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Some of the members of the secretariat during the ICGLR-RTF conference held at the Commonwealth Resort Hotel Munyonyo on Saturday.

Technology frustrating prosecution of sexual crimes - Justice Chibita

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Mike Chibita (RIGHT) has said that limited use of forensic and scientific evidence in Sexual and Gender Based Violence cases due to inadequate scientific and

forensic facilities is frustrating the successful prosecution of such crimes.

"In cases of sexual assault, DNA should link the perpetrator to the survivor. In Uganda, the facilities are inadequate and this delays investigations. For example, most medical officers

charge a fee before examining an SGBV victim which most victims cannot afford. Even after the doctors have examined the victims, they do not come to court because they are not paid, he said.

He was delivering a paper titled: Prosecuting Cases in

ICGLR-RTF member states - Progress made towards SGBV sensitive prosecution during the ICGLR-RTF conference held at the Commonwealth Resort Hotel Munyonyo on Saturday.

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FROM THE EDITOR...

ICGLR-RTF new home is a monumental achievement

The headquarters of international conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) training center have officially been opened at Munyonyo.

December 1, 2017 will go down in history as a monumental day on which New ICGLR international training centre was opened.

This is an institution for 12 member states that are bound together under the ICGLR pact on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region. It is a legal instrument that established the ICGLR and its mechanism.

The center that contains over 20 different departments and offices dealing with gender based violence issues cost about 140,000 euros (over Shs600m) through the support of the government of Netherlands. The headquarters

also has a boardroom, a restaurant, VIP lounge and a reception centre.

As the First Lady Janet Museveni who was represented the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development Mary Karoro Okurut, noted, all ministries in charge of gender issues in the region should support this facility to become a centre of excellence.

The idea of the First Lady should be supported and embraced in order to embrace and utilize the facility to the maximum.

Many projects in Uganda have been opened by the users have been unable to effectively utilize them. Regional governments that are member states of ICGLR should second their officials to the centre to get the skills that would enable them fight sexual and gender based violence.

der based violence.

Sexual violence crime is very serious but more challenging since its nature need constant innovation and skills to effectively contain it.

Regional civil society organizations, the judiciary, police units and social workers, doctors and other people who handle cases of gender sexual violence should embrace the opportunity.

Member states just like Uganda still grapple with the problem of SGBV, where more than 50 percent of people in prisons in Uganda are on sexual violence related cases.

Trainers at the centre should also address the challenges of faced while training people on gender based violence issues.

The skills that we expect from the Regional Training Facility (RTF) is partly in those areas that are still challenging us such as lack of evidence, forensic, witnesses in court and others.

This resonates with the Gender ministry's decision to spearhead the development of National policy and Action plan on the elimination of Gender Based violence which is currently before the cabinet for approval.

The RTF secretariat under the stewardship of Mr Nathan Byamukama which runs the facility, should be supported.



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Justice David Batema, a High Court Judge in Uganda

Uganda's judge wants Judiciary to be consulted in enactment of laws

Justice David Batema, a High Court Judge in Uganda has asked countries in the Great Lakes Region to involve the Judiciary while enacting various legislations which are meant to address issues regarding gender based violence in their respective countries.

Justice Batema made the remarks at the regional conference on sexual and gender based violence in the Great Lakes region in Munyonyo, Kampala.

He says if the Judiciary is involved, it will make it easy for the countries to implement legislations which are meant address cases of gender based violence which are on the increase in the region.

He recommended that countries must ensure that there laws which punishes violence at a family level.

Ms Annet Bada, a senior legal officer at FIDA Uganda said Uganda's police officers need special training on how to investigate sexual and gender based violence.

She said prosecutors need to be trained as well as police officers because at the moment, they are not capable to investigate such cases.

"Some of the officers investigate for documentary purposes, to tell their bosses that this is what I have done in a given period without the motivation of exposing the perpetrators to ensure that they are successfully prosecuted," she said.

She said most prosecutors are poorly paid making them unable to get the commitment of prosecuting these cases, while some are compromised to protect offenders.

"Police lack the training to offer psycho-social

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Ms Bada said member countries should fight sex tourism through enacting and implementing anti trafficking laws that force tour companies and airlines to inform their clients about the prohibitions in the law.

support to victims of sexual and gender based crimes," she said.

She said court setting is quite intimidating for the lay persons to freely pin offenders adding that special courts need to be set up and more judicial officers need to be recruited to cater for these kinds of crimes.

Best practices to adopt

Ms Bada said member countries should fight sex tourism through enacting and implementing anti trafficking laws that force tour companies and airlines to inform their clients about the prohibitions in the law.

"The laws in place should resonate with the most vulnerable women and children who are the majority although some men are also victims," she said.

Ms Dorah Byamukama, a former member of the East African Legislative Assembly said to stop human trafficking, the region should model laws that can help member countries to fight the vice.

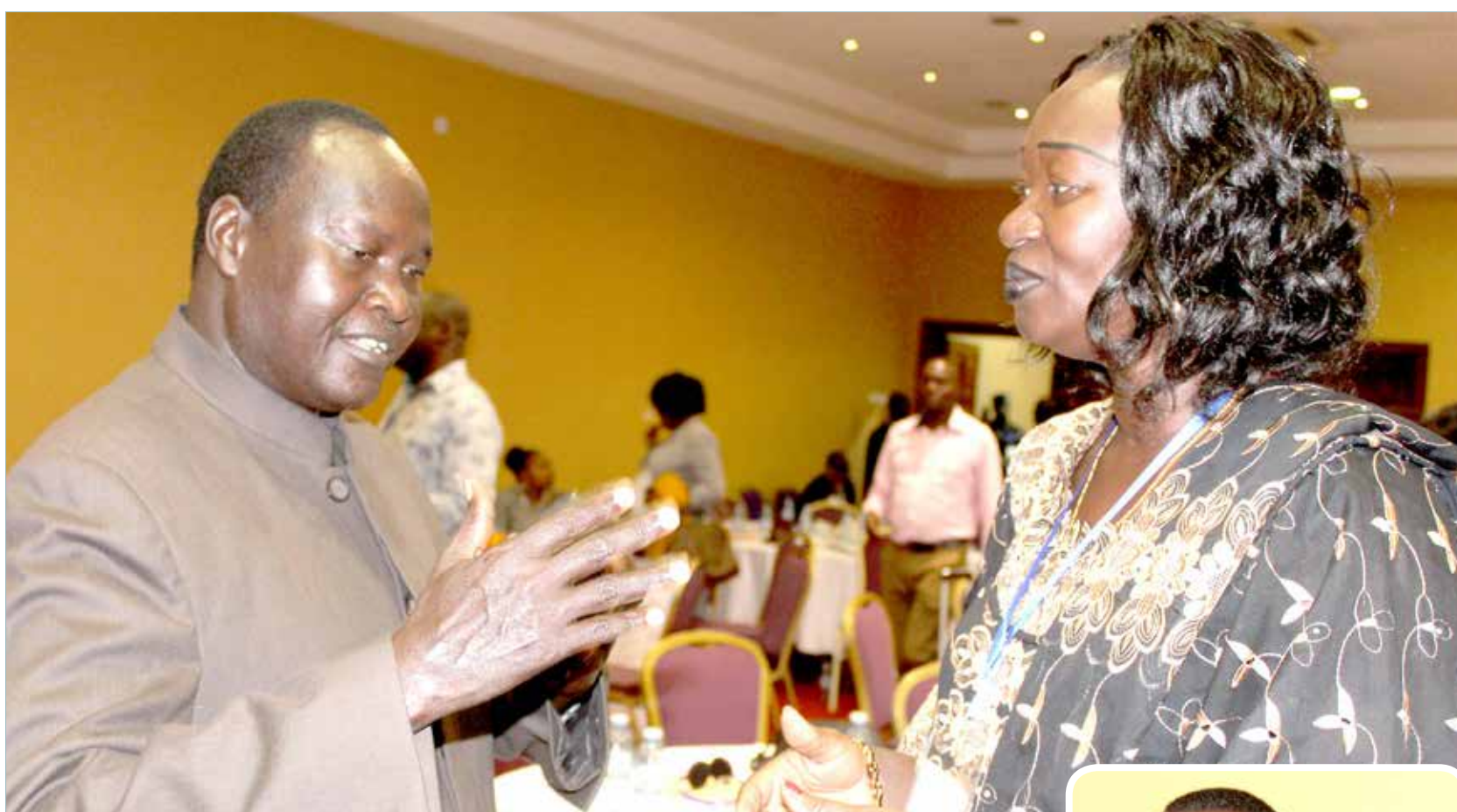
She said member countries need to tighten their child adoption laws and labour export.

