

DEPARTAMENTO ÁFRICA

Workshop on the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

Montevideo 11 to 13 April 2007

Summary

1. The meeting was attended by the representatives of: Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, South Africa, Togo and Uruguay.

2. In his opening remarks the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Mrs. Belela Herrera, welcomed the participants and stressed the need for materialising political declarations into concrete actions as a way of revitalising the Zone.

3. Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations, spoke on behalf of the Angolan government. He stressed the importance of building frameworks for South-South co-operation. He also recalled the importance of the follow up mechanism and brings concrete proposals on this regard to the Ministerial meeting in Luanda.

4. The participants were also welcomed by the Minister of the Interior of Uruguay, Daisy Tourne, who spoke about the importance of point one of the agenda: "Crime Prevention and Combating issues: fight against the illicit traffic of drugs and small arms and combating of trans national organised crime, including piracy issues".

5. The Deputy Minister of Defence of Uruguay, Jose Bayardi, welcomed the participants and introduced point two of the agenda: "Panel on Peacekeeping Operations", and presented the Uruguayan experience in Peacekeeping and Peace Building Operations since the late 1920s.

6. Finally Mr. Romero Rodriguez, Presidential Advisor for Racial Equity and Afro Descendants, introduced to the participants information on the cultural links between Africa and Latin America and the challenge to enhance South-South cooperation.

- a) 7. The Ad-hoc secretariat of the Zone introduced the participants to the point of the agenda and the mentions to these points in the previous Ministerial Meetings and UN General Assembly Resolutions.

8. The participants reaffirmed the link between peace and security and development, emphasising that there is no economic development without peace and security and that peace and security cannot be stable without development.

9. Participants expressed their continued commitment to the Zone and welcomed its revitalisation. To further revitalise the Zone, the participants considered different proposals for strengthening the follow up mechanism, ranging from maintaining and implementing the current arrangements, to establishing a coordinating bureau and resolved to remain seized on this matter.

Point One of the agenda: Crime Prevention and Combating issues: fight against the illicit traffic of drugs and small arms and combating of trans national organised crime, including piracy issues.

10. The participants expressed their concern regarding illicit traffic of drugs and small arms, and transnational organised crime including piracy. These issues present a threat to the peace, security as well as the development of Member States and to the well being of their peoples. All the participants agree that high priority must be given to combating these problems within the Zone.

11. Participants recognised that transnational organised crime, piracy, illegal drug trafficking, illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons are interrelated. They also emphasised the need for comprehensive and integrated strategies within the Zone to effectively combat these scourges.

12. Participants emphasised that national policies must be complemented by regional and international agreements including through cooperation among the members of the Zone for their implementation.

13. Participants emphasised the need for cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination in combating trafficking in human beings, illicit arms and drugs.

14. The participants acknowledged the existence of a sound international legal framework curtailing illicit drug trafficking and transnational organised crime, while proposing further legally binding instruments combating illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons including the proposed Arms Trade Treaty.

15. Participants called upon members of the Zone to ratify and fully implement existing relevant instruments.

16. Participants emphasised the need to cooperate in reinforcing border security and control in order to combat these scourges.

17. Participants identified the following measures for the consideration of their Ministers during the next Ministerial Meeting in Luanda:

- Measures against the illicit traffic of Small Arms, Light Weapons and ammunition.
 - The establishment or strengthening of national arms registries.
 - Establishment of national and regional marking and tracing mechanisms.
 - Participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.
 - Implementation of arms and ammunition destruction policies.
 - Design and implementation of public awareness campaigns, including with the participation of civil society.

