

GPPAC-ECA Regional Steering group meeting 2024

Key outcomes



November 14, 2024

Fairway Hotel – Kampala – Uganda

1. Introduction

Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) hosted the Regional Steering Group (RSG) meeting 2024 from November 12-14, 2024 in Kampala -Uganda. Each year through the RSG, representatives from 16 countries that are members of GPPAC- Eastern & Central Africa regional network come together to share country-specific experiences in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, deepen understanding of issues at a regional and national level, and discuss joint efforts, strengthening the network and next priorities.

This was the first time RSG members held the RSG meeting physically since 2018. With this opportunity, the first two days were dedicated to the Inception meeting of the new MFA funded programme. The usual RSG agenda items were discussed in the last half day – with a number of agenda items to be followed up during the subsequent quarterly meetings and regular interactions.

The meeting started by observing a moment of Justine Kumche who was the Executive Director of WAA Cameroon.

2. Sharing by Salissou – Lac-Lac -Niger, and Marie-Laure from GPPAC Global Secretariat

During the meeting, Salissou reintegrated the importance and shared possible ways how GPPAC-ECA can collaborate, share experiences and learn through collaborations with GPPAC-West Africa. Similarly, Marie-Laure shared opportunities and ways how GPPAC-ECA can learn and share experiences through cross-regional collaboration and linkages with other GPPAC regions across the world.

3. Highlights, updates and next steps – By Patrick Bwire – GPPAC-ECA Regional Liaison Officer

a) Current Priorities & Objectives 2021-2025 GPPAC Eastern and Central Africa

- Countering youth radicalization and violent extremism
- Addressing Gender-Based Violence
- Promoting Human security - focusing on climate change, SALW, Civic space

b) The key priority areas agreed upon during the meeting for 2025 were:

- Addressing radicalisation and violent extremism (with a focus on youth)
- Women peace and security
- Human security (with a focus on conflict prevention, climate change, and SALW).
- Addressing election related violence

Some of the strategies to realise the above include; conflict prevention, inclusiveness, advocacy and policy influencing, youth and women empowerment, and inter-generational dialogues.

c) Activity update – in line with the 2024 annual plan - and lead member organisations

- Quarterly meeting for SDG Working group in Uganda (CECORE -Uganda)
- National Youth Camp for Peace 5th Edition (WAA-Cameroon)
- First quarterly virtual meeting for GPPAC-ECA (Regional secretariat)
- Mini-forum for reflection and analysis of the contours of chronic armed violence in the East of the DR Congo: Mobilization and Advocacy actions for the maintenance and consolidation of peace during and after the withdrawal of MONUSCO (Heritiers De La Justice – DRC)
- Facilitating of Cross-Border Dialogue through stakeholders; Contact Establishments, Community Mobilization and Sensitization Meetings and Bilateral Talks Regarding Cross-Border Tensions between line Communities in Uganda and South Sudan (Populace Foundation – Uganda)
- Cross - Regional exchange the Youth of ECA and MENA; Youth, Peace and Security: Learning and experience between MENA and Eastern and Central Africa (CECORE)

- Drafting a Bill for Protection for Victims Terrorism (Justice Access Point – Uganda)
- Development of the final SDG localisation guide (CECORE)
- Regional consultations on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review, and RSG/Inception meeting (Regional secretariat).



GPPAC-ECA RSG members 2024 - during a brainstorming session

d) Membership

Members were informed that ECA had new Focal points for Ethiopia (African Resilience Concern - ARC Africa), and Rwanda (*Ejo Youth Echo* - EYE). This follows the mandate that was given to the regional Secretariat to recommend applications – for countries where there were no active Focal Points. The RSG agreed and similarly gave a go-ahead to the regional secretariat to review applications from Tanzania – due to the non-responsiveness of the Focal Point.

ECA membership has continued to grow – with a big number of pending applications. There are number of pending applications for 2023 and 2024;

- awaiting feedback from National Focal points
- awaiting further information gathering by Focal points
- awaiting submission of reports and certificates from applicants

The RSG approved 5 organisations to become members – who at the time of the RSG meeting had successfully fulfilled all the necessary requirements - okayed by the Global secretariat, recommended by Focal Points, and submitted report and certificate. These were:

1. LaCloche -Sud Kivu – DRC - Kinshasa
2. Foundation for Human Security Initiative- Kampala, Uganda
3. Association of Children and Young Workers - Uvira, kavimvira, Congo – Kinshasa
4. Indigenous Women for Health And Equality-IWHE ONG - Uvira-Quartier Kilibula,Av.Mombassa N°54, SUD-KIVU Province. Congo – Kinshasa
5. Refugee Active Peace Building Initiative - Rhino Camp Road Ofua4. Uganda

e). Communication.

There was a general call to increase visibility of GPPAC, and show-case its impact and success stories. This could be done by enhancing communication. This would also enhance sharing, exchange and learning. One of the opportunities is to engage with the GS (Johanna) to enhance the region's communication.

Other action points included:

The regional secretariat to share the inception meeting report with all members

The regional secretariat to share a list of membership – per country

f). Next steps.

The discussion on the next steps centred around; the 2025 Annual plan (especially feeding into and aligned to MFA funded programme), next quarterly meetings, and next RSG. It was agreed that:

- The regional secretariat as has been the practice sends out an email to collect ideas/activities to feed into the 2025 annual report.
- The next quarterly meeting be held end of January 2025
- The next RSG be held in Somalia

4. Closing remarks:

The closing remarks were made by Rose Othieno, the Executive Director of GPPAC-ECA regional secretariat - Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE). In her remarks, she thanked all participants for the fruitful participation during the RSG meeting and the previous Inception and PBAR meetings. She also thanked members for the great peacebuilding work they are doing in their respective constituencies. She noted that Bruno from CAR was not able to join the meeting due to visa approval delay but hoped that he will be able to join us in the next meeting. She concluded by demonstrating the value of connection and the network approach - as seen below.



ECA RSG members demonstrating the value of connection and network approach.