"We need to track where these people are supposed to work or where they are working," she said

Fighting and eradicating SGBV is essential to the development of Africa

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The process of addressing the challenges facing women and youth is the promotion of active participation of these sectors of our societies in the decision making process. Without their voice and presence around the table when the decisions are being made, it is less likely that policies friendly to women and youth and the necessary resources to implement them will be formulated to advance their welfare and development.



The African Union (AU) has consistently affirmed that the active participation of women in the development process is essential to achieving the Africa we all want. The empowerment of women and youth is therefore a critical component for the realization of the ambitious objectives of Agenda 2063 for Africa. Building the capacity of women and youth through skills development is one of the key pillars that must be prioritized to enhance the prospects of economic growth and prosperity in the Continent.

There are several constraints to the progress that we all aspire to in the Great Lakes region and the continent at large. In the context of empowering women and all disadvantaged groups in our communities, the menace of sexual and gender based violence is a major impediment to our progress. It is a growing problem that we must all work hard to punish and eradicate, because it perpetuates discrimination and impunity, and deprives us of the positive contribution of our women and girls especially. Additionally, it is imperative that we undertake affirmative steps to empower women and youth, including the provision of free education and skills development in all spheres. There are

HON. AWUT DENG ACUIL (R)

also harmful cultural and societal norms that we must work to eliminate, such as forced and child marriages, FGM and other negative practices. It is also important that we broadly work to achieve sustained peace and stability in all our countries, because the silencing of guns and ending of conflicts is essential to rebuilding lives and preventing sexual and gender based violence.

Another critical component in the process of addressing the challenges facing women and youth is the promotion of active participation of these sectors of our societies in the decision making process. Without their voice and presence around the table when the decisions are being made, it is less likely that policies friendly to women and youth and the necessary resources to implement them will be formulated to advance their welfare and development.

The active participation of all in the decision making process is therefore a necessary condition for creating the rich and colorfully diverse Africa that we all aspire for, the Africa where both men and women are treated equally and with respect.

In conclusion, let us all pull together and in solidarity to stop sexual and gender based violence against women and girls, promote the well-being of all our citizens, and ensure



that we do all we can to achieve the beautiful, safe and prosperous Africa that we all want.

HON. AWUT DENG ACUIL
MINISTER OF GENDER AND SOCIAL
WELFARE, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

INTERVIEW

Defiled pregnant girls should be allowed to study, says Uganda's DPP

The Uganda Director of Public Prosecutions, **Justice Mike Chibita** is one of the participants at the ongoing training on SGBV. We sat down with him for his observations on the subject of the conference.

Q: How has the training been so far?

Chibita: The training has so far been very useful. We have looked at protocols and regional cooperation and now we shall be looking at the practical part, which deals with investigation, prosecution and judging of SGBV cases.

Q: What is the major challenge in prosecuting SGBV cases?

Chibita: The major challenge is the handling of the victims of the crimes themselves. For a start, there is a big challenge when it comes to the investigation such as collecting semen, clothes, hair etc to use in prosecution.

Secondly, there is the psychological challenge for the victims, which may hamper them even from reporting the cases. In most cases, our officers are not trained to handle the psychological bit.

Thirdly, there is already a big case backlog, which means that there is no one to immediately handle the case. So by the time you start the prosecution process, most of the victims have moved on or lost interest in the case.

Q: There has been a contentious issue whereby education institutions have stopped some victims of SGBV from pursuing their studies. What is your view on this?

Chibita: The issue of pregnant girls not being allowed to continue with their studies whether they are victims of sexual crimes or not is very outdated. They should be allowed to continue with their education; otherwise you are creating a double jeopardy for the nation where you have an uneducated mother who is a victim but who can also not get good employment. So they become a burden to society. There is totally no justification for this.

Q: How about cases where the parents of a girl reach an understanding with the perpetrator?

Chibita: We have now come up with a policy whereby we cannot drop a case without

giving the victim a hearing. The outcome of the negotiation must not be to the disadvantage of the victim. So, we have to first sit with them and ask them whether they want the case indeed dropped and are satisfied with the negotiations or we proceed with the court process.

Q: What percentage of your prosecutions is comprised of SGBV related crimes?

Chibita: SGBV is actually the largest but you have to contextualize it. It involves defilement, rape, sexual assault and murders but some of which are not reported as such. So, it is very big portion of the cases that we take on.

Q: How do manpower gaps hinder handling of such cases?

Chibita: We have a shortage of staff and even the ones we have are not well trained to handle these particular cases. In fact the current staff are overworked and unmotivated.

Q: One of the issues has been motivation for prosecutors who are currently on strike over low salaries. How does this affect the delivery of justice?

Chibita: Most of the workers actually serve as a calling. So, you need to give them good remuneration such that they do not suffer paying school fees or rent a decent house. In fact, with a conviction rate of 62 percent, our officers are doing a very good job.

Q: In face of all this, how are you moving forward?

Chibita: We have established a department of children, gender and sex offenses under my office. It is now actually the busiest specialized department within the DPP. We have also established a witness protection and victim empowerment programme in partnership with the office of the UN commissioner for Human Rights. In addition to this is the plea-bargaining policy whereby a suspect can save us a lot of time by owning up to the case. But going forward, we need more training for our officers but also incorporating social workers into our prosecutorial work.



Museveni yet to sign the ICGLR-RTF pact to fight conflicts in region

ZURAH NAKABUGO

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The ICGLR was adopted by the Heads of state and government of the ICGLR member states in Nairobi in December 2006 and entered into force in June 2008. It was established to provide an inclusive platform for countries within the region to work effectively with international actors and CSOs for regional conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The Pact of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on Security, stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region is yet to be signed by the President Yoweri Museveni.

The law is aimed at addressing conflict challenges faced by states within the Great Lakes region like sexual and gender based violence.