- Establishment and strengthening of mechanism for the exchange of information and coordination among the members of the Zone
- Measures against the illicit traffic of Drugs
 - Full implementation of national, subregional, regional and international legal instruments, including through cooperation among the members of the Zone.
 - Strengthening institutional capacities at the national level, including through cooperation among the members of the Zone.
- Measures against Transnational Organised Crime
 - Full implementation of national, subregional, regional and international legal instruments, including through cooperation among the members of the Zone.
 - Strengthening institutional capacities at the national level, including through cooperation among the members of the Zone.
- Measures against Piracy
 - Strengthening and implementing existing instruments and mechanisms in the combat against piracy by means of cooperation in capacity building and exchange of information among the countries of the Zone.
- Other recommendations
 - Creation of a website as a source of information and as a mechanism for the exchange of information.
 - The establishment of diplomatic relations among all members of the Zone.

18. Participants agreed that one concrete steps that could be taken towards a better understanding of the mutual interests, needs and possibilities of cooperation would be the indication of national points of contact for the questions related to transnational organized crime. It is expected that, in doing so, the countries of the Zone will be able to identify areas and forms in which concrete cooperation could be implemented, in the fields of illicit traffic of weapons, traffic of illicit drugs and organized crime, including piracy.

19. Participants urged all Member States to cooperate to address threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, through bilateral and multilateral instruments and mechanisms aimed at monitoring, preventing and responding to such threats.

20. Participants urged all Member States in cooperation with the International Maritime Organisation, to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea by adopting measures, including those relating to assistance with capacity building through training of seafarers, port staff and law enforcement personnel in the prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents, bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law, and by adopting national legislation, as well as providing enforcement vessels and equipment and guard against fraudulent ship registration.

Point Two of the Agenda: Panel on Peacekeeping Operations.

21. Participants recognised the importance of Peacekeeping Operations as one of the instruments of the collective security system, and as one of the issues of the international agenda, which involves active cooperation between Africa and Latin America. They also recognised the importance, which Member States give to these missions with some Member States of the Zone among the top ten contributors to the United Nations Peace Keeping Operations.

22. Participants welcomed the current change in the approach and the conception of Peace Keeping Operations from a law and order approach into a more holistic one, which includes new stakeholders, particularly civil society organisations. Participants believe that without this holistic approach there cannot be long-term solutions.

23. Participants stressed the need of increasing cooperation among the members of the Zone and the importance of international support on issues such as capacity building, logistics, and information exchange. They also expressed the importance of the use of the existing Training Schools and the International and Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre among others.

24. Participants expressed their concern regarding the cases of violation of human rights by personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions, particularly the victimisation of women and children, and emphasised their commitment to train and sensitise as well as to the investigate and punish any occurrence.

25. Participants recognised the importance of the role of regional and subregional peacekeeping operations, such as the current African Union and ECOWAS operations, as a complement of the role of the United Nations in this area. They stressed the need to further develop this role through the creation of a legal framework and capacity building including through cooperation among the members of the Zone.

26. Recognising the existence gaps between the mandates and the situations in the area, participants identified the following points for the consideration of their Ministers during the next Ministerial Meeting in Luanda:

- periodic updates of the Blue Book;
- establishment of permanent mechanisms for information gathering and sharing in the field;
- periodic update of the mandates as per the information obtained by these mechanisms;
- revision of the participation of the medical element in the missions;
- increment of the information on the context of the conflict, needed resources for the operation, and lessons learnt;
- inclusion of local legal and cultural frameworks to the mandates;
- joint training for the different participating agencies;
- establishment of a legal framework for that recognizes the complementarities between the United Nations and regional and subregional organisations in this area;.
- integrate gender policies as well as the participation of women in the operations;

- strengthen follow up mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the peace agreements;
- explore the possibility of the organisation of joint exercises at the Zone level;
- creation of a database of trainers from experienced countries to support Zone members with less experience on the area.

27. Participants welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Peace Building Commission and stressed their commitment to the support of its current work.

28. The participants expressed their appreciation to the governments of Uruguay and Angola for their respective contribution towards the organisation of the meeting. The participants thanked the organization SaferAfrica for the technical assistance provided for the meeting.