

TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH AND ENHANCED REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF NEGATIVE FORCES

PHASE IV: OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE CONTACT AND COORDINATION GROUP (CCG) MAY 2021, GOMA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AGENDA

Monday 3 May 2021

Day I: Plenary Session

Opening session

- 8:45 - 9:00 COVID and security briefing
- 9:00 - 9:10 Welcome by the Governor of North Kivu Province
- 9:10 - 9:15 Welcoming remarks by the Representative of the National Oversight Mechanism
- 9:15 - 9:20 Statement by the Representative of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
- 9:20 - 9:25 Statement by the Representative of the African Union
- 9:25 - 9:30 Statement by the Representative of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region
- 9:30 - 10:00 Group photo followed by coffee break.

Plenary Session I: Brainstorming and discussion on the proposed modus operandi of the CCG and its ways of working.

The Contact and Coordination Group is a task force whose mandate is to coordinate the implementation of non-military measures. As it is composed of members who are resident in their home countries, the question arises as to its day-to-day management and working methods. How often should the contact group meet? What is its decision-making process? Should the Group have a secretariat in charge of its daily activities? How can the Group's activities be financed in the short and medium term?

10:00-10:15 Presentation of the issues

10:15 - 11:30 Discussions

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 - 12:30 Discussions

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:30 Consolidation

Tuesday 4 May 2021 - Wednesday 5 May 2021

Days II-III: Thematic groups

Thematic Group 1 (D.II): Brainstorming and discussion on options for constructive engagement with leaders of negatives forces as well as communication/sensitization strategies geared towards their members; and coordinating and harmonizing military efforts with non-military measures.

One of the objectives of the Contact and Coordination Group is the definition of a strategy of engagement of negative forces at both leadership and membership levels. Such engagement aims to promote and promote an alternative to the military option for willing groups with the facilitation of regional and international actors as well as their countries of origin with a view to voluntary surrender without political conditions. Which groups are likely to be receptive to such an engagement? What are the practical modalities of engagement of armed groups: actors; modus operandi? What are the key messages of this commitment? What are the modes of dissemination? What are the steps to follow for groups that show a willingness to voluntarily repatriate? What are the follow-up modalities once repatriation has taken place?

Moreover, the initiative on non-military measures is only relevant in relation to the ongoing military operations of states in the region. Therefore, its effectiveness depends on defining operational complementarity with ongoing military efforts. How do states conceive this complementarity? What are the modalities of its implementation? What are the modalities of coordination between the Contact and Coordination Group and the Military Staffs in facilitating a voluntary surrender process?

Nota bene: This group will meet only on Day II

9:00 - 9:15 Presentation of the issues / Summary of the day before

9:15 - 11:15 Discussions

11:15 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:00 Discussions

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:00 Consolidation

Thematic Group 1(D.III): Discuss in detail and present a proposal for measures to cut off the supply lines of negative forces in the region, including recruitment as well as arms and ammunition.

The durability of armed groups in the region is explained in particular by the persistence of recruitment channels as well as the supply of weapons despite the successes recorded in terms of military operations. Increasing the effectiveness of the latter and preventing the resurgence of negative forces requires an upstream approach aimed at preventing recruitment and also neutralizing the supply networks of armed groups. What are the sources of recruitment for armed groups in the region? Should awareness-raising campaigns in refugee camps be considered? What is the state of play in terms of the circulation of small arms and light weapons? What measures can states take to prevent this scourge? Can foreign armed groups survive without the support of local armed groups? What strategy can be put in place to counter the prospect of such alliances?

Nota bene: This group will meet only on Day III

9:00 - 9:15 Presentation of the issues / Summary of the day before

9:15 - 11:15 Discussions

11:15 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:00 Discussions

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:00 Consolidation

Thematic Group 2: To discuss in detail and come up with a proposal on how to support the DDR/RR programs in the region.

Increased security cooperation in the region and military operations could result in a massive flow of repatriation, for which DDR commissions in the region are not necessarily prepared. Furthermore, the lack of viable opportunities for armed groups in their home countries is a barrier to the renunciation of violence by negative forces. This raises the question not only of coordination between DDR commissions in the region, but also of their capacity to deal with combatants and their dependents. How can information exchange, synergies and coordination between DDR commissions be improved? What are the offers of reintegration at this stage for ex-combatants? What are the needs of DDR commissions in the countries of origin of foreign combatants? What is a constructive solution for ex-combatants incarcerated in countries in the region without having been prosecuted? How can issues of human rights, international humanitarian law and impunity be integrated into this non-military process?

9:00 - 9:15 Presentation of the issues / Summary of the day before

9:15 - 11:15 Discussions

11:15 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:00 Discussions

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:00 Consolidation

Thematic Group 3: Identify any other elements and activities deemed relevant to address the root causes of the continued presence and activities of negative forces.

The success of the comprehensive approach combining military operations and non-military measures depends on the ability of states and other stakeholders to address the root causes of instability in the region, particularly in the border areas. Within the framework of the Contact and Coordination Group, the aim is to identify the root causes and activities or initiatives that will help mitigate them. What are the root causes of the conflicts? What initiatives can the group take at this stage? How can the role of civil society, women's organizations, community leaders be strengthened in addressing these root causes and promoting non-military measures?

9:00 - 9:15 Presentation of the issues / Summary of the day before

9:15 - 11:15 Discussions

11:15 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 13:00 Discussions

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:00 Consolidation

Thursday 7 May 2021

Day IV: Finalization of documents and Closing session

8:00 - 10:00 Consolidation of the documents by the Secretariat

10:00 - 12:30 Presentation, consideration and adoption of draft documents

13:00 - 14:00 Closing speeches

- Reading of the final communiqué
- Statement by the Representative of the PSCF Guarantors
- Statement by the Representative of the National Oversight Mechanism
- Statement by the Governor of the Province of North Kivu