“Parliament has enacted the law to adopt the Pact and sent it to the president to sign it to start working. So, it’s the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and also the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to push for the signing,” a delegate who did not want her identity to be disclosed because of the sensitivity of the matter said.

This was during the ICGLR conference that was organized by the Regional Training Facility (RTF) in Kampala.

The ICGLR is an intergovernmental organisation of African countries in the African Great Lakes region which aims at creating conditions for security, stability and development between the member states. Some of the member states include Uganda, Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

The ICGLR was adopted by the Heads of state and government of the ICGLR member states in Nairobi in December 2006 and entered into force in June 2008. It was established to provide an inclusive platform for countries within the region to work effectively with international actors and CSOs for regional conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The Member States undertake to promote and observe democracy and good governance in accordance with the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, and in particular, to promote and observe democratic principles and standards.

The member states are also concerned with setting up institutions to promote good governance, the rule of law and the respect for human rights through constitutional systems based on the separation of powers, transparent and responsible management of business, institutions and public property.

The pact, was signed by eleven countries of the Great Lakes Region, aiming at providing a legal framework governing relations between its signatories, through additional protocols and programmes of action in the following areas of non-aggression and mutual defense, democracy and good governance, judicial cooperation, prevention and punishment of the crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

“All forms of discrimination, struggle against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, specific reconstruction and development zone, prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children, protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, property rights and returning persons, management of information and communication. It also establishes follow-up mechanisms comprising the Sum-



mit, a Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee and a conference secretariat,” a source said.

The Minister for Gender Child and Social Welfare South Sudan Awut Deng Acuil said they are also in the process adopting the Pact.

“Once its brought in parliament and members of parliament adopt it, it will definitely be signed by our president because he is also supporting it,” she said.

The Pact includes 10 Protocols and 4 programmes of action with 33 priority projects, such as Protocol on Non-aggression and Mutual Defense in the Great Lakes Region, Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, Protocol on Judicial Cooperation and Protocol for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination.

Other protocols are Protocol Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, Protocol on the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone, Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children and Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Person.



President Yoweri Museveni.

DR. ANGELA MUVUMBA SELLSTRÖM, RESEARCHER, UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
THIS IS THE THIRD AND FINAL ARTICLE IN THIS SPECIAL THREE-PART SERIES.

The RTF's path forward

Impunity is reversible. Prevention is possible. Suppression must be sustainable.

This is the last of three articles reflecting on the work of the Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region. I've used the occasion of the High-Level conference Strategies for Implementation of the ICGLR Instruments on Sexual and Gender based Violence to consider the underpinnings of the establishment and work of the RTF (sometimes referred to as the Kampala Center on SGBV). The conference itself has featured the review of, and reflection on the ICGLR instruments.

The work ahead is tied irrevocably to the domestication of the:

The Pact on Security Stability and Development in Great Lakes Region (2006)

The Protocols on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (2006); Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region (2006); Judicial Cooperation (2006); Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination (2006); and Democracy and Good Governance (2006).

The Goma Declaration on Eradicating Sexual Violence and Ending Impunity in the Great Lakes Region (Goma, June 2008)

The Kampala Declaration on SGBV (2011) (i.e. Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Member states of the international conference on the Great Lakes Region at the fourth ordinary summit and special session on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) (otherwise known as Kampala Declaration on SGBV, December 2011)

The Great Lakes region is widely viewed as struggling beneath an intolerable weight of conflict (and poverty). Consequent displacement and suffering have been the conditions under which an entire generation has lived. And yet, amidst this disorder and chaos has risen the ICGLR, an inter-governmental organization alive to the fact that its countries' political instability and conflicts require a regional, collective effort.

I have written before that the ICGLR is as important as other regional economic communities (RECs) and that despite the cross-membership with other organizations, it represents a unique effort to build a new kind of security community. Why? First, the ICGLR's instruments are organic, they emerge out of the specific experiences of wartime suffering that this region has endured and is in danger of: genocide and widespread ethnic violence; the presence and problems posed by a proliferation of illegal armed groups; the limitations of weak governance; conflict-driving exploitation of natural resources; and humanitarian crisis with rapid, overwhelming displacement of people. The instruments of the ICGLR respond to these threats, and by choosing to participate in the organization, its member states signal an important commitment to mutual defense and accountability. And second, the ICGLR's position on pre-



venting and suppressing sexual and gender based violence is unique amongst contemporary peace and security organizations. It is not an afterthought crafted under the yoke of donor demands. It arises out of demand. The region remembers that approximately 200,000 women and girls were sexually assaulted during the Rwandan genocide. We have seen the reports of sexual violence in Bujumbura, Dadaab, Gulu, Juba, Walikale. In our cities and towns; schools and churches; villages and refugee camps; roadsides, forests, rivers and lakesides. The protocols and decisions to address sexual and gender based violence are underpinned by a demand that these places are forevermore safe spaces for the region's boys, girls, men and women. All of them. It's a turn toward the sunshine, a policy process animated by the collective belief that rape and other sexual abuse is not inevitable and it is not something that this new kind of security community should tolerate.

As the review of strategies for improving implementation concludes, the ICGLR will continue its remarkable journey. Albeit with new insights to how national coordination should proceed and further diagnosis of the steps needed to domesticate the ICGLR protocols and decisions. Evidence-based, harmonized approaches will be essential to meaningful, organic implementation.

Evidence-based, harmonized approaches

An evidence-based approach is the integration of relevant, reliable and credible research with social policy. It is not about



pedantically adhering to obscure, 'out-of-touch' academia, for the sake of appearances. Evidence-based approaches are about being judicious and evaluative, using the best available information, avoiding speculation and sensation and instead relying upon facts. Evidence-based approaches challenge our assumptions and prejudices and yet, they are also time and cost-saving

because we do not waste valuable resources on interventions and policies just for the sake of visibility or promotion or because 'it feels good'. A harmonized approach is based upon common policies, in terms of an operational framework. Harmonized approaches are often referenced in social policy, but rarely implemented systematically or uniformly. Harmonized approaches

are not meant to straight-jacket local actors in schools or clinics or police stations, but rather, they are meant to act as a guide for how to implement programs and meet common standards and benchmarks. The benefit and ethical good of a harmonized approach is that beneficiaries do not suffer from uneven or even lower standards. At the same time, a harmonized approach will not ignore the context-specific demands of how to implement. It will ensure that stakeholders even at the local level, contribute to, and benefit from, a common policy.

The RTF has accomplished much in such a short time. And the ongoing work has specified a number of key areas and lessons learnt, such as instituting special courts in the legal regimes of the region, to address sexual and gender based violence cases quickly or establishing special sections for doctors at health facilities to meet victims/survivors. Other lessons include working with the media to influence the societal norms and preferences about sexual and gender based violence and to protect witnesses. Implementation of these lessons should be evidence-based and harmonized.

In order to work well, implementation of these services and training initiatives will need to rely on solid facts and evidence. There is plenty of evidence that fast courts and special medical services are essential for collection of evidence and protecting victims/survivors from re-traumatization. And criminological theory also suggests that a speedy judicial process and sentencing amplifies accountability and reinforces perpetrators' remorse. At the same time, important questions will need to be asked and tested in different contexts, in order to have a harmonized approach. Trade-offs will need to be negotiated. Should some social organizations be encouraged to take their cases of sexual and gender based violence directly to local authorities?

