

Lobbying Techniques for Security Reforms: East and Southern
Africa Experience
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Lobbying techniques for Security Reforms:

Two decades after the end of the Cold War and the beginning of redefining the international security setting, Africa still retains the image of a continent ridden with violence, which impacts negatively on its economic and social systems, particularly the justice system.

This image – of a conflict-ridden Continent, is complicated by the fact that there is lack of critical inputs from Africa, particularly by Africans, in the new international security system

Lobbying techniques for Security Reforms: Charity Begins at Home

For Africa to meaningfully and convincingly delve into the international security agenda, Africa must start at home, with its internal security reforms and in particular, the area of HUMAN SECURITY:

Lobbying

Will not attempt to define the word – **lobbying** as there are no universally accepted, standard definitions (of most concepts), but only generally agreed upon, or acceptable, working definitions which may vary according to circumstances:

Strategy, employed (by a defined group) to influence:

- Reforms
- Legislation
- Any issue of common interest

Bottom line – bring about or influence change(s)

Charity Begins at Home

- **Issue(s) of Common Interest – the guiding principle**
- **Strategies are formulated accordingly**

Examples of lobby work by Africa Peace Forum (APFO):

- ❖ **At the UN –**
 - **(illicit) proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW)**
 - **global campaign to regulate/control transfer of conventional arms – Control Arms Campaign**
 - **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**
- ❖ **At Sub-regional level –**
 - **creation of national and regional bodies on curbing the demand for SALW**
 - **membership in those bodies**
 - **establish credible partnerships between governments and NGOs**

Issues of Common Interest

- **Commonality of interest is assumed and must be the principal driving force.**
- **Membership in reputable organizations helps**
- APFO is a Member of International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)
 - IANSA brings together more than 700 NGOs in some 100 countries/193
 - objectives include strict transfer controls of SALW by applying certain UN guidelines agreed upon by UN Member States in July 2001
- APFO is a member of NGO Steering Committee on ATT
 - loose, informal coalition of NGOs from Africa, Asia, South America, North America and Europe
 - lobbying for the establishment of legally binding, common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons

Issues of common interest

- **Why SALW?**

Some sub-regional arrangements:

- SADC Protocol on SALW
- Nairobi Protocol (June 2003) for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALW in the GLR and HoA
- ECOWAS Convention (June 2006) on SALW, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials
- Bamako Declaration (December 2000) on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of SALW

Bamako Declaration influenced the July 2001 UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects

Issues of Common Interest

Why SALW (Licit or Illicit)?

Issues:

- ❖ Exacerbates violence and Sustains conflicts
- ❖ Undermines good governance
- ❖ Threatens international humanitarian law
- ❖ Jeopardizes the respect for fundamental human rights
- ❖ Displacement of population and creation of refugees and IDPs
- ❖ Encourages acts of terrorism

- ❖ **Point to be stressed here is that African NGOs, in particular, lobby for the strict control of both Licit and Illicit – many governments support this point of view, other would like confinement to ILLICIT only**

Issues of Common Interest

Why an Arms Trade Treaty? The Issues:

- ❖ UN Resolution of December 2006 *recognized that the absence of common international standards on the import, export and transfer of conventional arms is a contributory factor to conflict, the displacement of people, crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development;*
- ❖ UN Secretary- General was requested to seek views of Member States on *the **feasibility, scope** and draft **parameters** for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.*
- ❖ **The going has not been easy, disagreements have emerged on definitions of terminologies: *feasibility; scope and parameters***

Issues of Common Interest

Lobbying at Sub-regional Level

- **NGO Membership in a local and/or sub-regional body**
- APFO is an NGO Member in the Kenya National Focal Point
- Partner in the formulation of National Action Plan on Control of Illicit Proliferation of SALW
- Member of Committee on Review of Firearms Act
- Member in the Committee on the Review of and Harmonization of Legislation on SALW
- Member in the Partnership for Peace – brings together several Civil Society Organizations as well as NGOs, the Media, law enforcement agencies (Police), Faith-based Organizations and business community/representatives, to discuss issues of rampant insecurity in Kenya's urban areas

The Bottom Line

By Way Of Summary

- **Define the Issues:**
 - **criminal justice systems in the countries of lobby**
- **What is the specific problem?**
 - **speedy dispensation of justice**

Who are the interlocutors

- **Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) or the Attorney-General (A-G)**
- **the Judiciary: Chief Justice; Courts (Law Courts, Courts of Appeal)**
- **Prisons**
- **Law reform Societies**
- **Legal Fraternity**

The Bottom Line: “Make Friends and Influence People”

- **Strategic Partners:**
 - **Governments**
 - **Legal Fraternity**
 - **Civil Society**
 - **The Media**
 - **Non-Governmental Organizations**
 - **Faith-Based Organizations**
 - **other leading opinion-makers/shapers**
- **Other like-minded organizations, institutions and individuals**
- **IMPORTANT – You must retain friendship of those you lobby, at the end of it all.**

Make friends and Influence People

Identify Principal Stakeholders

- **After Identifying principal stakeholders**
- **Engagement**

Most NGOs waste valuable time in criticism without focus

- engage the interlocutors
- bring something to the table
- apply constructive criticism
- articulate issues, principles and objectives of **lobby**, clearly, precisely, without exaggeration
- bear in mind that lobbying entails **give and take** and the fact that the other side may also have unique perspective to the issues, unknown or unfamiliar to you

NB – MEMBERSHIP IN CREDIBLE ORGANISATIONS, LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, HELPS