

## The World Small Arms Week of 2018, an opportunity to raise awareness to end the crisis of armed violence.

## Urgent appeal to policymakers and politicians in the sub-region of Central African countries of the Great Lakes for policies to end armed conflicts.

The vicious circle of conflicts in Central Africa's Great Lakes countries, in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo in particular, is a challenge that favors the illicit arms market and their impacts on the physical state economy, on human capital for development including youth and women. The complexity of division-related violence and the lack of recognition of each other's rights in these two countries leads to the cooperation of actors in armed conflicts and affect not only the targets but rather the governance systems at national and regional level.

In Burundi, the deadly armed violence crisis that resumed in May 2015, with thousands of people suffering both inside and outside the country, does not spare neighboring populations, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in security, social and economic terms. Burundian armed movements carrying weapons reported in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, it's the drama that adds to the drama, meeting the existence of Mai-mai rebel movements in the East of the DRC weighing on the socio-economic life of the populations.

Armed militias both in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo who profit from the availability and easy access to arms do not give up organizing themselves and this puts the population that lives with them in a panic and despair of the population looted, killed, raped, physically and psychologically tortured.

Recognizing the role of political decision-makers both at the governance level and in the opposition, the people of Muha and Ntahangwa commune in Bujumbura town hall in Burundi traumatized by the armed violence that we have encountered, ask the government to find a lasting solution to the crisis that weighs on them and pushes them into extreme poverty.

A shopping woman, victim of occasional poaching on the Bukavu-Uvira road in South Kivu who prefers anonymity, met by a local CPD leader on non-armed violence made an urgent appeal to the Government of Kinshasa to silence the weapons worn by the militia, fight against corruption to tranquilize the people of whom it is the guardian of peace and security.

Categories of people more affected by this armed conflict situation are children and women who do not participate in the planning of wars and violence

To mark the Global Action Week on Small Arms launched by the International Action Network on Small Arms IANSA from 07<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the Colonie des Pionniers du Développement CPD joins the people of Burundi and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to encourage the initiatives of the States concerned to put an end to crises and conflicts that put people at risk and undermine their economies.

For Burundi, CPD calls on all Burundian conflict stakeholders to accelerate the process of dialogue started and led by the facilitators, its Excellency Ugandan President YOWELI Kaguta Museveni and his Counterpart, Excellence Benjamin MKAPA. This urgent appeal is launched by joining the populations victims of armed violence in all their forms. Ending the Burundian crisis is creating a climate of trust for arms control, ammunition and disarmament.

Taking advantage of this global week of action on non-armed violence from 07<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the CPD requests that the remarkable progress to put an end to the armed conflicts of Burundi to be reported during the next participation in the Review Conference of the United Nations Program on Small Arms in June 2018.

For the Democratic Republic of Congo, we encourage and demand the multiplication of efforts to build and consolidate peace and security in eastern part of the country, in order to reassure the hearts of peoples long traumatized by the armed violence.