Businesses, churches, schools and traditional communities for instance, will need to be re-educated to bring cases to local authorities in the formal sphere, rather than to try to solve these problems themselves. How can common standards be embraced by different actors, even if that may mean relinquishing rights and authority in particular contexts? These types of questions (and their answers) will emerge more frequently as the RTF continues its work.

Regional, national and local implementation of the ICGLR's protocols and decisions is the test of the viability of this security community's value and meaning. Implementation is existential. Without it, the work to prevent and suppress sexual and gender based violence (and other aims of the ICGLR) will be fragmented and irregular, undermining the collective identity and progress of the region. We would be creating further impunity and conflict, and not justice and peace. Uneven application of new norms and preferences can result in scapegoating alongside the continued and persistent normalization of sexual and gender based violence. What I mean is that only some perpetrators would be held accountable. Only some victims/survivors would receive justice. That in turn could keep many silent and afraid, for few could be certain of fair and speedy justice. Writ large, this sort of unevenness is a recipe for further impunity. The problem of sexual and gender based violence is not an individual problem alone, it has systemic roots. That is why the notion of a security community working together to change the norms and preferences which create this violence and abuse, is so fundamentally, breathtakingly correct. The work of the RTF, with its



efforts to build capacity systematically, is not an idle, incidental or insignificant work. Out of the ashes of the Great Lakes region's conflict and suffering, we have the potential to leave to humankind a new kind of institution which will shape and alter the conditions of the everyday

life of women and men, boys and girls. For the better. It's possible and urgent and it's time.

THIS IS THE CONCLUSION OF THIS THREE-PART SERIES.

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Dr. Angela Muvumba Sellström is a researcher at Uppsala University's Department of Peace and Conflict Research (DPCR). She is the principal researcher for the project "Disciplining Fighters: Understanding Armed Political Actors' Control of Sexual Violence" and contributes to projects on third-party interventions to prevent and stop civilian atrocities and electoral violence. She is a lead author on violence in the International Panel for Social Progress, a global, multi-disciplinary venture involving hundreds of social scientists to arrive at a consensus on social change. Muvumba Sellström has over 17 years of policy research experience on peace and security issues in Africa and has directed or carried out programs at the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), the Office of the Chairperson at the African Union Commission and the International Peace Institute (IPI). She is a co-editor of two policy research volumes: *The African Union and Its Institutions* (Jacana Media, 2008) and *HIV/AIDS and Society in South Africa* (University of KwaZulu-Natal, 2008).

Limited technology frustrating prosecution of sexual crimes, says JusticeChibita

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Mike Chibita has said that limited use of forensic and scientific evidence in Sexual and Gender Based Violence cases due to inadequate scientific and forensic facilities is frustrating the successful prosecution of such crimes.

"In cases of sexual assault, DNA should link the perpetrator to the survivor. In Uganda, the facilities are inadequate and this delays investigations. For example, most medical officers charge a fee before examining an SGBV victim which most victims cannot afford. Even after the doctors have examined the victims, they do not come to court because they are not paid, he said.

He was delivering a paper titled: Prosecuting Cases in ICGLR member states – Progress made towards SGBV sensitive prosecution during the ICGLR conference held at the Commonwealth Speak Resort Hotel Munyonyo Saturday.

BELOW IS HIS PAPER IN FULL INTRODUCTION

Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) refers to any act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relations. It includes physical, emotional or psychological and sexual violence and denial of resources or access to services. Violence also includes threats of violence and coercion. GBV occurs in the family, in the community or may be perpetrated by the state. It is important to note that GBV also includes violence perpetrated against men and boys.

Sexual and Gender based violence is a global concern and a number of efforts have been made to combat the vice. Notable of such efforts is the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), an International Treaty adopted in 1979 and the Un General Assembly Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) which was adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1993. Under Article 2 of DEVAW "Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:-

(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.

(b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, traffick-



Mr Mike Chibita

ing in women and forced prostitution.

(c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

Uganda has made efforts to combat the vice of Sexual and gender based violence by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW) in 1985 and at a regional level, Uganda has endorsed the Goma Declaration on Eradicating Sexual Violence and Ending Impunity in the Great lakes Region in 2008, the Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of sexual violence against women and children, 2006.

Despite the legislative efforts by the Ugandan government, Sexual and gender based violence continues to be on the increase as reflected in the large number of cases of that nature reported at police, those handled at the Office of the DPP and those that finally end in court. It is important to note that

sexual offences usually form the bulk of the cases in any given high court session in Uganda. This is mainly rape and aggravated defilement.

Challenges encountered in prosecuting SGBV

1. Lack of specialized investigative skills to handle sexual violence related cases. Successful prosecutions cannot be achieved when the investigations are poor. The investigator who handles a theft case is the same investigator handling SGBV- they lack interviewing skills that are victim responsive and they do not know what exactly to look for.

2. Limited use of forensic and scientific evidence in SGBV cases due to inadequate scientific and forensic facilities. In cases of sexual assault, DNA should link the perpetrator to the survivor. In Uganda, the facilities are inadequate and this delays investigations. For example, most medical officers charge a fee before examining an SGBV victim which most victims cannot afford. Even after the doctors have examined the victims, they do

not come to court because they are not paid.

3. Delayed trials / prosecutions of SGBV (Justice delayed is justice denied)

Under the Kampala Declaration, 2011, governments realized the need to fast track SGBV cases and they committed themselves to put in place special courts, sessions and procedures in order to fast track SGBV cases in the police, and the judiciary with adequate financing, facilities, and gender sensitive officers within 12 months). To date, nothing of this nature has taken place.

4. Inadequate specialized skills by the prosecutors- poor interviewing skills leading to secondary victimization.

5. Lack of witness protection legislation

6. Lack of a legal and institutional framework for the protection of victims. Whereas the law elaborately provides for the rights and protection of the persons accused of crime, it does not do the same regarding the protection of the victims of crime.

7. Inadequate psycho social support services to the victims of crime. What is avail-



able is provided by Civil Society Organizations and there is not so much cooperation between the government and the Civil Society Organizations.

8. Victim unfriendly legislation regarding presentation of evidence of Children. Before the evidence of a child can be received, court has to be satisfied that the child possesses sufficient intelligence and understands the nature of speaking the truth. The majority of the sexual offences are committed against children.

9. Limited time and resources to prepare victims and witnesses for court.

10. Limited cooperation from the victims and witnesses (This is mainly caused by the delayed trials).

Strategies in place to mitigate the challenges.

1. Establishment of the Gender, Children and Sexual Offences Department in the ODPP to oversee the handling of SGBV cases with an ultimate goal of having the department fully specialized.

2. Establishment of the Witness Protection and Victim Empowerment Department in the ODPP- to ensure that we employ a victim centered approach while handling criminal cases. In an effort to empower the victims for purposes of accessing justice, the ODPP with assistance from the High Commissioner, United Nations Human Rights has developed a brochure meant to give information to victims as to how they can access justice. The office is in the process of developing guidelines on victim empowerment.

3. Victim's Rights Policy which ensures that ;

(a) The interest of the victim is considered at all stages of prosecution, that is during perusal, hearing and sentencing;

(b) The interest of the victim especially in violent crime is considered during bail applications;

(c) Victims are treated equally and fairly;

(d) Victims are informed of the court dates and on the progress of the case.

