

Regional High Level and Expert Workshop on IHL and Disarmament in Africa

4-5 March 2026

Adwa Victory Memorial, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ROUNDTABLES’ RECOMMENDATIONS

Roundtable 1 – Humanitarian Demining and Weapons Contamination

States should:

1. Strengthen national and regional mine action frameworks and ensure coordination between security, development, and humanitarian actors in order to link demining with recovery and livelihood restoration.
2. Integrate humanitarian demining into national recovery and development strategies to restore access to land, infrastructure, markets, and essential services and enable the safe return of displaced populations.
3. Strengthen data collection, casualty recording, and information systems to better prioritize clearance operations and support transparency, accountability, and national ownership, including through community engagement and the use of emerging technologies.
4. Strengthen community engagement through sensitization and risk awareness, including local reporting mechanisms and participation of communities in identifying contaminated areas.
5. Enhance regional and cross-border cooperation on mine action through joint initiatives and coordination with regional and international organizations.
6. Invest in training, technical capacity, and emerging technologies through sustained partnerships to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian demining operations.

Roundtable 2 – Preventing Illicit Arms Transfers

States should:

1. Strengthen national arms control frameworks by harmonizing domestic legislation with international and regional instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty and African regional frameworks such as the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Kinshasa Convention, the Nairobi Protocol, and the SADC Firearms Protocol.
2. Establish or reinforce national arms control mechanisms bringing together relevant ministries and agencies to oversee licensing processes, end user certificates, risk assessments, and compliance with international humanitarian law in arms transfer decisions.

3. Improve transparency, traceability, and reporting through the development of national control lists, centralized databases, systematic weapons marking and tracing, and strengthened information sharing among States.
4. Enhance regional and cross-border cooperation and information sharing, including through regional mechanisms and regional economic communities (RMS/RECs), to address diversion risks and share good practices.
5. Strengthen weapons’ stockpile management and lifecycle control, including secure storage, systematic destruction of obsolete or surplus weapons, and proper management of weapons collected through disarmament processes.
6. Strengthen technical capacity through training and technical assistance, including regional exchanges and capacity-building programmes for arms control authorities on diversion prevention, weapons tracing, and the application of international humanitarian law in arms transfer decisions.
7. Support the engagement of civil society and community actors, including youth and women’s groups, traditional leaders, elders, hunters, self-protection groups, local vigilantes, and handcrafted weapons producers, in awareness raising, early warning, prevention initiatives, and voluntary return of weapons.
8. Encourage regional mechanisms and economic communities to bridge the gap between national authorities, civil society, and international partners, including technical and financial assistance.
9. Institutionalize the integration of civil society and community actors through dedicated platforms that enable collaboration with State institutions.

Roundtable 3 – Silencing the Guns and Disarmament for Sustainable Peace

States should:

1. Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of international, regional, and national arms control frameworks to address illicit arms trafficking and reinforce compliance with international humanitarian law.
2. Enhance border management, tracing systems, and regional information sharing to prevent illicit weapons flows and improve accountability.
3. Integrate humanitarian disarmament and mine action into peace processes, peace support operations, and post-conflict recovery strategies.
4. Promote dialogue and engagement to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law by all parties to armed conflict, including through humanitarian engagement with non-state armed groups.
5. Link disarmament initiatives with reintegration and stabilization efforts, including employment creation, vocational training, confidence building, and community-based recovery programmes.

Working Document – Roundtables’ Recommendations

6. Strengthen regional and continental coordination through African led mechanisms, including cooperation under the African Union framework to address arms proliferation and support sustainable disarmament efforts.
7. Adopt long-term strategic approaches to disarmament that are institutionalized within national development and security planning frameworks, including strengthened data collection systems, oversight mechanisms, and alignment with comprehensive Security Sector Reform processes.
8. Strengthen African-led mediation efforts as an essential component of sustainable disarmament and conflict resolution.

The ICRC should:

1. Initiate a high level and broad dialogue with Non-State Armed Groups on IHL and Disarmament.