



**CAMYOSFOP**



*Co-operating to disarm*



**REPORT ON:  
THE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE  
RATIFICATION OF THE KINSHASA CONVENTION  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS BY CAMEROON**

***Rapport Sur:  
Le Séminaire sur la ratification de la Convention de Kinshasa sur les  
Armes Légères et de Petit Calibres par le Cameroun***



Organized by:  
Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP)

In Partnership with:  
Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lake and the Horn of Africa (RECSA)

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Supported by:  
African Union (AU)  
European Union (EU)  
Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS)

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Djeuga Palace Hotel, Yaoundé, July 10, 2013**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS**

AU: African Union

CANSA: Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms

CAMYOSFOP: Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace

CSOs: Civil Society Organizations

ECCAS: Economic Community of the Central African States

EU: European Union

FPAE: Fondation Paul ANGO ELA

MINREX (French Acronym): Ministry of External Relations

NCSALW: National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons

NGO: Non- Governmental Organization

WAA: Women in Alternative Action

PoA: UN Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

RASALAC: Central African Action Network on Small Arms

RECSA: Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lake and the Horn of Africa

SeP: Ecumenical Service for Peace

SALW: Small Arms and Light Weapons

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lake and the Horn of Africa (RECSA) for funding and partnering with CAMYOSFOP in the organization of this information session on the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention in Central Africa for the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their Manufacture, repair and assembly held in Yaounde on July 10, 2013. CAMYOSFOP look further in future collaboration in the execution of other projects on the implementation process of the convention and other related activities on curbing the illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in Cameroon and the Central Africa Sub - Region.

We are indebted to the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) that also showed a lot of concern to the success of this activity.

We also wish to thank the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) that over the years has been a major collaborator of CAMYOSFOP advocacy on the ratification process of the Kinshasa Convention and other related treaties on SALW.

I wish to acknowledge the role of the National Assembly especially the contributions of the following MPs. Hon. Rose Abunaw Makia, Hon Paul Nji Tumasang, Hon. Vincent de Paul Emah Etoundi, Hon. Zondol Herses and Hon. Jean Michel Nintcheu for raising awareness and advocating for the adoption of a bill on this convention by Cameroon's parliament.

The civil society movements through the Central Africa Action Network on Small Arms (RASALAC) created with the support of ECCAS and the Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSAs) have also been very instrumental on the advocacy for ratification of this convention. We therefore wish to thank this group of persons that are the main actors on the field mobilizing the grass root against the phenomenon of the illicit proliferation and misuse of SALW.

***NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine***

*Executive Director - CAMYOSFOP*

*Secretary General - Central Africa Action Network on Small Arms (RASALAC)*

*Member – National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF)*



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## **REMERCIEMENTS**

Nous sommes infiniment reconnaissants envers le Centre régional de lutte contre la prolifération des armes légères dans la zone des grands lacs et de la corne de l'Afrique (RECSA), pour son appui financier et technique dans l'organisation, en collaboration avec CAMYOSFOP, du séminaire d'information tenu le 10 juillet 2013 à Yaoundé sur la ratification de la Convention de Kinshasa ou Convention de l'Afrique centrale pour le contrôle des armes légères et de petit calibre, de leurs munitions et de toutes pièces et composantes pouvant servir à leur fabrication, réparation, et assemblage. CAMYOSFOP espère que cette collaboration va se poursuivre dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de d'autres projets relatifs à l'application de la Convention et autres activités connexes visant à freiner la prolifération et l'utilisation illicite des armes légères et de petit calibre au Cameroun et dans la sous région Afrique centrale.

Nous remercions également la Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC) qui de manière significative, a contribué à la réussite de ce séminaire d'information.

Notre gratitude va également à l'endroit du Ministère des Relations Extérieures (MINREX) qui pendant des années, a été le principal collaborateur de CAMYOSFOP en vue du plaidoyer sur le processus de ratification de la Convention de Kinshasa et de d'autres traités relatifs aux ALPC.

Nous saluons le rôle de l'Assemblée Nationale, notamment les contributions apportées par l'Hon. Rose Abunaw Makia, l'Hon. Paul Nji Tumasang, l'Hon. Vincent de Paul Emah Etoundi, l'Hon. Jean Michel Nintcheu pour leur appui dans la sensibilisation et le plaidoyer sur l'adoption d'un projet de loi sur la Convention de Kinshasa par le parlement camerounais.

La participation de la société civile grâce au Réseau d'Action sur les Armes Légères en Afrique Centrale (RASALAC), mis sur pied avec l'appui de la CEEAC et du Réseau d'Action Camerounais sur les Armes Légères (CANSALAC) a également été essentielle dans le plaidoyer en vue de la ratification de la présente Convention. Nous exprimons donc toute notre gratitude à ce groupe de personnes, principaux acteurs sur le terrain, qui sensibilise la population à la base sur le phénomène de prolifération et d'utilisation illicites des ALPC.

***NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine***

*Directeur Exécutif – CAMYOSFOP*

*Secrétaire Général - Réseau d'action sur les armes légères en Afrique Centrale (RASALAC).*

*Membre de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés (CNDHL)*

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The information session on the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention in Central Africa for the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their Manufacture, repair and assembly organized by the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) in partnership with the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lake and the Horn of Africa (RECSA) comes to add to CAMYOSFOP work on the phenomenon of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) since 2001 but most importantly advocating with the government and the Parliament on the ratification of the Kinshasa convention and other binding instruments such as the UN Plan of Action on SALW (UNPoA) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The information session that was initially aimed at raising awareness within the Members of Parliament (MPs) and also mobilizing them towards the ratification and implementation process of the Kinshasa Convention by the government of Cameroon was later change to a civil society event. This change was orchestrated because of the current political calendar that led to the call of the electorate to polls by the President of the Republic on September 30, 2013. As such, the MPs had to go back to their constituencies for the selection process. Good enough the government recently tabled a bill in Parliament that has been adopted by the lower and upper houses of Parliament (the National Assembly and Senate) on July 03 and 08 respectively while pending the endorsement of the Head of State and the deposit of the instruments of ratification at ECCAS. This development therefore facilitated our work with the participants of the information session as it was now focused on awareness raising on the importance of the convention and the implementation process of the convention.

One thing that clearly came out from the brainstorming of this workshop was the need for CAMYOSFOP and RECSA to organize another stakeholder meeting bringing together representatives of the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX), the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD), the Ministry of Justice and Keeper of the Seal (MINJUSTICE), the Prime Ministry, the Presidency and the civil society to brainstorm on the implementation process of the convention especially the creation of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCSALW), the appointment of the National Focal Point on SALW and the putting in place of the National Action Plan on SALW.

The information session that witnessed a high level of brainstorming and experience sharing on the role of the civil society on combating the illicit proliferation of SALW and advocating for the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention ended with far reaching recommendations and resolution. CAMYOSFOP is therefore committed to the implementation of these recommendations and to continue working with RECSA and pushing the government to be proactive in the ratification and implementation process of the convention and other related issues on SALW.

As we look forward to organizing many other activities towards the full ratification and the implementation of the convention especially the creation of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, I shall hopefully be meeting most of you in the near future.

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## **RESUME ANALYTIQUE**

Le séminaire d'information sur la ratification de la Convention de Kinshasa ou la Convention de l'Afrique Centrale pour le contrôle des armes légères et de petit calibre, de leurs munitions et de toutes pièces et composantes pouvant servir à leur fabrication, réparation et assemblage, organisé par le Forum des Jeunes et étudiants du Cameroun pour la paix (CAMYOSFOP) en partenariat avec le Centre Régional de lutte contre la prolifération des armes légères dans les Grands lacs et de la Corne de l'Afrique (RECSA), est une activité qui appuie davantage le travail de CAMYOSFOP depuis 2001 sur le phénomène des Armes légères et de petit calibre (ALPC). En outre, ce séminaire fait partie du plaidoyer auprès du gouvernement et du Parlement en vue de la ratification de la Convention de Kinshasa et autres instruments juridiquement contraignants tels que le plan d'action de l'ONU sur les ALPC ainsi que le Traité des Nations Unies sur le Commerce des Armes (TCA).

Le séminaire d'information qui au départ visait à sensibiliser et à mobiliser les Membres du Parlement pour que le Cameroun s'engage dans le processus de ratification et d'application de la Convention de Kinshasa s'est finalement révélé comme un événement de la société civile. Ce revirement de situation est justifié par le calendrier politique actuel, marqué par la convocation du corps électoral par le Président de la République en vue des élections couplées du 30 septembre 2013. De ce fait, les Membres du Parlement ont dû retourner dans leur circonscriptions pour la phase de sélection. Bien plus, le gouvernement a récemment présenté un projet de loi au Parlement qui a été adopté respectivement les 03 et 08 juillet par la chambre haute et la chambre basse du Parlement (le Sénat et l'Assemblée Nationale), reste attendu la promulgation par le Chef de l'État et le dépôt des instruments de ratification à la CEEAC. Cette situation a facilité le travail avec les participants vu qu'il portait désormais sur l'importance de la Convention et du processus d'application de la Convention.

Finalement, à l'issue du séminaire d'information, il s'est avéré nécessaire pour CAMYOSFOP et le RESCA d'organiser un autre séminaire regroupant des représentants du Ministère des Relations Extérieures (MINREX), du Ministère de la Défense (MINDEF), du Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale et de la Décentralisation (MINATD), du Ministère de la Justice (MINJUSTICE), des Services du Premier Ministre, de la Présidence et de la société civile en vue des travaux sur le processus d'application de la Convention, en particulier sur la création de la Commission nationale sur les armes légères et de petit calibre (CNALPC), la désignation d'un Point focal national sur les armes légères et de petit calibre et l'élaboration d'un Plan d'action nationale sur les ALPC.

