

CONFLICT EARLY WARNING & RESPONSE MECHANISM (CEWARN)



OF THE IGAD REGION

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF CEWARN

**28 MAY 2011
SAROVA WHITESANDS RESORT, MOMBASSA**

CEWARN, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

MAY 2011

10th Meeting of Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) of CEWARN held at Sarova Whitesands resort and Spa, Mombasa, Kenya on 28th May 2011.

Opening Statements

Dr. Martin Mbugua, CEWARN Director, invited the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries, Ambassador Fisseha Yemer to chair the proceedings. Ambassador Yemer invited the Honourable Netsanet Asfaw, Director of Peace and Security, at the IGAD Secretariat, to present the opening statement of the IGAD Executive Secretary Engineer Mahboub Maalim. This was followed by the Statement of the Honourable Semeon Lesirma, Assistant Minister in Charge of Provincial Administration, office of the President, Republic of Kenya who officially opened the meeting.

Opening Remarks by H.E Engineer Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary IGAD, made on his behalf by Honourable Netsanet Asfaw, Director, Peace and Security Division, (IGAD Secretariat).

Engineer Mahboub Mohamed expressed his gratitude to the government of Kenya for hosting the meeting and noted the importance in timing of the CPS meeting, it being at the end of the 2007-2011 strategy and the beginning of a new one, offering the CPS an opportunity to give its guidance to CEWARN on the transition to further development. The Executive Secretary noted the CEWARN Mid Term Review focus on improving work on pastoral conflicts and emphasized the CPS' agenda in appraising the recommendations of the Technical committee and CEWARN staff on moving forward.

Recalling his role in the inception of CEWARN, the executive secretary noted the strategic decision taken then to start with pastoral conflicts as a confidence building measure and concluded that CEWARN is now well positioned to integrate its early warning and response work within IGAD's different faces and in the region. He placed CEWARN within the IGAD Peace and Security Strategy and concluded with expression of gratitude to CEWARN's financial and technical partners. (Full text of the statement is attached).

Opening statement by H.E Honourable Semeon Lesirma, Assistant Minister in Charge of Provincial Administration in the office of the President, Republic of Kenya

Honourable Semeon Lesirma warmly invited the Permanent Secretaries and their delegations to Kenya and recognized that the meeting was being held during IGAD's year of Peace. He recalled factors that led to the formulation of CEWARN and acknowledged its primacy in managing conflict. He noted that CEWARN facilitated a structured approach to information gathering, analysis and response in cross border conflicts through the Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs).

He appreciated the initiatives undertaken by CEWARN in expansion of reporting areas, the operationalization of the Rapid Response Fund (which he noted had pre-empted incidences of potential violence) and the provision of high frequency radios for communication. He thanked partners including USAID and UNDP for supporting CEWERUs to work together, pointing at the collaboration between the Kenya and Somali CEWERUs as an example of such collaboration. He noted that support to the Kenya CEWERU had enabled it to move into rural and urban conflicts across the

country, over and above pastoral conflicts at border areas; and to empower women and the youth. He concluded with recognizing the positive role CEWARN had played in concretizing collaboration between state and civil society. (Full text of the statement is attached).

Adoption of agenda

The Agenda was adopted without amendments

Adoption of the Report of the 9th Meeting of the committee of Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Report of the 9th Meeting of the committee of Permanent Secretaries of 2nd December 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was adopted without alterations.

Update on the Activities implemented between December 2009 and April 2011

Dr. Martin Kimani Mbugua presented a report of the activities undertaken by CEWARN between December 2009 and April 2011. He noted that the activities focused on the six pillars of the 2007 to 2011 CEWARN strategy relating to expansion of monitoring and reporting areas, operationalizing CEWERUs, widening sources, Strengthening CEWARN's institutional capacity and strategies on sustainable funding.

Dr. Kimani narrated some of the activities undertaken by CEWARN to include the opening of two new areas of reporting (Beru and Surma Woredas) on the Ethiopian side of the Karamoja cluster, increasing the areas of reporting to include new administrative districts in Kenya, operationalizing the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), the operationalization the ICT 4 Peace project to include the entire Karamoja cluster, holding of national stakeholder sensitization meetings (in Djibouti, Ethiopia ,Kenya and Uganda), providing support to the setting up of a national CEWERU structure in Somalia, carrying out an assessment mission to South Sudan, holding cross border initiatives (including the Ethio-Kenya youth sports tournament, the Karamoja Women for Peace building Networking Meeting and a community peace gathering in Yabello, Ethiopia), improving the capacity of the CEWARN reporter's analytical capacity, launching of a user friendly website, conducting various trainings, hosting interns at the CEWARN secretariat and overseeing the increase in Member State contribution to CEWARN finances to 25%.

Dr. Kimani also noted that during the year CEWARN moved to more convenient and spacious offices and expressed his gratitude to all the CEWARN partners. He noted that the fact that responses to early warning had gone up, by as high as 60% in some cases, was a significant sign of victory for the CEWARN mechanism.

