRUs

in all IGAD countries, and other countries. What suggestions are there for the improvement in case of gaps?

The Ambassador Oguttu sought for clarification why the report that reflects two calendar years has not shown the three months of its progress report. He argued that we are already discussing about activities of 2015. Mr Barno answered that what happens to the last three months are contained in how we have to deal with regular programmatic issues, which stretch over other periods. This explanation is catered for in the detailed report. Also, this answers the question of when we meet. We have an end of our report in September every year, so till December we have 3 months in the middle, which we have to spread over.

It was noted is a question delineating when is early warning and as opposed to when is Response since early warning is preventive and the other is cure like in a sickness. Would it not be possible to include CEWRU into joint border commission meetings to look at these two concepts in results? Mr Barno said that we already have the same in Ethiopia with Kenya. The Nyangatom, Turkana, Dasnesh, etc are good examples for the CEWRUs to learn from. Our focus on early warning and response is answered in the protocol that directs us. But of course our realities are that we have more early warning than responses, but we also have recognized many responses for example, the Mangada and Nsolololo are some of the response projects we have done. By having markets in the middle of the communities who are in conflict, we managed to settle conflict. We are occupying the youth and the women in Karamoja area (Uganda's case in point). In all these we are working with the market committees so as to sustain response mechanisms and continue dealing with and preventing potentials of renewed conflicts.

Mr Barno also added that the current CEWARN structure allows us to share information and where we do not have the structure, information are difficult to collect. We have tried to improve our structure and what we are asking from you is to make a recommitment to share with us your support.

The Ambassador from South Sudan, the Under Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that South Sudan is young member and it was his first time to attend this meeting. Now, this is the 12th meeting of CEWARN. He noted that, in South Sudan, we are experiencing a lot of security challenges. In his remarks, he brought to the attention of the members that South Sudan Government thought she should have reduced the security challenges, the series of internal rebellions and threat to terrorism, but not. The meaning of CEWARN should reflect the common notion that "prevention is better than cure, and that response is a treatment".

South Sudan a new member country will try its level best to deal with security issues. It is important to strengthen our work to give CEWARN opportunities to improve our security. We are really interested to strengthen this institution so that it can help us. Because we are so much exposed to climatic, terrorism, internal insecurity, and more. We should also learn from Japan's progressed Early Warning in dealing natural disasters like earthquakes. CEWARN can also prepare itself for this kind of problems. We are not immune to these natural disasters, so South Sudan will make sizeable inputs and try to help the CEWARN. Mr Barno added that we worked so much in supporting in the IGAD to extend to the CUWERU so that the South Sudanese can have a forum and talk to each other.

It was agreed that IGAD's Satellite technology has to be prioritized to maximize our warnings. Russia is not friendly with USA, South Korea are not friends with China. But each country knows what the others are doing through their Satellite technologies. The pilot should take into consideration of satellite technologies. Why are we not taking advantage of using Satellite technology? Mr Barno said that Kenya is already working with GIS Communications, but we have to allow CEWARN to increase on building space technologies. It will be held in monitoring cross-border movements. Other Members agreed that the idea

of introducing the satellite technologies is recommendable that should be extended to Sudan, South Sudan and in deed all IGAD countries. All these countries need more help to those committees on the ground.

More comments from Djibouti advised that CEWARN and IGAD should get involved in monitoring elections. Djibouti is already involving IGAD, and invited IGAD to monitor her elections. As member countries, we recommend that IGAD should be fully involved. As well, CEWRUs has to become primary platforms to prevent national conflicts. But we have to ask ourselves, are CEWERUs ready to play their roles? Do they have the capacity to play their roles before we recommend that? Mr Barno said that our CEWERU have different capacities. In Kenya and Ethiopia are more than ready. Uganda has picked up very well. Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia need to beef up, as Djibouti is being established.

We also would like to bring to the attention of Executive Secretaries about this recommendation to go to the Committee of Ambassadors and discuss these issues in parliament to decide if they can make more commitments and recommendations.

Gender issue is important point for CEWARN. Mr Barno argues that the protocol on CEWARN establishes committees in terms of gender, to serve a certain quota. It says that in each committee a certain quota is represented. We wish that the report of the PS be taken to the council of ministers through the Executive Secretary office.

- **Review and Adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the TCEWR**

After the discussions were exhausted, the Chair requested the Members to agree on the adoption of the report and recommendations. The chair announced the adoption of the report and recommendations for its implementation according to the Strategy of the CEWARN 2012 to 2019.

- **Dates and Venue of next CPS Meeting**

The Meeting of the CPS adopted Djibouti as the next venue for 13th CPS and the 12th TCEWR meeting. This was agreed, will take place in the first two weeks of November 2015. The exact date will be communicated later. The Ambassador of Djibouti reiterated that Djibouti is very much willing to host the next meetings.

- **Any Other Business (AOB)**

The CEWERU head of Somalia said that IGAD should also link their activities with CEWARN so as to benefit newly established CEWERU, like that of Somalia to more rigorously on how peace infrastructure can be put in place to improve maintained security.

- **Closing Remarks (Chairman of the CPS)**

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Solomon Abebe, Director General for Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the CEWARN Committee of Permanent Secretaries, thanked members for their honest and fruitful meeting based on the set agenda. He noted that it is clear from the deliberations today that CEWARN is at an important juncture in its development into a robust conflict early warning and response mechanism that the region can rely on for preventive action to violent conflicts and a wide range of security challenges.

He recommended the work that has already been done in developing the necessary methodologies and tools for the mechanism's to expand operational mandate and wished to encourage CEWARN to stay on course and begin the implementation of the new strategy in earnest beginning of 2015. IGAD's work utilizes its mechanisms in a collaborative manner and largely relies on the work that is being done by the CEWERUs at the national level. CEWERUs work is relevant for the national structures in all our countries. We need CEWERU to do much more and continue to utilize this platform for bi-lateral and multi-later collaboration on preventive action.

He argued that the Member States (MSs) in deed signed the CEWARN protocol over a decade ago, it was an expression of their commitment to collaborate in sharing information, as well as joint decision making in the design and implementation of response actions to avert and mitigate violent conflicts and crises that affect them. This commitment needs to be strengthened particularly as CEWARN's new integrated data collection and analysis system requires us to open up further and collaborate in new areas of security challenges.

An important decision made today has increased the visibility and funding allocation to the CEWERU units at the national level. This is vitally important as CEWARN's work at the regional level is heavily depended on what CEWERUs are able to accomplish at their level. It is also important to have regular convening of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries Meeting. The CPS have met here today after a 2-year lapse, which should be an exception rather than the norm. Discussions held at the CPS level and decisions taken often result in higher-level support from all our governments.

The Ambassadors thanked all the members who attended this meeting and especially the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting and the warm hospitality everyone have enjoyed. Particular thanks were also extended to CEWARN Director Mr. Richard Barno and his team for organizing this meeting.

End....