Le séminaire d'information, très riche en réflexion et en partage d'expériences sur le rôle de la société civile dans la lutte contre la prolifération illicite des ALPC et la sensibilisation sur la ratification de la Convention de Kinshasa s'est achevé par de fortes recommandations et résolutions. CAMYOSFOP s'est résolument engagé à mettre en œuvre ces recommandations et à poursuivre ses actions en collaboration avec le RECSA pour que le gouvernement soit proactif dans le processus de ratification et d'application de la Convention et dans l'examen d'autres questions relatives aux ALPC.

Dans la perspective de l'organisation des activités supplémentaires sur la ratification et l'application effective de la Convention, notamment par la création de la Commission Nationale sur les Armes Légères et de Petit Calibre, nous nous reverrons certainement bientôt.



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## **PART I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### ***A. Introduction***

As part of the European Union Commission funding to the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lake and Horn of Africa (RECSA) on the campaign against the illicit proliferation of small arms in Africa, the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) was contacted by RECSA to organize an advocacy activity in Cameroon on: **the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention in Central Africa for the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly.** The activity dubbed: An Information Session on the Ratification of the Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms by Cameroon took place on July 10, 2013 at the conference hall of Djeuga Palace hotel in Yaounde. Participants for this activity were representatives of the civil society.

Considering the fact that Cameroon's Parliament has already adopted a bill on the ratification of the convention pending the endorsement of the head of state and the deposit of the instruments of ratification at the UN, the information session was aimed at:

- Raising awareness on the importance of the convention in curbing the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons as prerequisite to the maintenance of peace and security in Cameroon and within its frontiers;
- Brainstorming on the way forward on the implementation, popularisation and domestication of the convention within Cameroon especially on setting up of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, appointing the Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the putting in place of a national Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The information session that started at 10.30am and ended at 4pm was facilitated by Experts from the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX), RECSA, and CAMYOSFOP.

### ***B. Methodology for the Information Session***

The methodology for this information session included:

- Presentations in plenary by Resource Persons.
- Participatory or interactive approach where participants and Resource Persons debated issues through active question and answer sessions.
- Learner-driven approach where the participants were granted the latitude to learn more and ask challenging questions to resource persons in order to clarify any sort of intellectual doubts;
- Sharing of best practices on the civil society contribution on the fight against the illicit proliferation of small arms and advocacy for the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention in order to enable participants to learn more about the civil society contribution on the ratification process;
- Plenary on the formulation of resolutions and recommendations.

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***C. Official Opening Ceremony***

The information session started with the singing of the Cameroon National Anthem by the participants. This was followed by a word of welcome / keynote address by **Mr. Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine** the Executive Director of the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP). He acknowledged the fact that on July 03, 2013 the lower house of the Parliament (the National Assembly) adopted a bill on the Kinshasa convention and the upper house of parliament (the Senate) followed suit on July 08, 2013 which is at present pending promulgation into law by the Head of State. He further elaborated on Chapter 7 and 8 of the Kinshasa Convention which bring out the role of the civil society in the implementation process of the convention.

Chapter 7 provide for the harmonization of national legislations in accordance with the convention. This therefore means that the firearms law of Cameroon which dates back to 1973 will have to be revised. He therefore stated that Women in Alternative Action (WAA) Cameroon in partnership with CAMYOSFOP have already drafted a revised proposed law that the government could use in extracting relevant information for the revision of this law.

He also noted that articles 27, 28, 29 and 30 of Chapter 8 on institutional arrangements and implementation of this Convention are very crucial for the participation of the civil society. Article 27 calls for the government to appoint a national Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons who shall also serve as the Permanent Secretary or the Chairperson of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Article 28 calls for the establishment of a national Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Article 29 (3) (a) also calls for governments to facilitate and encourage the establishment of a network of civil society organizations. On this aspect Mr Ngalim also congratulated the civil society because immediately the convention was adopted on April 30, 2010, a regional network, the Central Africa Action Network on Small Arms (RASALAC) was created with the support of ECCAS on October 1, 2010, with him elected as the first pioneer Secretary General. He also congratulated Cameroon's civil society for taking the lead to create, the Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSA) in January 2004, six years before the coming of the Kinshasa Convention. Finally, article 30 of this convention is about the setting up of national action plans by governments to be implemented by the national commissions on small arms and light weapons. He therefore wished that the civil society will be consulted and included in all these processes that also demand their own experiences and ideas on the best strategies of combating the illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms in our Cameroon.

