

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Towards a comprehensive approach and enhanced regional cooperation to eradicate negative forces**

#### **Phase IV: Operationalization of the Contact and Coordination group (CCG)**

**May 2021, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

##### **Background**

The Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2013, plan to organize a workshop to discuss the operationalization of the Contact and Coordination Group (CCG), mandated to oversee the implementation of the non-military measures to complement the ongoing military operations. This initiative comes in the aftermath of the approval of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes region (S/2020/1168) by the United Nations Secretary-General in October 2020, and the endorsement, by the Heads of State at the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) of a comprehensive approach in the fight against the negative forces (NFs) as well as the establishment of the CCG on 20 November 2020.

The operationalization of the CCG had been recommended by the meeting of the ICGLR Committee of Ministers of the Defense on 14 October 2020 after extensive consultations among the Chiefs of Military and Civilian Intelligence Services of Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania as well as the respective Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commissions and other relevant national entities, facilitated by the Guarantors of the PSC Framework. The need to establish the CCG emerged from the consensus among the Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services that military pressure alone would not achieve sustainable results. Therefore, it was recommended that military pressure be reinforced and complemented with non-military measures in efforts to eradicate armed groups in the region.

##### **Mission and objectives of the CCG**

According to the approved Terms of Reference, the mission of the CCG is to coordinate the implementation of non-military measures towards the eradication of negative forces and to facilitate regular contacts between key stakeholders in eastern DRC and the region. The following objectives were highlighted:

- To support national and regional efforts to address the root causes of negative forces and their activism;
- To support the development and strengthening of DDR/RR programmes at national levels with regional support;
- To facilitate engagement with negative forces on their voluntary disarmament without political conditions;
- To support community efforts in the operational areas in efforts to eradicate Negative Forces;
- To support the development and implementation of a communication strategy that highlights the opportunities created by non-military efforts.

### **Objectives of the workshop**

The objective of the workshop is to discuss the operationalization and functioning of the CCG and to elaborate an action plan for the CCG covering the next two years in line with the identified objectives and as approved by the Heads of State Summit of November 2020.

### **Organizational structure of the workshop**

The workshop will be structured in two parts: a double plenary session on strategic issues, followed by sessions in thematic groups on operational priorities.

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

**Plenary Session II:** Coordinating and harmonizing military efforts with non-military measures.

**Thematic Group 1:** Brainstorming and discussion on options for constructive engagement with leaders of negatives forces as well as communication/sensitization strategies geared towards their members.

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

**Thematic Group 3:** To discuss in detail and come up with a proposal on measures to cut the supply lines of negative forces in the region, including recruitment as well as weapons and ammunition.

**Thematic Group 4:** To identify any other elements and activities deemed conducive to address the root causes of the continued presence and activities of negative forces.

After the discussion sessions, the groups will present their reports/findings to the plenary for further scrutiny and inputs that will lead to a final document to be presented to the Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services in Bujumbura at a date yet to be decided with a view of high-level consideration and adoption by the countries of the region.

### **Expected outcomes of the workshop**

- Detailed streamlined modus operandi of the CCG
- Detailed action plan for the CCG
- Official launch of the operationalization of CCG

### **Participants**

The following shall participate in the workshop:

- Country representatives
  - 5 delegates from Burundi
  - 9 delegates from DRC
  - 5 delegates from Rwanda
  - 3 delegates from Tanzania
  - 5 delegates from Uganda
- Observers
  - 1 delegate from Angola
  - 1 delegate from Kenya
  - 1 delegate from Central African Republic
- Guarantors and partners
  - 3 representatives from AU
  - 3 representatives from ICGLR
  - 2 representatives from SADC
  - 5 representatives from OSESG-GL
  - 7 representatives from EJVM
  - 4 representatives from MONUSCO
  - 1 representative of GIZ
- Women's organizations; Civil society and provincial authorities (members of the CCG)
  - 2 representatives from Civil society
  - 3 representatives of Women's organizations
  - 2 representatives of provincial authorities
- Resource persons
  - 3 representatives from DPO/OROLSI and DPPA/CSAD
  - 1 outgoing commander of the EJVM
  - 4 resources persons/experts.

### **Venue for the workshop**

- Goma, DRC.

### **Date of meeting-**

- 03 to 06 May 2021