(e) Victims are informed of the court decisions.

4. Informal arrangements put in place to protect witnesses who are deemed to be at

risk;

5. Designation of children centers within the ODPP offices. These are centers meant to act as waiting rooms for child victims and witnesses in a child friendly atmosphere.

6. Prosecutor- guided(prosecution-led) investigations to ensure that good quality evidence is gathered for successful prosecutions.

7. Joint specialized training for the actors

8. Prosecutors seek short adjournments to be able to prepare witnesses for court.

9. Notifying the complainants/ victims before cases are withdrawn.

10. Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations that offer psycho social support services.

11. Allowing for victim participation through plea bargaining.

Recommendations for further improvement.

a) Establish special courts with special procedures for handling SGBV cases in line with the Kampala Declaration, 2011.

b) Promote research and training into all aspects of SGBV, including sensitive interviewing techniques and dissemination of information and training on such techniques;

c) Promote co-operation in the field of SGBV nationally, regionally and internationally;

d) Disseminate and popularize both the international and regional instruments that address SGBV to the duty bearers.

e) Need to fast track the handling of SGBV cases. When there are delays, victims hardly get justice.

f) Set up a one stop center where specialized, friendly, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary support for victims and witnesses of sexual violence would be offered. The victims could be interviewed and medically examined for forensic purposes, comprehensively assessed and receive all relevant therapeutic services from appropriate professionals in the same place;

g) Set up specialized and accessible support and information services, such as, help lines and local community services free of charge;

h) Fast track the enactment of the Witness



Protection legislation;

i) Amend the law that imposes a higher burden on child witnesses.

j) Establish government owned or supported Safety Centers to protect victims of SGBV;

k) Establish Community Rehabilitation programs through partnership with existing CBO's

l) Ensure that all concerned professionals handling SGBV cases in the justice system receive appropriate support and training,

and practical guidance in order to guarantee and implement adequately the rights of the victims and the witnesses.

m) Establish mechanisms to increase and improve collaboration between duty bearers such as investigators, prosecutors and health workers and non-state actors.

n) Increase the resourcing of the government analytical laboratory for forensic evidence.

Uganda Prisons have no social workers to handle SGBV crimes- official

Despite having to deal with a high and ever increasing number of social and sexual offenders, the Uganda Prison's Service is still grappling with the shortage of social workers who can help in the rehabilitation of the convicts.

Currently, the population of sex-crime related inmates is 11,630, accounting for 23 percent of the total inmate population of 52,791.

However, the entire service has only 64 trained social workers to handle all the offenders.

According to the Regional Welfare and Rehabilitation Officer for Central Region, Ms Sarah Nalwanga, the number of the social workers has inhibited the quick rehabilitation of the offenders.

In order to cope with the SGBV related inmates in the prison services, the institution started the Sexual Offenders' Rehabilitation Programme (SORP) as a rehabilitation programme which was conceived, initiated, introduced and is being implemented by the Uganda Prisons Social Workers.

The programme aims at successfully rehabilitating, reintegrating and reconciling sex offenders. This in turn enables the sex offender to lead a useful life upon release.

Ms Nalwanga, was presenting a paper at the the SGBV conference in Munyonyo, Kampala, said SORP has proved to be a healing tool and it heals one both mentally and physically. The programme strategically yields positive results based on interventions, which yield changed psycho-social (emotional) and character (physical) results.

SORP is an invented behaviour tool which has been used by UPS to address the emerging deviant behaviours of inmates presumed by courts of law as sex offenders.

Through experience it was established that the success of this tool is based on mutual trust since the inmate has to display his human traits especially the bad ones.

How SORP works

Neutralisation:

This coping technique provides positive alternative programmes to divert the offender's attention from deviant behaviour and be able to cope with imprisonment and prepare the mind for positivity.

These programmes include; counselling, trainings, inspirational talks, vocational training programmes, religious and recreation activities. These programmes help reduce the sense of guilt which is very crucial in the healing process.

Behavioural Diversity

This is the exchange of good behavioural traits amongst inmates, which helps in out growing the deviant behaviours. In the UPS the co-existence of sexual offenders along side other offenders e.g. the civil inmates who are knowledgeable, paves way for the



Delegates register to attend the conference

sexual offenders to adapt and opt for a better standard of life style.

This technique is limited to level of education, age and language, but emphasis is put on the ability of sexual offenders to overcome these challenges.

3. Naturalization of Feelings:

Since UPS does not provide for inmates' conjugal rights, then the latter has to train themselves into curbing their feelings thus becoming positively adaptive in real life.

Through intensive counselling the inmates are supported to develop healthy sexual attitudes, which are socially acceptable, namely; waiting for women's consent and young girls to grow up into consenting adults.

The programme starts at admission of an inmate into the Prison and goes through his sentence term.

Through the linking activity of the offender to the community by the Prison Social Workers, the reconciliation process is enhanced and appreciated by all parties involved. Social Actors are involved in the programme to help ensure that the inmate is successfully reintegrated back into the society as a law abiding citizen.

Records of SORP clients are maintained



and follow-ups are effected up to two years after release to ensure that: They don't relapse back into sexual crime; they are successfully reintegrated and they are economically self-sustaining

Nalwanga adds that SORP is a highly viable programme because it helps reduce the recidivism rate and especially by not committing a similar offence; it helps to successfully rehabilitate and reintegrate the sex

offenders back into society as law abiding citizens through the use of combined treatment interventions; it helps the offender appreciate the negative impact of his crime thus opening avenues of reconciliation and positive behaviour change.

However, the initiative is facing the challenge failure of clients to disclose all of their crimes or sexually deviant thoughts

At the Regional Conference on Strategies for Implementation of ICGLR Instruments on Sexual and Gender Based Violence

**SPEECH BY NATHAN M BYAMUKAMA –AG. DIRECTOR RTF
MUNYONYO COMMONWEALTH RESORT 1ST -3RD 2017**

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Let me now take this golden opportunity to thank our big partner, GIZ for financing this Conference. I also acknowledge the of FIDA (Uganda) for the additional support.

It is with great pleasure to welcome you to this regional conference on strategies for implementation of the ICGLR's Instruments on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

Thank you for putting aside every other business and choosing to accept honour our invitation. Your choice clearly demonstrates your commitment to end SGBV crimes in our region. We at the RTF therefore treasure every minute you will spend at the Conference and any other side activities including the opening of our new home.

Let me take this opportunity to observe that the month of December 2017 means a lot to this great region. It is in this month that:

- The ICGLR Pact and its 10 protocols were signed in Nairobi in 2006;

- The ICGLR summit in Lusaka in 2010 endorsed the decision to have a Special Session on SGBV that culminated in the Kampala summit which lead into the passing of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV in 2011

- It is in this same month today where fundamental decisions regarding renewed sharing of knowledge and ideas on how we can better deal with the crimes of SGBV and its consequences.

Let me now take this golden opportunity to thank our big partner, GIZ for financing this Conference. I also acknowledge the of FIDA (Uganda) for the additional support.