Mr. Ngalim ended his address by thanking RECSA for funding this activity and especially the presence of Ms Baiya Angela Nyokabi and Mr. Osano Dan Odhiambo that represented RECSA in the seminar. He also thanked Honourable Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI who despite of his tight schedule at this moment of selecting candidates for the next legislative election accepted to be part of the information session.

The second speaker, **Mr. Osano Dan Odhiambo**, RECSA highlighted the fact that this project on the fight against the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa has been funded by the European Union (EU) and is implemented in partnership with the Africa Union (AU). He then briefly

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explained what the project entitled, *The Fight Against the Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Firearms in Africa* is all about. He remarked that RECSA recognizes the civil society as a crucial stakeholder in addressing the problem of small arms, specifically in the area of advocacy, lobbying, and awareness-raising through public education; which is the reason behind RECSA's support to civil society initiatives incorporated in the EU-funded project.

He further acknowledged the effective working relationship between RECSA and the East African Economic Community sub-region and the Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS). He underscored the fact that the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention by Cameroon is just the beginning of the entire program of fighting the illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons by RECSA. He said there is equally the need to build a country action plan for each member states of ECCAS as well as setting up the national commission regarding the illegal proliferation of small arms. He further emphasized the need to set up an effective civil society network on the fight against the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The third speaker, **Honorable Vincent de Paul Emah Etoundi** seating in his capacity as the representative of the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament of Cameroon opened the event by commending the partners and stakeholders for the effective organization of this information session just a few days after the lower and upper houses of Parliament adopted the bill on the Kinshasa Convention pending endorsement by the Head of State for an effective ratification of the convention by Cameroon. He noted in line with the outcome of the international conference on safety in the Gulf of Guinea organized in Yaoundé from June 23rd and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 this convention is equally going to serve as a binding instrument for strengthening peace and security across the Gulf of Guinea. He emphasized the fact that there is need for Parliamentarians to educate their constituencies regarding the importance of this convention.

Lastly, he addressed the members of the civil society, reminding them that their role in the implementation of this convention is very critical and is stipulated in Article 27 – 29 of the convention. He said he hopes that some of them will be appointed in the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons that will be set up by the government as stipulated by Article 27. He rounded up by thanking RECSA and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in promoting the civil society and especially the creation of Central Africa Action Network on Small Arms (RASALAC) with the support of ECCAS. In this regard, he declared the information seminar opened.

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## **PART II: SYNOPSIS OF PRESENTATIONS IN PLENARY**

Three main presentations were made in the plenary by experts from ECCAS, Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) and two representatives from the civil society. The presentations aimed at bringing participants to understand the contents of the Kinshasa Convention, the ratification process, the implementation of international treaties and understanding the experiences of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that are fully engaged in this field of work. The plenary was moderated by Mr NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine, the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP.

### ***A. The Kinshasa Convention as a Binding Instrument for Peace and Security in the Central African Sub-Region***

This presentation was prepared by **Mr. Thierry Zang** an Expert in Small Arms and light Weapons from the Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS). In the absence of Mr. Thierry Zang, the presentation was done on his behalf by **Mr. Ahidjo**, Chief of Service of the Department of the United Nations and Decentralized Cooperation at the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX).

The first part of this presentation traced the origin of the Kinshasa Convention, showing that the convention goes right back to the ***Bamako Declaration*** on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons on December 1, 2000. The Bamako Declaration was later followed by the UN Plan of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted in 2001 during the ***United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*** which was held in New York from July 9 -20, 2001 as decided in the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/415 of November 20, 2000. This PoA led to the 2003 Program of Priority Activities for Central Africa states.

The next part stated the purpose of the Kinshasa Convention (KC). This was followed by a brief description of the scope of the convention and later, the requirements of the convention on member states in regard to the ratification, acceptance, approval or the accession of the convention, and on the revision, updating and the harmonisation of national legislations.

The presenter also explained the importance of the preamble which reflects the concerns or worries of the member states on the negative impact of SALW to the sub region. He outlined the notion of prevention as seen in the convention and how this plays an important role in curbing the dangers caused by the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of SALW. The principle of authorisation of weapons was also explained.

After explaining some facts on SALW, the presenter stated that the convention also calls on member states to elaborate and implement sensitization programs to enlighten their citizens on the dangers of SALW and ammunition.

The Kinshasa convention is:

- An instrument for peace.

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- A multilateral legal instrument.
- Regulates small arms trade and illegal traffic and proliferation of small arms.
- Regulates the manufacturing of small arms and spare parts and ammunitions.
- Entry into force of the Kinshasa convention is 30 days after ratification by the head of state.
- The content is made up of a preamble, 9 chapters – 41 articles
- Manufacturing requires authorization by the host country
- All arms & ammunitions must be registered
- Civilians are forbidden from holding small arms except authorized by law.

