

DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONGOLESE ACTION NETWORK ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (RE.C.A.A.L.)

We,

Participants in the founding workshop of the National Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), held at the Nganda Catholic Center in Kinshasa from November 18 to 20th, 2004;

Conscious of the situation brought about by the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons in DRC, notably the high number of casualties, pervasive insecurity, criminality, the persistence of conflict, pillage, rape, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and armed robbery;

Considering the work already underway in the provinces, resulting from the establishment of collective NGO actions to combat the above-mentioned phenomenon;

Responding to the various desires expressed to increase the role of civil society in the fight against the proliferation of SALW, for instance by working in synergy with a view to achieving effective results ;

Considering the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Bamako Declaration, the Nairobi Declaration and Protocol, the SADC Protocol,.... ;

Considering the necessity to collaborate with the DRC National Focal Point on SALW,

Have decided as follows:

Article 1 :

To establish a national network entitled the « Réseau congolais d'action sur les armes légères » (Congolese Action Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons, RECAAL), the statutes of which were adopted unanimously by all participants.

Article 2 :

Each signatory to the present declaration has as a mission to encourage NGOs and associations working towards peace and security to join this nascent network.

Article 3 :

Members of RECAAL call upon all those external partners who participated in its founding workshop to support the Network and its activities: GRIP/RAFAL, PaxChristi/Flanders and Netherlands, Oxfam/Belgium, 11 11 11, Norwegian Church Aid, UNDP and others.

Done in Kinshasa, 20 November 2004