



Central African states to discuss future of ex-fighters in France 11-12 December

6 December 2007

08:56

BBC Monitoring Africa

English

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Text of report by Innoncent Gahigana entitled "States to discuss ex-combatants future" published in English by Rwandan newspaper The New Times website on 6 December

Delegates from seven east and central African states will discuss the future of ex-combatants and former child-soldiers at a meeting due next week in Paris, France.

According to a statement issued by the World Bank yesterday, delegates from Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda will participate in the meeting scheduled for 11-12 December. Other delegates are expected from Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

The Chairman of Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC), John Sayinzoga confirmed yesterday that he will attend the two-day meeting.

He will attend a seminar thereafter, on 13 December, for practitioners and experts from around the world to discuss Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) issues.

Sayinzoga didn't however give details of what the Rwandan delegation will present at the talks.

He instead referred us to Gender and Family Promotion Minister Valerie Nyirahabineza for details. However, the minister couldn't be reached by press time.

But the World Bank said the meeting will attract development and security experts from the UN, European Union, African Development Bank and other 12 bilateral donors.

Participants from within and outside the DDR partnership will exchange best practices, lessons and analysis on the reinsertion and reintegration of ex-combatants. They will also focus on the needs of child-soldiers and youth in demobilization and reintegration programmes.

Source: The New Times website, Kigali, in English 6 Dec 07