He emphasized the fact that State parties to the Kinshasa convention must adjust and contextualize national laws regarding small arms and their accessories.

Thus far within the ECCAS sub-region 4 countries have ratified the convention pending two countries for the convention to be fully enforced across 11 member states of ECCAS. There are no reservation with respect to any article once a country has ratified the Kinshasa convention.

***General information / issues discussed during the questions and answers Session***

- Dissemination/sensitization
- Contravening measures for ECCAS member states.
- It is worth noting that the 1973 decree on firearms in Cameroon will be obsolete once the Kinshasa convention is enforced.
- Cameroon is a monistic legal regime; therefore there is no need for decree of application once a convention is ratified.

***B. The Technical Role of the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) in the Ratification Process and the Implementation of International Treaties: The Case of the Kinshasa Convention.***

**Mr. Herve Mbida**, Assistant Research Officer at the Department of Legal Affairs and Treaties at the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) presented this topic in two parts. That is: The technical role and the implementing role of MINREX in the ratification process of international treaties.

In the first part, the presenter showed the role of MINREX from the negotiation to the ratification stage of the treaty or convention. MINREX begins its work by studying the treaty together with other concerned ministries, especially the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) to see what parts of the national law are affected by this document and how necessary it is for the country. Once this treaty is studied a bill is drafted, it is submitted to the Prime Minister's office for submission to the parliament. It is the Prime Minister, the Head of Government, who justifies to the Members of Parliament the importance of the Convention while MINREX participates and assist the Prime Minister in defending the project. If parliament is convinced, it then authorises the Head of State to ratify the convention. In response to that the Head of State issues a decree. From this point on the document is sent back to MINREX together with the enforcing legislation. The ratification letter is then sent to the President for his signature once



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the President signs the document, it is returned to MINREX. The latter sends the ratified instrument which contains the ratification letter signed by the head of state, the decree stating the ratification and the enforcing legislation, to the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) for the seal of the Republic. Once the seal has been placed on the ratified instrument it is returned to MINREX that is responsible for sending this mail to the Cameroon Ambassador in the region where the ratified document must be officially deposited. The Ambassador is therefore obliged to report that the ratified document has been deposited with an acknowledgement feedback letter attesting to it.

After the ratification phase, Mr. Mbida went further to explain the second phase which is the implementing role of MINREX. After ratification the convention needs to be internalised, that is, integrated with the national laws. The speaker pointed out that the risk with the Kinshasa Convention is that in harmonising it with the national law, the law on firearms could be revised without taking into account the international engagement Cameroon has taken by ratifying this convention. Cameroon will therefore be in a better implementing position if it adopts the convention as a law of its own. If the convention should be made a law, MINREX duty will be to ensure the compatibility of the new law with the national laws and the pertinent international and regional instruments. MINREX will also have to oversee how adequate the new law will be to the laws of the neighbouring Member States. The last part of the implementation phase will be the creation of a National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCSALW) and the appointment of Focal Points who could also serve as the chairperson for the commission as stated in articles 27 and 28 of the Convention. The NCSALW will have the role of coordinating the actions taken by the State to apply the Kinshasa Convention.

The Presidential decree of 1973 is therefore limited in terms of specific issues regarding small arms and light weapons and as a result makes it necessary for the Cameroonian government to design a domestic bill on small arms and light weapons in order to complement the Kinshasa convention.

***General information / issues discussed during the questions and answers session***

- There are inter-sub-regional meetings on small arms & ammunitions; note that it is a progressive process across all the sub-regions in Africa.
- The limited financial resources of state parties to implement the Kinshasa convention may hamper the effective enforcement.

***C. Experience Sharing on the Work of Civil Society on Awareness Raising and Advocacy on the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Ratification of the Kinshasa Convention.***

Two members of the civil society presented this topic to highlight the works of Cameroon CSOs in the fight to curb the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

***a. Women in Alternative Action (WAA) – Cameroon and the Fight against the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.***

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This presentation was done by **Ms. Justine Kwachu**, the Executive Director of WAA - Cameroon. She began the presentation by introducing WAA Cameroon as an NGO that works towards the creation of a society free of any form of violence against women and youth and in which both genders are able to promote mutual socio-cultural, economic and political rights. Ms. Kwachu then listed the works that WAA has done through the years to curb the illicit proliferation of SALW and all the networks in which the NGO is actively involved.

