

**Towards a comprehensive effort to neutralize negative forces in
Eastern DRC**

**Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) to establish the Contact
Coordination Group (CCG)**

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Preamble

The 9th Summit of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) held on 8 October 2018 in Kampala, Uganda, called for a new approach to ensure greater regional cooperation for the full eradication of negative forces without delay. Based on this decision, the DRC National Oversight Mechanism (NOM) of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSCF) and the Guarantors of the PSCF convened two confidence-building meetings of the Chiefs of the Intelligence and Security Services of Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania.

During the second meeting of the Chiefs of Intelligence and Security services, on 4-6 November 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the Chiefs noted the complementary nature of the military and non-military approaches towards the eradication of negative forces and called for a comprehensive approach that would include participation of key stakeholders such as women, youth, religious and community leaders, in efforts to fully eradicate negative forces.

In this regard, they recommended the development of a stabilization programme which should include measures to strengthen national and regional DDRR/R programmes and agree on and implement targeted cross-border development initiatives in identified priority areas. They decided to establish a Contact Coordination Group (CCG) to coordinate regional non-military efforts towards the eradication of negative forces.

In establishing the CCG certain concerns will need to be considered. This include the need for a continue political support of the leadership of the concerned countries and strong support by the partners and the international community. In addition, a clear communication strategy will be required to ensure a broad understanding of CCG and its mandate.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the CCG is to coordinate non-military approaches towards the eradication of negative forces and to facilitate regular contacts between key stakeholders.

II. Mission and objectives

The second Chiefs of Intelligence and Security meeting indicated the following mission and objectives for the CCG:

- To support national and regional efforts to address the root causes of negative forces and their activism, including regional efforts to fight impunity for serious crimes, and mobilize support and resources for the regional stabilization programme;
- To support the development and strengthening of DDRR/R programmes at national and regional levels;

- To facilitate engagement with negative forces on their voluntary disarmament without conditions;
- To support community engagement in the operational areas in efforts to eradicate negative forces and;
- To support the development and implementation of a communication strategy that highlights the opportunities created by non-military efforts.

III. Tasks of the CCG

The CCG will fulfil its mission and achieve its objectives by undertaking the following indicative tasks:

- Coordinate support to ongoing and future DDR/RR efforts, specifically the demobilization, repatriation, resettlement, and reintegration of disarmed foreign combatants in their countries of origin with regional and international support;
- Facilitate the design and implementation of a joint communication strategy targeting armed group leaders, combatants, communities, refugees, and other stakeholders across the region, as well as tailored messages addressing specific armed groups, including through mobile and static radios and other communications channels;
- Facilitate and coordinate continuous information and experience-sharing among national DDR Commissions and other designated institutions through regular exchanges including two annual meetings;
- Coordinate the development of sensitization initiatives, including regional and cross-border peace forums and peace caravans involving regional, national, and local stakeholders;
- Advocate for and support, as appropriate, the coordination of cross-border economic cooperation initiatives and activities to facilitate job creation and reintegration efforts, including infrastructure projects;
- Coordinate efforts to address transnational organized crime and other factors conducive to armed group mobilization and activities;
- Ensure gender mainstreaming and child/youth-sensitive strategic and programmatic DDR/R approaches, including through ensuring a gender and youth focal point in all DDR Commissions or designated entities;
- Coordinate the development of tailored strategies to engage armed groups, based on an updated cartography of armed groups, including linkages between foreign and domestic groups and identification of armed group leaders. .

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- Advocate for and support national and regional efforts to address the root causes of proliferation of armed groups;
- Facilitate engagement with the leaders of negative forces on their voluntary disarmament without conditions;
- Support community engagement in the operational areas in efforts to eradicate negative forces;

Additional tasks may be considered depending on the evolution of the situation and direction by the governing bodies of the PSCF, most notably expressed through the Heads of State ROM Summit.

IV. Composition of CCG

The CCG shall be constituted as follows:

- Rwanda
- Uganda
- DRC
- Burundi
- United Republic of Tanzania
- EJVM
- PSCF Guarantors (UN, AU, ICGLR, SADC)