The Regional Training Facility (RTF) (Kampala Centre on SGBV) today has gained popularity. It continues to draw its mandate from article 11 of the ICGLR Pact, Article 6(9) of the ICGLR Protocol on Prevention and suppression of Sexual Violence against women and children together with Resolution 14 of the Kampala Declaration on Sexual Violence and the subsequent ICGLR Summits and RIMC decisions. Since its opening on 18th February 2014 it has vigorously pursued its mandate of "...training and sensitizing police units, judicial officers, medical officers, Social workers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region". It does this in line with the ICGLR commitment to prevent, criminalize, fight impunity against sexual violence crimes and support victims of Sexual violence in line with art 11 of the Pact and the related Protocols.

To be able to train and sensitize our target populations we need to continuously generate knowledge about the subject matter of SGBV. This weekend therefore our focus has been on knowledge sharing in the field of sexual violence. We will continue to pursue both theory and practice and see how they reinforce each other in practical terms. As a training facility, the pool of knowledge from this conference is a depository for our training program.

The ICGLR has legal instruments signed and some ratified with binding effect on Member States. These instruments are however not well known nor well disseminated to all stakeholders. The ICGLR also has a mechanism of implementation of its instruments and decisions at national and regional levels, including those related to sexual violence, but for various reasons including lack of sensitisation, the mechanism are neither uniformly nor consistently utilised to ex-

pected levels. The obligations under these instruments include the obligation of Member States to domesticate these instruments; to fund the structures created by these instruments, to amend laws and procedures in courts that are contrary to the instruments and to take legal and administrative measures to comply. The conference will agree on workable strategies to effectively implement these instruments across sectors of government. We are convinced that the more we strive to implement these obligation as duty bearers the better for peace, security and development of the people of the great region.

Since its inception three years ago, the RTF has been able to convene 11 major high profile regional and national training workshops for Police, Military, Medical, Judicial officers, Prosecutors, Civil Society, and Journalists in the Great lakes Region. World Bank, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Government, GIZ, British High Commission, Population council -Kenya, Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for DRC and the Region, The Office of the UN Secretary General Representative on Sexual Violence, the African Union Commission-though Peace and Security Department, FIDA Uganda among other partners have supported these trainings.

The World Bank and the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE), are supporting a four year project under "The Great Lakes Emergency Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Women's Health Project" and "Institutional Strengthening of the RTF to deliver Training Programmes in Prevention and Mitigation of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in the Great Lakes Region" respectively. In general, the Projects support the RTF to develop and implement two high-quality regional training programs for stakeholders and develop the capacity of the RTF to execute its mandate. Under these two projects the RTF will have developed standardised training manuals and curricula for judicial officers, police, psychosocial workers, medical officers as well as police officers by April 2018. The civil society, private sector and all those who handle cases of sexual violence would be able to utilise the training materials. In addition, RTF will have 12 Master trainers who will have worked with the consultants to develop the standardised training materials as well as 120 National Trainers (NTs) (ie 10 from each Member State) that will be trained by Master Trainers (MTs) to assist in cascading the training at national level for respective professionals. We plan to have trained and sensitised over 10,000 professionals by 2020 in this region. All this we have been able to do in keeping with government's commitment of eradicating impunity to sexual violence and through training and sensitisation, we could significantly change attitudes in communities and provide skills that would contribute to eradication of sexual violence. In our view the RTF has taken significant steps in the implementation of Article 6(9) of the ICGLR Protocol on prevention and suppression of Sexual violence and Resolution 14 of the Kampala Declaration on Sexual violence. We could do the same for



other provisions.

We will be officially opening the RTF offices this afternoon and we hope with more space the RTF will effectively and efficiently execute its mandate. The range of topics we discuss that our governments agreed upon in one of the articles in these instruments. I'm convinced that movements made. All these developments need to be commu-

nicated to the Member States' stakeholders in the conference and seek their support.

In conclusion, my team and I are committed to making your stay as comfortable as possible but I must not hesitate to apologise for the inconveniences that might have been caused in the cause of travel delays and schedules and even in transportation from hotels.









EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



SECRÉTARIAT EXÉCUTIF
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

La Déclaration de Goma sur l'Élimination de la violence sexuelle et la lutte contre l'impunité dans la Région des Grands Lacs -- Goma, le 18 Juin 2008 --

Nous, participants des États membres de la Conférence internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL) délégués de différents ministères et départements gouvernementaux, de concert avec les organisations de la société civile, les leaders traditionnels et religieux, les organisations non gouvernementales internationales, les partenaires de développement et les agences onusiennes de la région, prenant part à la Consultation Régionale de Haut Niveau sur l'Élimination de la Violence Sexuelle et la Lutte contre l'impunité dans la Région des Grands Lacs tenue à Goma, République démocratique du Congo (RDC), du 16 au 18 Juin 2008,

AYANT écouté les témoignages sur le terrain des représentants des organisations de la société civile chefs traditionnels, des organisations de femmes, des chefs traditionnels et religieux, ainsi que les exposés des représentants du Fonds des Nations Unies pour les Populations (FNUAP), du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Femme (UNIFEM), du Bureau du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Droits de l'Homme (OHCHR), la Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL), le Vice-Gouverneur de Goma (RDC) la Mission des Nations Unies pour le Congo (MONUC) et le Vice-Commandant de la 8ème Région Militaire du Nord Kivu, et au vu des documentaires sur les histoires horribles de violence sexuelle et d'exploitation des femmes, des filles et des garçons,

RÉAFFIRMANT les dispositions des instruments régionaux et internationaux des Droits de l'Homme qui protègent les femmes et les enfants, tels que la Charte des Nations Unies (1945), la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme (1948), les résolutions 1325 (2000) et 1612 (2005) du Conseil de Sécurité, la Convention sur l'Élimination de toutes les Formes de Discrimination à l'encontre des Femmes (1979), la Recommandation Générale 19 sur la

Violence à l'égard des Femmes, la Recommandation Générale 19 sur la Violence à l'encontre des Femmes, la Convention relative aux Droits de l'Enfant (1989), le Protocole visant à prévenir, réprimer et punir la traite des personnes, en particulier des femmes et des enfants (2000), la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Droits des Peuples (1981), la Charte Africaine sur

les Droits de l'homme et les Droits des Peuples (1981), le Protocole à la Charte Africaine sur les Droits de l'homme et les Droits des Peuples (2003) et la Charte Africaine sur les Droits et le Bien-Être des Enfants (2000), le Statut de Rome (2002), la Déclaration de Bamako qui constitue la position commune africaine sur la prolifération, la circulation et le trafic sur les armes légères et les armes de petit calibre (2000), le Protocole de Nairobi pour la prévention, le contrôle et la réduction des armes légères et des armes de petit calibre (2004), les recommandations éthiques et de sécurité de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé pour la Recherche, la Documentation et l'Observation de la violence sexuelle dans les situations d'urgence;

CONVAINCUS que le Protocole de la CIRGL sur la Prévention et la Suppression de la Violence Sexuelle à l'encontre des Femmes et des Enfants et le Projet de la CIRGL sur la Prévention et la Lutte contre l'Exploitation Sexuelle, les Abus et la Violence Basée sur le Genre et l'Assistance aux Victimes prévoient un cadre efficace et adéquat pour la prévention, la protection, la poursuite et la punition des auteurs de violence sexuelle dans la Région des Grands Lacs,