The activities of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Cameroon in the combat against the illicit proliferation of SALW have been at the policy, institutional and programmatic levels. At the policy level WAA Cameroon and partners presented a draft firearms law to the government and parliament for consideration. At the institutional level several organizations have conglomerated to form the Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSA) whose role is to coordinate actions on SALW and to highlight the role of CSOs in creating a sustainable arms free environment. The action has been driven further at the sub-regional level where several Cameroon CSOs are founding members of the Central African Action Network on Small Arms (RASALAC). At the programmatic level, WAA and other NGOs have been involved in trainings, awareness raising and advocacy programs for the adoption of the firearms legislation and the Kinshasa Convention. Ms. Kwachu stated that some of the difficulties encountered by CSOs in their work on SALW include the need for capacity building for those working in the field, financial and material constraints to effectively implement actions, the inability of CANSA members to constantly work together to achieve the institution's objectives and the absence of a platform for CSOs to address these problems. However, she hoped that with the creation of the NCSALW CSOs will finally have a platform to address the issues of SALW.

***General information / issues discussed during the questions and answers session***

- WAA works with MINREX on small arms
- In 2009 WAA worked with ECCAS and CAMYOSFOP to revise the firearms law of Cameroon.
- Men are perpetrators of gun violence while women & children are the victims

***b. Fondation Paul ANGO ELA (FPAE) and the Fight against the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms and light Weapons***

The second and final presentation of the day was done by **Mr. Jean Claude Edjo'o**, the Administrative Coordinator of the Fondation Paul ANGO ELA (FPAE). The foundation was created in 1999 and its objectives are to promote and enrich deliberations through education, consultations and publications on democracy and human rights, good governance, conflict prevention and management, and in peace and security in the Central African region. The foundation is mainly a research and study Centre on geopolitical issues in Central Africa beginning with Cameroon. It is therefore a think tank that provides innovative policies for the government.

In regard to SALW, the Foundation has carried out the following activities:

- In 2002 the Foundation organised a round table conference in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross and the International Red Cross Committee on **"The Women in Conflict"**.

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- FPAE was a co-organizer of a pilot of a pilot workshop organised on **“The Fight against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons: The Cameroon Civil Society’s Engagement”** in October 2003. Other co-organizers for this workshop were the Ecumenical Service for Peace (SeP), CAMYOSFOP and the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church.
- In January 2004, FPAE was one of the organizations involved in the creation of Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSA).
- Finally, in 2009, the foundation organised a workshop on **“Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Africa: The Bases and Resources of a Regional Policy”**. Participants for this workshop came from Cameroon, Chad and the Central Africa Republic.

***General Information / issues discussed during the questions and answers session:***

- FPAE is a member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)
- Some of its seminars and colloquiums on SALW with CSOs are meant to raise awareness and the knowledge of CSOs in Central Africa on SALW, highlight the understanding of small arms, and strengthen advocacy capacity of CSOs in francophone Africa on the fight against the circulation of small arms.

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### **PART III: OUTCOME OF THE INFORMATION SESSION**

#### ***A. Recommendations and Resolutions***

At the end of the information session, the following recommendations and resolutions were adopted.

1. CAMYOSFOP and RECSA should organize a stakeholder awareness raising workshop on the ratification and the eventual implementation of the Kinshasa Convention especially the creation of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCSALW).
2. CSOs working on the issues of peace and security in Cameroon should advocate for the effective implementation of the Kinshasa Convention.
3. CSOs should design a national action plan for Cameroon and ECCAS sub-region on the civil society perspective on the fight against small arms and light weapons.
4. Ensure the civil society is represented in the National Commission on small arms & light weapons expected to be created by the government.
5. Organize a mainstreaming workshop on the fight against the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons with respect to the Kinshasa convention especially on how CSOs can mainstream the Kinshasa convention.
6. Strengthen existing domestic and sub-regional civil society networks on small arms and light weapons.
7. More CSOs should join the Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons (CANSA).
8. The government should draft and adopt new and harmonised firearms law with respect to the Kinshasa Convention.
9. Set up a working group to review the recommendations of this information seminar.
10. Sustain continuous and effective cooperation and collaboration with regional and international bodies and organizations on the fight against SALW.
11. Raise awareness on the role of the Women and Children unit in the NCSALW.
12. Civil Society should have a vital position in the NCSALW and should come together and find out how to finance that NCSALW.
13. MINREX should update its website with French and English versions of the Kinshasa Convention so that it can be available to everyone.
14. CSOs should organize themselves according to particular sectors of peace and security, so that in time of consultation experts in each domain can be easily identified.

#### **B. Conclusion**

At the of the information session Mr. Ngalim Eugene in his closing remarks extended his gratitude to all participants that actively participated in the activity. He also acknowledged the fact that it is difficult to set up a working committee for the moment by virtue of timeline and distance related issues. As such, interested organizations that had enrolled their names in a list that was opened for that purpose will soon be invited for a consultation on the role of CSOs on the fight against SALW. Finally, Mr. Ngalim once more thanked RECSA for the confidence bestowed on CAMYOSFOP in the organization of this

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information session. CAMYOSFOP looked forward to greater collaboration with RECSA on the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention and other related projects on SALW.