Mr. Abdirashid Warsame, CEWARN's response coordinator gave a presentation on the main response activities and the lessons learned in the process. He highlighted some of the response activities to include supporting peace building and community based reconciliation activities including supporting the capacity building and capacity for response and peace building at community level; the devolution of peace committees and the establishment of response linkages at regional level.

He noted among the lessons learned that cross border peace structures are necessary to address conflict issues and for coordination, that communal peace agreements, such as the Modogashe agreement, have a big role in advancing peace and there is need for resources to support response structures. His recommendations included the establishment of cross border peace structures whose importance was highlighted by recent Turkana/ Dasanech conflict; the need to support programs that engage the youth and the need for an elaborate plan to support South Sudan Peace Structures and for operationalizing Somali CEWERU in partnership with PACT III.

Discussions

Noting that this was a meeting dealing with early warning, the Sudanese representative reminded the CPS that soon the region would welcome a new state, South Sudan. He stated that Sudan will continue her obligations to IGAD and will support the ascension of South Sudan to IGAD. On 9th July 2011 with the independence of South Sudan come new realities. There will be a 1600 km border between the two states. Along the border live one third of the population of both countries and one half of the livestock. This border is a livestock area with the added complication that the communities will now be crossing international borders in search of water and pasture. It is thus necessary to plan to strengthen the presence of CEWARN and CEWERUs at this border. It is necessary to create a new North-South (Sudan) cluster with at least 3 areas of reporting; Central, Eastern and Western. The Sudan will also soon start making requests to the Rapid Response Fund Steering committee.

It must also be understood that the tribes along the proposed borders area armed and the areas is awash with arms. This portends violent conflict.

Presentation of CEWARN's response to the Mid Term Review Report

Dr. Martin Mbugua, CEWARN director made a presentation on CEWARN's response to the Mid Term Review, which coming in 2010, reflected on the entire 2007-2011 CEWARN strategy period.

He noted that CEWARN is approaching the end of the 2007-2011 strategy period, whose focus had been on six key areas. CEWARN was thus at a strategic moment and needed to act , moving forward, in a practical and profound manner to provide early warning and response to allow countries to work together to settle conflicts. He was convinced that CEWARN needed to build on its strengths, and thus needed to continue monitoring and reporting on pastoralist conflicts. Noting that the CEWARN mechanism was located within the Peace and Security Strategy, CEWARN needed to grow with the CEWERUs in mandate, activities and implementation and also grow with the IGAD Secretariat in policy and strategy.

In terms of the timeline moving forward, Dr. Kimani stated that the recommendations from the CPS would form the basis of the development of terms of reference to assist CEWARN prepare a draft implementation strategy for 2012-2017. This would be done by August 2011 and would be followed by intensive stakeholder consultation on the draft strategy by latest October 2011. The refined strategy and implementation plan should be subjected to experts in January 2012 and to the TCEW in March 2012, before seeking the endorsement of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries at their next meeting.

Dr. Kimani highlighted some of the recommendations emanating from the MTR and his discussions with stakeholders to include internal reforms at CEWARN. Most such changes would be administrative changes that involved purposive learning from past mistakes by undertaking after action reviews and collecting evidence of change on the ground; and the publishing these changes in the website and in reports to stakeholders. CEWARN also suggested short term fellowships at CEWARN especially for enhancing the communication of CEWARN's data. CEWARN could also improve staff retention with competitive retention.

Dr. Kimani also recommended the conduct of more risk assessment, increasing the synergies with other agencies, including IGAD agencies in support of the integration agenda and further recommended the use of CEWARN as a bridge, particularly to the African Union Conflict Early Warning System. Dr. Kimani would also work with the two CEWERUs in Sudan in a coordinating and facilitative position and sought to enhance coordination with other CEWERUs through common implementation planning.

Discussions

The representative of Sudan quoted the intention of CEWARN founders in asserting the need for CEWARN to be open to expansion. He proclaimed the need for new clusters and called for IGAD coordination and consultation with organizations dealing with similar issues like the ICGLR and the AU, especially given the overlapping membership in some cases.

Sudan also noted that Pastoral conflicts were mainly environmental based and that recent changes leading to desertification, and shortage of pasture were major issue of concern. He asked CEWARN to cooperate with regional and international organizations dealing with these issues. Cooperation is also called for to limit competition for donor resources, as donors fund many organizations dealing with similar concerns.

The Sudan representative was emphatic that it endorses assistance to South Sudan particularly in strengthening its CEWERU, capacity building and in establishing coordination with the Republic of the Sudan. He noted that the official name of the Sudan remains the Republic of the Sudan, not North Sudan.

The representative of Sudan noted that despite occupying 40% of IGAD land and contributing to food security, issues of pastoralist were not well addressed leading to severe problems of malnutrition among the pastoralists. He recommended that Member states address the issue of basic services for pastoralists.

The representative of Djibouti sought that conflict early warning reports issued by CEWARN to Member states should not be at the request of Member states but should be given to Member States as a matter of course. She further wanted that Ethiopian CEWERU extend its area of coverage to the Ethiopia/ Djibouti border.