CONSCIENTS des conditions qui engendrent la violence sexuelle et l'impunité, telles que la persistance des guerres, l'insécurité, les pratiques culturelles répréhensibles, la discrimination, la corruption et les systèmes juridiques inadéquats dans la Région des Grands Lacs,

CONSCIENTS que le pourcentage des victimes de la violence sexuelle s'accroît de manière inquiétante dans certains pays de la Région des Grands Lacs,

PROFONDÉMENT préoccupés par la pandémie de la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique (VSS) et les violations des Droits Fondamentaux des Femmes et des Enfants, et l'impunité prévalant dans la Région des Grands Lacs pour les cas ayant trait à la violence sexuelle et à l'exploitation,

COMPTE tenu de la responsabilité qui incombe à l'État de protéger ses citoyens contre les violations des droits de l'homme, y compris la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique,

CONSCIENTS du fait que la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique représente une menace pour la sécurité nationale et régionale, et un facteur de propagation du VIH/SIDA,



uelle et sexospécifique représente une menace pour la sécurité nationale et régionale, et un facteur de propagation du VIH/SIDA,

RECONNAISSANT l'impact de la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique sur le développement économique des pays de la Région des Grands Lacs,

CONSCIENTS du fait que la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique n'est pas seulement liée à des situations de crise et de guerre,

CONSCIENTS du fait que la VSS est non seulement commise par des éléments armés, mais de plus en plus par des civils également,

CONVAINCUS que la situation dans la Région des Grands Lacs est très complexe et spéciale et que tous les survivants, y compris les déplacés internes et les réfugiés ont besoin de protection, de justice et de réadaptation, en dépit des différences de situation sociale et de statut politique, Conscients que la prolifération des armes légères ou de petit

calibre a exacerbé le problème de la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique dans la région,

DÉTERMINÉS à travailler avec et à influencer sur nos gouvernements et organisations respectifs pour qu'ils contribuent à l'élimination de toutes les formes de violence basée sur le genre, en particulier la violence sexuelle, et prennent des mesures appropriées pour l'autonomisation et la représentation équitable des femmes et des enfants,

CONVAINCUS que les efforts de lutte contre la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique impliquent un effort combiné des hommes, des femmes, des garçons et des filles ainsi que les institutions étatiques,

**RECOMMANDONS CE QUI SUIT :
AU NIVEAU NATIONAL:**

1. Les Etats membres devront allouer des fonds du budget national à des projets liés à la prévention de la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique et à l'assistance aux survivants et au renforcement des institutions qui s'occupent des violences basées sur le genre ;

2. Les Etats membres renforceront leurs systèmes judiciaires par la formation des juges sur les problèmes de violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques, la révision des lois discriminatoires, l'allègement des procédures d'instruction, la disponibilisation de services juridiques gratuits aux victimes ainsi que la lutte contre la corruption et la banalisation des cas de violence sexuelle,

3. Les Etats membres veilleront à ce que, lors des procès portant sur des cas de violence sexuelle et sexospécifique, des garanties de poursuites pénales efficaces, de confidentialité, de procédures judiciaires à huis clos et de protection des victimes et des témoins soient prises en compte,

4. Les Etats membres renforceront les structures médicales afin qu'elles délivrent plus facilement les certificats médicaux requis pour l'audience des cas de SGBV dans un délai raisonnable,

5. Les Etats membres appuieront les cliniques mobiles, juridiques et les centres de santé en vue de faciliter l'accès aux soins médicaux, services juridiques et psycho-sociaux,

6. Les Etats membres devront créer un mécanisme de contrôle pour filtrer les candidatures à des postes officiels dans l'armée, la police ou d'autres services de sécurité d'individus ayant un passé de violation des droits de l'homme, y compris la violence sexuelle basée sur le genre,

7. Les Etats membres veilleront à ce que les militants des Droits de l'Homme et les ONG locales qui luttent pour la promotion des droits de la femme, y compris la lutte contre

4 la SGBV, soient protégés et aptes à travailler en toute sécurité et créeront un environnement qui encourage leur travail,

8. Les Etats membres décentraliseront les services au niveau des communautés de base pour les victimes de violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques et leurs familles en sorte qu'elles puissent recevoir l'assistance gratuite telle que l'assistance juridique et médicale, y compris la pilule du lendemain, l'assistance socio-psychologique pour surmonter le traumatisme et l'assistance en nourriture, en logement ainsi que les ARV et d'autres types d'assistance liés au VIH/SIDA et aux maladies sexuellement transmissibles ;

9. Les Etats membres veilleront à ce que des kits médicaux spécifiques et suffisants soient disponibles dans tous les centres de santé,

10. Les Etats membres devront veiller à ce qu'ait lieu une formation spéciale pour tous les acteurs en rapport avec les besoins spéci-

fiques des mineurs, les victimes de violence sexuelle, en matière de soins médicaux, de gestion des traumatismes et d'assistance juridique,

11. Les Etats membres organiseront la formation de la police, de l'armée, de l'appareil judiciaire, du personnel médical, et des travailleurs sociaux dans la gestion du traumatisme et la sensibilité face aux victimes de violence sexuelle,

12. Les Etats membres devront former des policiers, des magistrats et le personnel judiciaire sur la collecte de preuves, y compris des preuves médico-légales sur les cas de violence sexuelle,

13. Les Etats membres mettront en place un mécanisme de protection pour les victimes et les témoins qui sont prêts à témoigner en justice contre les auteurs présumés,

14. Les Etats membres entreprendront la sensibilisation soutenue du public, en ciblant les femmes, les filles et les garçons sur leurs droits et responsabilités et sur les programmes d'assistance disponibles aux victimes de violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques dans des langues et formats qui sont accessibles à la population à la base et aux sociétés civiles,

15. Les Etats membres mettront en place une stratégie nationale des médias pour un usage durable de ressources médiatiques électroniques et imprimées, particulièrement les

5 radios, la presse écrite, la télévision et les moyens communautaires/traditionnels de base pour dénoncer les atrocités de la violence sexuelle, et faciliter la sensibilisation et la lutte contre la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique (VSS), 16. Les Etats membres élaboreront et mettront en œuvre des programmes de changement de comportement et de réhabilitation des détenus pour crime de violence sexuelle en conformité avec les procédures pénales prévues pour les mineurs auteurs de crimes de VSS;

17. Les Etats membres mettront sur pied un Comité pour la Protection des Femmes, des Filles et des Garçons contre la violence sexuelle pour veiller à la mise en œuvre du Protocole de la CIRGL pour la Prévention et la Suppression de la Violence Sexuelle contre les Femmes et les Enfants ;

18. Les Etats membres constitueront un Fonds de Compensation pour aider les victimes de violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques et mettront en place une Commission d'Indemnisation pour traiter les demandes d'indemnisation relatives à la violence sexuelle ;

19. Les Etats membres appliqueront et modifieront au besoin la législation pour se conformer au Protocole de la CIRGL sur la Prévention et la Suppression de la Violence Sexuelle contre les Femmes et les Enfants,

20. Les Etats membres mettront en place des Bureaux Spéciaux sur les Questions du Genre (ou « Gender Desks ») dans tous les établissements pénitentiaires, postes de police et camps militaires sous la responsabilité d'officiers des deux sexes formés dans le traitement des questions de violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques et des questions de sécurisation, de prévention et de poursuite efficace de cas de VSS,

