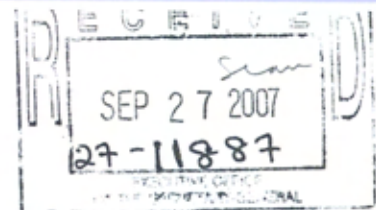


ODA/DA  
African Regional Iss

ACTION NH  
COPY Vn/KWS



Note to the Secretary-General

**26<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE UN STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA**

1. The 26<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 3 to 7 September 2007. All eleven member States of the Committee (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tomé and Príncipe) attended the meeting, with 8 countries represented at the level of Minister or Vice-Minister. The Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) organized and serviced the meeting.
2. Your message was delivered by General Lamine Cissé, and well received by participants. The Committee examined the latest security developments in Central Africa, and welcomed both the deployment of a UN– EU force in north-eastern CAR and eastern Chad, and the signature of a Joint Communiqué between Rwanda and the DRC on 3 September 2007. The Committee nevertheless noted that the political, security and socio-economic situation in the sub-region remains worrying. Member States discussed participation, by all parties in Burundi, in the ceasefire agreement implementation mechanism, and they expressed their deep concern at the continuing violence in the Kivus, DRC.
3. The Committee also reviewed progress on the “Initiative of Sao Tomé”, (a sub-regional legal instrument for the control of small arms and light weapons, and a Code of Conduct for armed and security forces in Central Africa); and it agreed on a draft UN General Assembly resolution on the activities of the Committee.
4. Within the framework of the Committee, a special conference on cross-border security issues was held from 4 to 6 September 2007, which addressed a number of sub-regional security challenges, including cross-border flows of illicit weapons, human trafficking and crime, as well as the exploitation of natural resources in border regions. The conference adopted a political declaration renewing Member States’ determination to address these issues through appropriate concrete measures, such as the implementation of the 2003 Programme of Priority Activities of Central Africa on small arms and light weapons, the establishment of cooperative natural resource management mechanisms, and the strengthening of cross-border cooperation among police, customs and other judiciary and administrative entities of States in the sub-region.
5. Member States’ decision to hold this thematic conference within the Committee’s framework demonstrates their willingness to make full use of the Committee as a forum to address pressing security concerns in the Central African sub-region. I believe that the UN should support such a practice. It is also encouraging to note the continuing revitalization of the work the Committee, which is a joint effort by its Member States and ODA that started with the 25<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting in Sao Tomé.
6. The 27<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting will be held in Luanda, Angola, in February 2008.

  
Sergio Duarte  
27 September 2007