



COMMUNIQUE

A two-day regional workshop for the Eastern Africa region on the Implementation of the AU Border Programme concludes today in Kampala

As part of the implementation of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), the AU Commission, together with the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), completed today, in Kampala, Uganda, a two-day workshop for the Eastern Africa Region. The workshop was opened yesterday, 25 September 2008, by the Minister for Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, and closed by the Deputy Secretary-General of the EAC, Hon. Beatrice Kiraso. In attendance were experts of the countries of the region and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as AU partner organizations and other relevant institutions.

The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the various aspects of the AUBP, assess the progress made in the region regarding the implementation of the AUBP and identify the challenges ahead. In this respect, the workshop agreed on concrete steps to be taken at national and regional levels to further the implementation of the AUBP, in particular with respect to the delimitation and demarcation of borders where such an exercise has not yet taken place, the development of cross-border cooperation and capacity building for border management, as well as partnership and resource mobilization.

Four other regional workshops are planned for the Northern, Central, Southern and Western regions between October 2008 and April 2009. In collaboration with the concerned RECs, these regional workshops are intended to popularize the AUBP and facilitate the elaboration of regional action plans.

It should be recalled that the Declaration on the AUBP and its Implementation Modalities was adopted by the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held in Addis Ababa on 7 June 2007. The Declaration, which was endorsed by the AU Executive Council in Accra, in June 2007, has, as an overall goal, the structural prevention of conflicts and the promotion of regional and continental integration. More specifically, it aims at facilitating the delimitation and demarcation of African borders, promoting cross-border cooperation and building the capacity of the relevant African actors in the area of border management, including the development of special education and research programmes.

Kampala, 26 September 2008