21. Les Etats membres devront intaquer des unités de protection de l'enfance dans toutes les stations de police et des camps militaires dans toutes les étapes de l'appareil judiciaire, tant civils que militaires,

22. Les Etats membres devront systématiser la collecte des données pour renforcer la base de preuves sur le nombre, la situation, et les expériences des victimes de violences

6 sexuelles et sexospécifiques en particulier des femmes, des filles et des jeunes garçons ainsi que les mesures sociales, poli-



tiques, économiques et légales qui sont en place;

23. Les Etats membres ne devraient pas accorder l'amnistie, le pardon ou la liberté conditionnelle aux auteurs de violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques et la peine maximale devrait être administrée en toutes circonstances ;

24. Les Etats membres devront soutenir la mise en œuvre d'un programme d'égalité entre les sexes visant à transformer la relation entre les femmes et les hommes d'une manière durable et équitable, impliquant les chefs traditionnels et religieux, ainsi que des femmes leaders au niveau local ;

25. Les Etats membres devront inclure la prévention de la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique dans les programmes des écoles et des autres établissements d'enseignement pour permettre aux jeunes garçons et filles de se développer dans un environnement plus éclairé et sensible,

26. Les Etats membres devront mettre en place des mesures efficaces pour mettre

fin à la prolifération des armes légères et de petit calibre dans les pays de la région,

27. les Etats membres veilleront à ce que les processus de DDR facilitent l'accès aux filles, garçons et des femmes associés aux groupes armés afin de promouvoir la responsabilité eu égard au sort des enfants et des femmes dans les programmes de réinsertion,

28. Les Etats membres veilleront à ce que toutes les filles et les femmes enlevées et gardées comme épouses ou esclaves sexuels soient libérées et réunies avec leurs familles,

29. Les Etats membres devront engager un soutien économique en faveur des survivants des violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques et d'autres survivants vulnérables ;

Au niveau régional:

30. Assurer le suivi de manière à accélérer le processus de stabilisation et de consolidation de la paix dans la Région des Grands Lacs, à travers le désarmement, la démobilisation et la réintégration de groupes armés illégaux dans la

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Assurer le suivi de manière à accélérer le processus de stabilisation et de consolidation de la paix dans la Région des Grands Lacs, à travers le désarmement, la démobilisation et la réintégration de groupes armés illégaux dans la région, en vertu



région, en vertu

7 des accords comme le Communiqué de Nairobi (2007) et l'Acte d'Engagement de Goma (2008),

31. Les Etats membres devront saisir les Etats membres qui n'ont pas encore ratifié le Pacte sur la Sécurité, la Stabilité et le Développement dans la Région des Grands Lacs, pour qu'ils le ratifient ;

32. Les Etats membres devront domestiquer le Pacte sur la Prévention et la Suppression de la Violence Sexuelle contre les Femmes et les Enfants en réformant les Codes Pénaux pour prévoir des punitions sévères pour les crimes liés à la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique ;

33. Les Etats membres devront examiner les lois discriminatoires et les dispositions incompatibles avec la mise en œuvre effective du Protocole,

34. Les Etats membres devront s'impliquer et assurer la coopération en matière pénale relativement à la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique ;

35. Conformément à l'article 6.8 du Protocole, les Etats Membres devront mettre en place un établissement régional dans le cadre du Fonds spécial pour la Reconstruction et le Développement pour prévenir la violence sexuelles et sexospécifique et aider les survivants en particulier dans le domaine de la formation, l'assistance juridique, les soins médicaux, la réhabilitation et la réinsertion des survivants de violence sexuelle y compris les auteurs de ces crimes, 36. Conformément à l'article 6.9 du Protocole, les Etats Membres devront mettre en place un centre régional spécial pour la formation et la sensibilisation des magistrats, des unités de police, des travailleurs sociaux, des médecins et de tous ceux qui traitent des questions de violences sexuelles et sexospécifiques ;

37. Les Etats Membres faciliteront les consultations de haut niveau sur la lutte contre la VSS entre les militaires et policiers haut gradés de la Région des Grands Lacs, 38. Avec l'aide des Nations Unies, les Etats membres faciliteront des consultations régionales sur la lutte contre la VSS pour les chefs traditionnels, religieux et les femmes leaders,

39. les Etats membres devront prendre des mesures pour arrêter la traite et la prostitution des filles et des garçons dans la Région des Grands Lacs en abordant spécifiquement les réseaux régionaux transfrontaliers qui permettent la traite de ces enfants ;

40. les États membres mettront en place des mécanismes législatifs et des politiques pour répondre aux vulnérabilités des enfants nés du viol et des femmes enceintes suite au viol en donnant la possibilité à celles qui veulent garder la grossesse de bénéficier de l'assistance maternelle et à celles qui ne le veulent pas d'être autorisées à interrompre leur grossesse,

Au niveau international (Partenaires de Développement et Nations Unies) :

41. Apporter une aide financière et technique aux Etats membres afin de renforcer les capacités de leurs réponses juridiques, judiciaires et médicales en vue d'éliminer la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique et mettre fin à l'impunité en conformité avec le Protocole sur la Prévention et la Suppression de la Violence Sexuelle à l'encontre des Femmes et des Enfants et d'autres instruments internationaux et régionaux ;

42. Mobiliser l'appui international, politique et financier pour la mise en œuvre du Pacte sur la Sécurité, la Stabilité et le Développement dans la Région des Grands Lacs et le Protocole y afférent sur la Prévention et la Suppression de la Violence Sexuelle contre les Femmes et les Enfants ;

43. Promouvoir l'harmonisation d'initiatives internationales sur la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique en rapport avec les contextes nationaux et régionaux , 44. Apporter des ressources financières et des capacités techniques au Secrétariat de la Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL) pour faciliter la coordination, la mise en œuvre, le suivi et l'évaluation du Protocole sur la Prévention et la Suppression de la Violence Sexuelle contre les Femmes et les Enfants et du Projet de la CIRGL sur la Prévention et la Lutte contre l'Exploitation Sexuelle, les Abus et la Violence Sexuelle et Sexospécifique et l'Assistance aux Victimes.

45. L'Organisation des Nations Unies et les missions de maintien de la paix devront aider les gouvernements à élaborer des mécanismes juridiques, politiques et institutionnels

et des ressources humaines afin d'assurer la continuité dans la lutte contre la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique,

46. Assurer le déploiement d'une force de maintien de la paix adéquate et l'exécution de son mandat de protection,

47. Mettre en place des processus spéciali-



sés adaptés à la VSS dans les systèmes judiciaires et au sein de mécanismes de justice transitionnelle pour expédier la poursuite d'auteurs présumés,

48. Appuyer la coordination, le suivi et l'évaluation des réponses à la violence sexuelle et sexospécifique aux niveaux national, régional et international

49. Soutenir le renforcement des appareils judiciaires nationaux afin de s'assurer que

tous les auteurs présumés de violences sexuelles sont traduits en justice et que les décisions judiciaires et afférentes sont exécutés.

50. Appuyer et former les forces de maintien de la paix pour régler le problème de la VSS et des cas connexes.

Fait à l'hôtel IHUSI, Goma, RDC, le 18 juin 2008