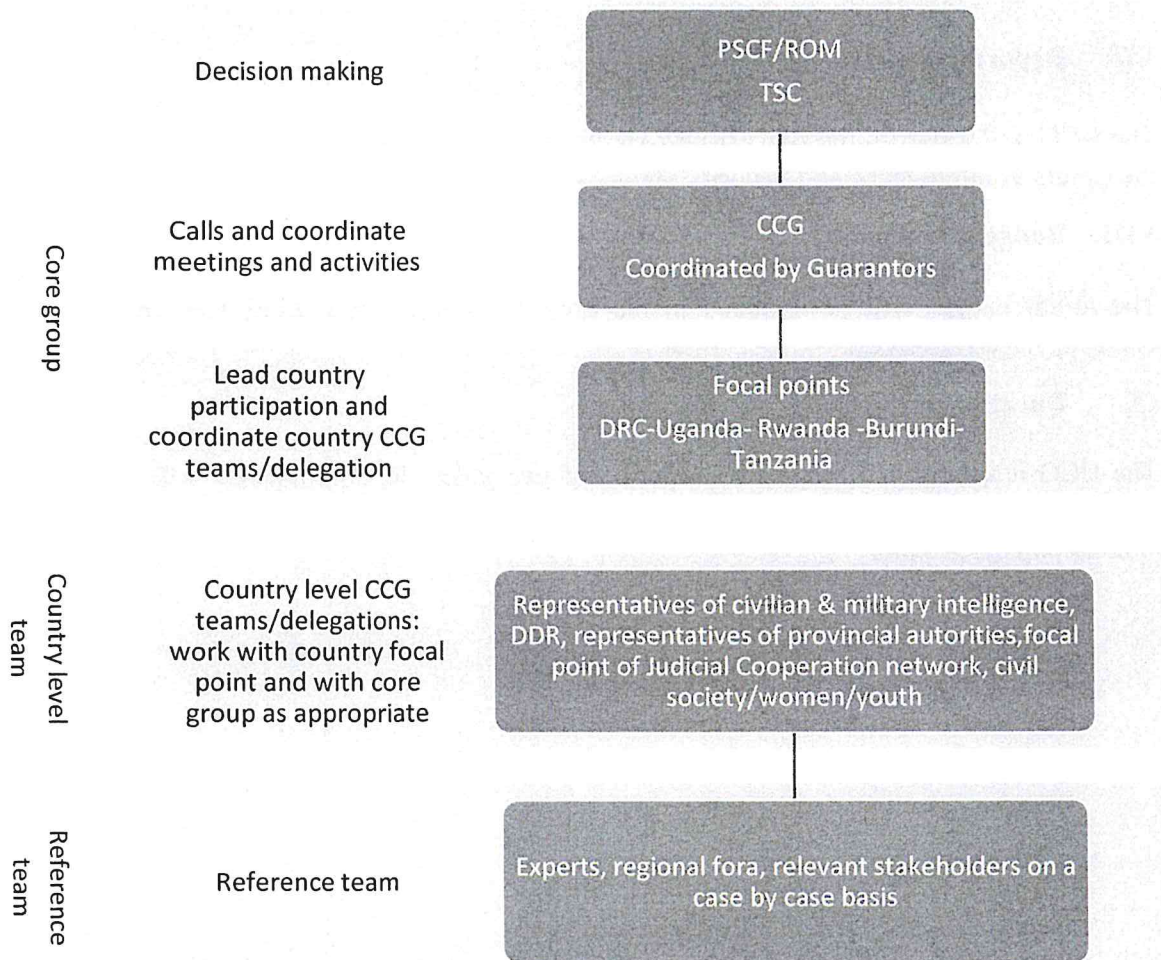
The CCG will comprise a core group of focal points designated by each country, and representatives of the EJVM and the Guarantors.

Each focal point will work with a country CCG team (i.e. country delegation), which will include, but will not be limited to, representatives of the military intelligence services, civilian intelligence services, DDR commissions or designated entities, provincial authorities, focal points of the Follow-up Mechanism on repatriation, representatives of civil society organizations, including women's groups.

In addition, the CCG will work closely with other civil society organizations at regional, national, and local levels, as well as with experts (i.e. reference group).

The CCG can invite other stakeholders, on a case-by-case basis, depending on the substantive focus of meetings.

V. Structure



VI. Execution of duties/Functioning

- The CCG shall hold bi-annual meetings, called and chaired by the representatives of the Guarantors to review progress on the agreed initiatives;
- Ad hoc meetings will be called as appropriate;
- Responsibilities for each of the elements of the structure will be developed in consultation with the relevant parties;
- The core group will develop immediately as first task an internal regulation and a work-plan with specific benchmarks per activity;

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VII. Reporting

The CCG will report to the PSCF/ROM via the Technical Support Committee (TSC) and to the Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services.

VIII. Budget/Financing

The initial budget will be included in the project proposal on non-military measures to eradicate negative forces.

IX. Duration of the CCG

The CCG is established for an initial period of two years. Its continuation will depend on progress achieved measured on the basis of agreed benchmarks and on the evolution of the situation on the ground.