While officially closing the information session, **Ms. Baiya Angela Nyokabi**, another Representative of RECSA thanked CAMYOSFOP, MINREX, the EU, the AU and all related stakeholders that contributed to the successful organization of this information session and other related activities on the project that is spearheaded by RECSA. She also thanked the facilitators and all participants for actively participating in this information session. She then declared closed the information session at 4pm.



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## **PART IV: APPENDIXES**

### ***A. Photo Gallery***



**Mr. Ahidjo**, Chief of Service of the Department of the UN & Decentralised Cooperation at MINREX, during his presentation



Panellists during the execution of the National Anthem  
**L-R: Mr. Ngalm Eugene**, Exe. Dir. Of CAMYOSFOP ; **Hon. Vincent de Paul Emah Etoundi**, MP ; **Ms. Baiya Angela & Mr. Osano Dan**, Representatives of RECSA



**Ms. Justine Kwachu**, Exe. Dir., WAA - Cameroon



**Hon. Vincent de Paul Emah Etoundi**  
during his opening remark



**Ms. Patience Elango**,  
Press and Information Secretary of CAMYOSFOP, MC for the opening ceremony



**Mr. Herve Mbida**, Assistant Research Officer at the Department of Legal Affairs and Treaties at MINREX



**Mr. Jean Claude Edjo'o**,  
Administrative Coordinator,  
FPAE

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**Ms. Baiya Angela,**  
RECSA Representative, briefing the  
press on the role of RECSA



Participants contributing during the information  
session



**Mr. Ngalim Eugene,**  
Exe. Dir. Of CAMYOSFOP briefing the press on  
the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention



**Mr. Osano Dan,**  
RECSA Representative, briefing the  
press on the role of RECSA



**Mr. Charles Linjap,**  
Civil Society Activist



**Ms. Danielle Nlate,**  
President of the  
Network of Central  
African Women  
(REFAC) & an active  
member of the civil  
society



A cross section of participants

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*B. Programme of the Information Session*

<b>Time/Horaires</b>	<b>Activity/Activités</b>	<b>Official in charge <i>Responsable</i></b>
09h00 – 09h50	Arrival of participants and registration <i>Arrivée et enregistrement des participants</i>	CAMYOSFOP
<b>10h00 - 10h30</b>	<b><u>Official Opening ceremony</u></b> <b><u>Début de la cérémonie officielle</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singing of the National Anthem <i>Exécution de l'hymne nationale.</i></li> <li>Introductory remarks by the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP <i>Mot introductif du Directeur Exécutif de CAMYOSFOP.</i></li> <li>Statement by the Representative of ECCAS <i>Allocution du Représentant De la CEEAC</i></li> <li>Statement by the Representative of RECSA <i>Allocution du Représentant de la RESCA</i></li> <li>Opening speech by a Member of Parliament. <i>Discours d'ouverture par un membre du Parlement.</i></li> <li>Group Photo / Coffee Break</li> </ul>	Mr. Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine  <i>Mr. Thierry ZANG, Représentant de la CEEAC</i>  <i>Ms Baiya Angela Nyokabi &amp; Mr. OSANO Dan Odhiambo, Représentant de la RECSA</i>  <i>Honorable Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI.</i>



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<p><b>10h45-12h30</b></p>	<p><b>Presentations in Plenary followed questions and answers</b> <i>Présentations en plénière, questions et réponses</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Kinshasa Convention as a binding instrument for peace and security in the Central African Sub – Region  <i>La Convention de Kinshasa : instrument juridiquement contraignant de paix et de sécurité dans la sous-région Afrique centrale</i></li> <li>2. The technical role of the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) in the ratification and implementation of international treaties. The case of the Kinshasa Convention  <i>Le rôle technique du Ministère des relations extérieures (MINREX) dans la ratification et l'application des traités internationaux : cas de la Convention de Kinshasa</i></li> <li>3. The role of Parliament in the ratification process and the implementation of International Treaties  <i>Le rôle du Parlement dans le processus de ratification et d'application des traités internationaux</i></li> <li>4. Experience sharing on the work of the Civil Society on awareness raising and advocacy on the illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention.  <i>Échanges sur le travail de la société civile dans le cadre de la sensibilisation et du plaidoyer sur la prolifération illicite des armes légères et de petits calibres et la ratification de la Convention de Kinshasa.</i></li> </ol>	<p><i>M. Thierry ZANG, Expert sur les questions des Armes Légère et de Petits Calibres, ECCAS/CEEAC</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Hervé Mbida, Chargé Assistant, Division des Affaires Juridiques et des traités(MINREX) &amp; Mr. AHIDJO, Chef de Service à la Direction des Nations –Unies et de la Coopération Décentralisé (MINREX)</i></p> <p><i>Honorable Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI.</i></p> <p><i>Mm Justine KWACHU, Executive Director, Women in Alternative Action (WAA)</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Jean Claude EDJO'O, Coordinateur Administratif, Fondation Paul ANGO ELA (FPAE</i></p>
<p><b>12h30 – 13h00</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Brainstorming on recommendations and resolutions</i> <i>Réflexion sur les recommandations et les résolutions.</i></li> <li>• <i>Closing remarks/ Mot de cloture</i></li> <li>• <i>Refreshment./ Raifraichissements (Cocktail)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Participants</p> <p>CAMYOSFOP et RECSA</p>

