



Decisions of the 16th meeting of CEWARN Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS)

28 April 2021, Entebbe, Uganda

The 16th meeting of the CEWARN Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) representing IGAD Member States convened on 28 April 2021 at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda.

The CPS Meeting was preceded by the 16th meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning (TCEW) that comprises Heads of national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda; CSO Partners as well as IGAD Focal Persons from Member State Ministries of Foreign Affairs that convened from 26-27 April 2021 in the same venue.

The technical meeting received progress reports on early warning and response operations of the CEWARN Unit and national CEWERUs as well as the progress of implementation of the decisions of the 15th CPS meeting that was held on 20 November 2019 in Juba, South Sudan. In addition, priority areas that will inform the focus of the next strategy period 2021-2025 were also presented. The CEWARN Unit further made presentations on the CEWARN Response Framework, the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) and the CEWARN Communications Strategy.

The technical meeting received presentation on the state of peace and security in the IGAD region, and deliberated on persistent and emerging security challenges that require CEWARN's focus for early warning and response.

Based on the TCEW's appraisal of the CEWARN Mechanism activities since its last meeting in November 2019, and a set of recommendations that were identified to guide CEWARN's operations for 2021-2022, the CPS has adopted the following decisions:

On Strengthening CEWARN's Data Collection, Reporting and Analysis

1. Commends the efforts of the CEWARN Unit in strengthening its data collection and reporting structures through provision of incentives to data collectors (including facilitation of internet connectivity and provision of equipment);
2. Urges national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) to explore context-specific means of strengthening CEWARNs' data collection and reporting structures (including through the utilization of existing government structures, field monitors, CSOs, crowd-sourcing or other



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methods), in order to ensure consistent, credible and uninterrupted flow of conflict early warning information;

3. Calls on the CEWARN Unit and national CEWERUs to strengthen their Situation Rooms to produce high-quality conflict early warning reports by enhancing requisite capabilities of situation room officers;
4. Commends the completion of thematic researches, and country-specific conflict profiling and scenario building exercises; calls on the CEWARN Unit to undertake further research on the key peace and security issues identified from these exercises;

Expansion of Early Warning and Response Structures to Sub-national levels

5. Commends national CEWERU efforts in expanding and cascading situation rooms (information monitoring centers) and peace structures from the national to sub-national and local levels as well as strategic locations; calls on the CEWARN Unit to provide the necessary technical support;
6. Calls on the CEWARN Unit and national CEWERUs to engage with the African Union and other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in order to harmonize national early warning systems;

On Strengthening of Outreach and Dissemination

7. Commends the CEWARN Unit on the development of the CEWARN Communications Strategy; and calls on the CEWARN Unit and national CEWERUs to expedite its implementation at national and regional levels;
8. Congratulates the CEWARN Unit on the publishing and the launch (on 28 April 2021) of a book on its two-decade journey that contains lessons from its operations as an early warning and response mechanism in the IGAD region;
9. Calls on the national CEWERUs to sustain the proactive engagement of national CEWERU steering committee members as well as strengthen engagement with national decision makers including the dissemination of CEWARN early warning products at the national level;

On Strengthening Response Initiatives

10. Applauds the completion of the development of the CEWARN Response Framework and directs the national CEWERUs – with the support of the CEWARN Unit - to implement the framework;
11. Commends the CEWARN Unit on the revitalization of the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) and the steps taken to hold national launches in Ethiopia, Kenya



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and Uganda; calls on the CEWARN Unit to complete these exercises in all remaining member states in order to expedite utilization of the Fund;

12. Appreciates the support of funding partners to the RRF that enables Member States to proactively respond to emerging crises; and calls on the CEWARN Unit to further engage with these partners to explore ways of easing the approval processes of projects for funding;
13. Recalls IGAD's efforts thus far in advocating for the harmonization of disarmament exercises in the IGAD region to deal with the high proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs); calls on IGAD to sustain its advocacy for a sustainable solution as well as encourage the active engagement of CSOs and other stakeholders;
14. Acknowledges the efforts of some Member States towards the development of national peace policies; encourages other Member States to pursue the development of similar instruments; further calls on the national CEWERUs and the CEWARN Unit to proactively engage and contribute to these processes;

Post-2020 CEWARN Operations

15. Takes note of the ongoing IGAD Corporate Strategy development process that includes a Peace and Security Sectoral Strategy; directs the CEWARN Unit to lead the development of a post-2020 CEWARN implementation plan in a manner that is aligned with the IGAD Corporate Strategy. **END**