

**Recommendations of the joint Rwandan Government/Civil Society
Workshop on the UN Review Conference on UNPoA**

Hotel des Mille Collines, Kigali, Rwanda.

25th May 2006

1. National Firearms Legislation: there is need to carry out a national assessment on the spread and negative impact of small arms and light weapons in Rwanda. The government should further reinforce the legislation on possession of arms as well as continue to maintain registers for arms held by both government institutions concerned with maintenance of security, as well as by civilians.
2. Assistance to survivors: upon carrying out the national assessment on the impact of small arms, the government should put in place a social assistance policy with the support of the international community to rehabilitate survivors so that they can be productive members of society. Such a policy should be linked to Rwandan health institutions within the country. The policy could further emphasise capacity building for the survivors, such as training in self-help and income generating projects, as well as through the provision of micro projects. Arms producing countries should be called upon to contribute towards assistance of survivors of armed violence.
3. Close and direct collaboration between the civil society and the government in terms of reducing the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons should be encouraged.
4. The government should continue to support civil society in their efforts to sensitise the public about the dangers of small arms and light weapons at the local level.
5. Strict government control on licensing of small arms and light weapons to security companies and continue imposing strict measures to those who own guns in order to minimise possibilities of misuse and abuse of firearms.
6. The government should set up initiatives and necessary mechanisms to encourage voluntary disarmament of civilians.
7. The government should call upon the African Union (AU) to initiate a legal instrument on illicit arms transfers in zones of war in Africa.
8. The government should ensure that local authorities actively participate in identification of illegal firearms in their localities as well as the safe collection of these firearms. In addition, national government should ensure that there is effective communication between all levels of government and society in order to ensure that effective small arms control and disarmament is achieved.
9. While seeking a solution to the menace of small arms and light weapons, there is need to address the existing link between underdevelopment and small arms.

10. The government should strengthen the strategies in place and create, where they don't exist, measures to comprehensively address the root causes of armed violence and genocide.
11. The government calls upon the international community to fully implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, passed in 2000 and which calls for support to women and children survivors of genocide and violent conflicts.
12. The government calls upon the international community to put into place international control measures to restrict the transfer of arms to Armed Non-State Actors, such as Interahamwe.
13. The government of Rwanda calls upon the international community to set aside resources to support the fight against illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
14. The international donor community should provide increased capacity building support for National Focal Points/National Commissions/National Coordinating bodies on small arms and light weapons in order for them to be more effective in pursuing their action plans.
15. Rwanda fully supports the review and amendment of obsolete national arms laws as well as regional harmonisation of these laws.
16. The international community should provide the necessary support to national security forces in identification and mapping of localities infested with illicit weapons so that appropriate measures for disarmament are taken.

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