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*C. List of Invited Participants*

**List of CSO Participants Invited for the Information Session**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Tel / Email</b>
1.	Ndi Richard	Ecumenical Service for Peace (SeP)	79639040
2.	Justine Kwachu	Women in Alternative Action (WAA)	96229208
3.	Martin Tsounkeu	Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)	91544856
4.	Charles Linjap	Investment Watch (IWatch)	73888494
5.	Peter Kum Che	Trauma Centre	75518161
6.	Jean Mballa Mballa	Dynamique Citoyene	75027204
7.	Christine Andela	Platform of Civil Society Organizations (PLANOSCAM)	99591750
8.	Hamadou Aminou	Solution aux Migration Clandestine (SMIC)	96106670
9.	Jean Claude Edjo'o	Fondation Paul Ango Ella (FPAE)	99648516
10.	Dupleix Kwenzob	Dynamique Mondial des Jeunes (DMJ)	22210145 75383103
11.	Justin Mabout	Service National de Justice et Paix (SNJP)	78663653
12.	Justin Bedoume		99416137
13.	Hyomeni Paul Guy	Reseau Camerounais des Organisation des Droits de L'Homme (RECOD)	78748868 99607639
14.	Gabi Wambo	RECAD	75672338
15.	Kaba Eric	Action for Citizen and Community Developpement (ACCOD)	
16.	Ernest Yene	Fondation Conseil Jeunes (FCJ)	77233778
17.	Moto Zeh Catherine	Ecole d'Instrument pour la Paix (EIP)	
18.	Zebaze Joseph Desire	CADEG	
19.	Chinmoun Salomon	APRODIH	
20.	Thomas Tchetmni	Press Jeunes	96784025
21.	Justine Diffo	Network for More Women in Politics (NWMP)	99165850 77604234
22.	Cyrille Roland Bechon	Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH)	75447418
23.	Marie Tamoifo Nkom	Association Jeunesse Verte du Cameroon (AJVC)	99846113
24.	Eugene Foyeth	Positive Generation (PJ)	96905461
25.	Atangana Adrian		77400111
26.	Jessie Bekoko	Jeunesse Rural Active (JEURAC)	96155399
27.	Gilbert Ewemeh	Youth Employment Fund (YEF)	77055414
28.	Ajomuzu Collette Bekaku	Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC)	77751606



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29.	Yana Joseph	Le Jeudi de Cotonou	99580572
30.	Francois Amougui	Collectif des ONG pour la Securite Alimentaire et le Developpement Rural (COSADER)	96407575
31.	Denise Ngatchou	Horizone Femme	99556671
32.	Alain Geresse	Association Horizone Afrique	79964985
33.	Tonye Joseph Bertrand	Dialogue	94171004
34.	Patrick Ngang	Réseau Sida, Tuberculose et paludisme (RESIPAT)	75971993
35.	Daniel NLATE	REFAC	77555942
36.	Vera KWALA	Gender Mainstreaming Group	79492113
37.	William KEIMMONE	SMIC	77314464
38.	Ayodele YETUNDE	Nigeria High Commission	<a href="mailto:Yet.orotu@yahoo.com">Yet.orotu@yahoo.com</a>
39.	Essery a Zom Guy Armand	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF)	77593416
40.	Tatiana	Organization of International Migration (OIM)	99988900
41.		Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)	
42.	Hon Vincent de Paul Emah Etoundi	Member of Parliament	96297407

**Media Organs**

No	Name	Organization	Tel / Email
1.	Nkouatchoua MC Doh	Cameroon Radio and Television - TV	70148676
2.	Armand Ambassa	Cameroon Radio and Television -Radio	
3.	Mbom Sixtus	Afrique Media	79205171
4.	Beatrice Ngamo	Canal 2	77173637
5.	Ekobo Jemea	Vision 4	75629182
6.	Jimmy Menguele	STV	96582728
7.	Richard E	Cameroon Tribune	94654365
8.	Nadege Boua	Le Messenger	77575819
9.	Alain Mazda	Mutation	77219679
10.	Edith Wirdze	The Post	77841887
11.	Ezieh Sylvanus	The Guardian Post	77683887
12.	Nuwea Harry	The Median	76237551
13.	Marcel Amah	The Eden Newspaper	79928981
14.	Ngus Emannueul	Cameroon Info	94131320

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