The Somali representative noted that the Somali CEWERU was already operational on the Somali cluster (on the Kenyan border); that peace and security in Somalia was beneficial to the whole region; that Somalia has challenges but the situation was improving and it is possible and the end of Al-shabaab was near and calling for patience and understanding, stated that Somalia was ready to learn from her neighbours. He called for new areas of reporting in Somalia.

Uganda noted that security issues in Somalia and Sudan have been a challenge to the IGAD region and indeed were being dealt with at the UN Security Council. The key issue of Abyei and the 1600Km border between the North and South provide avenues for CEWARN to contribute to solving the security challenges in our region. The demise of Al-shabaab, he noted, though a welcome move, will likely result in other conflicts that must be anticipated and addressed. On integration and cooperation with other RECS, Uganda noted that Membership to RECS is overlapping and called on CEWARN to solve cross border challenges. Noting that a small problem could undermine integration, he called for CEWARN tools to be shared and learned by other RECS for their use.

Kenya supported the strengthening of the CEWARN mechanism. Her representative called for the strengthening of CEWERUs and the Somali cluster. She noted the importance of viable peace structures in the Sudan and the importance of implementing the CPA in Sudan.

In his response to the discussions, Dr. Kimani made the following comments:

- Expansion of areas of coverage, including a new cluster in the Sudan/ South Sudan border and enlarging the area of coverage to include the Djibouti/ Ethiopia border area will depend on availability of opportunities and resources. He noted that CEWARN's growth depended on it evolving and requested that Members direct donors to CEWARN to avoid duplication of efforts.
- There are other organizations doing work similar and relevant to CEWARN and closer links and collaboration is necessary. The environment is one of the issues that CEWARN is dealing with and it is necessary to adopt new tactics on how to be more effective.
- CEWARN has a role in coordinating and ensuring that South Sudan CEWERU and The Republic of the Sudan CEWERU collaborate.
- The requirement that CEWARN responds to request from Member States is practical as it is better to respond to specific requests. CEWARN work is dictated by discretion and appetite of the member States who cannot be imposed on. This is not meant to limit CEWARN but rather to empower it.
- The issue of building collaboration with other organizations and RECS is more often an issue of scheduling. CEWARN will continue to leverage its unique position of presence at the high tables of policy and at the practical village level.
- Whereas early warning can be provided on food security, CEWARN cannot be a development agent.
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Review and adoption of the Report and Recommendations of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response

Mr. Abdetta Dribbssa, the chairman of the technical committee on Early Warning presented to the Committee of Permanent Secretaries 41 recommendations suggested for CEWARN for the endorsement of the CPS.

The CPS made the following comments on the recommendations.

- Whereas it is agree with recommendation 23 on attracting qualified personnel, it is noted that there is no discussion on the methodology, ways and means, of doing this. A road map for implementing this is required.
- Recommendation 32 on cross border cooperation should include the Republic of the Sudan and the names of Member states should be in alphabetical order.
- 41 recommendations are too many. It may be necessary to classify them into different clusters; administrative, policy, resource etc.
- The recommendation on Staff retention means getting resources which requires plans. The work of CEWARN helps Member States convince their domestic audiences to provide further financial support to CEWARN
- “Peace spoilers“ at recommendation 14 needs to be defined. The term “conflict actor” could be used instead. It was noted that this was used to refer to the traditional seers who bless young men going to raids and could also include the suppliers of arms. It was recommended that in the circumstances the term peace spoilers needed to be in the recommendations without the inverted commas.
- It is important to emphasize on the importance of technology. Sometimes the CEWARN reporter goes down and there is a clear need for a back-up, a mirror outside Addis Ababa, to ensure that the CEWARN reporter is always functional.
- In support of the need to have more funding from Member States, experience has shown that engagement with Members of Parliament from CEWARN’s areas of coverage, earns their support in mobilizing resources for CEWARN from Member States.
- In fundraising, CEWARN could consider creating a CEWARN partners forum.
- In regard to collaboration with IGAD institutions and programs, the regional food security and disaster response program should be included as one of the programs to be collaborated with.
- CEWARN’s priority is to work with IGAD programs and Institutions and its expansion of areas of coverage and conflicts would be dependent on availability of resources and opportunities.
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The CPS adopted the recommendations, subject to the above comments. (The amended list of the recommendations is annexed).

Date and Venue of the next CPS meeting

Somali proposed that next meeting of the TCEW and CPS be held in Mogadishu, Somalia. This was seconded by Uganda. It was agreed that though the coolest period in Mogadishu was between June and September, the specific dates would be set by the CEWARN director.

AOB

Dr. Kimani invited interested participants to be available to tour Fort Jesus on the 29th May 2011 before proceeding to the Airport.

Closing Statement by the Chairman of the CPS

The chairman described the meeting as having been fruitful and the work of the technical committee as wonderful. He expressed his gratitude to the CEWARN secretariat and Dr .Mbugua for the recommendations; and the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting. He formally closed the meeting at 1430hrs.