ENHANCING THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE ECOWAS CONFLICT PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

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ECPF Project
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ACRONYMS

ASF, African Standby Force
CSOs, Civil Society Organisations
ECOWAS, Economic Community of West African States
ECPF, ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
EMC, Evaluation and Monitoring Centre
ESF, ECOWAS Standby Force
EU, European Union
GBV, Gender Based Violence
GTZ, German Technical Cooperation
KAIPTC, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
NGO, Non-Governmental Organisation
PAPS, Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of ECOWAS
POAs, Plans of Action
RECs, Regional Economic Communities
TFPs, Technical and Financial Partners
UN, United Nations
UNDP, United Nations Development Program
UNIFEM, United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund
WANEP, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WPSI, Women Peace and Security Institute
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) organized a workshop under the theme ‘Enhancing the Operationalisation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework’ (ECPF). The workshop which took place at KAIPTC, Accra from 21 to 22 October, 2010 brought together policymakers who could be targeted for the implementation of the ECPF. Participants were drawn from Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso and Liberia and were made up of representatives from government institutions and civil society groups (including media groups), and academic institutions. Some representatives of the diplomatic community in Ghana also participated in the workshop. These included the Danish Embassy, Switzerland Embassy, Canadian High Commission and the Australian High Commission. The head of the ECOWAS Zonal Bureau 4, Cotonou, Benin, also participated in the workshop.

The two-day workshop was based on the following objectives:

- Share and discuss the findings of the policy research on the level of awareness about the ECPF among policymakers in the four ECOWAS member states;
- Discuss opportunities and challenges towards the implementation of the ECPF at the ECOWAS and state levels;
- Discuss the extent to which ECOWAS can be supported by various stakeholders in the implementation of the ECPF;
- Discuss how awareness and ownership of the ECPF can be raised at the level of member states;
- Formulate policy recommendations to guide the implementation of the ECPF.

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Commandant of the KAIPTC, Brigadier General George K. Adjei, reiterated the objectives of the workshop to bring policymakers in the region together to discuss matters which are crucial for the development of the ECOWAS sub-region. He also emphasised the significance of the ECPF in contributing to conflict prevention and peacebuilding (which are less expensive compared to conflict management and peacekeeping). Finally, he expressed gratitude to the Government of Denmark for her continuing support to the KAIPTC in
general and the implementation of the ECPF in particular, and urged participants to come up with practical recommendations to meet the workshop’s objectives.

On his part, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Ambassador Chris Kpodo**, commended the KAIPTC and ECOWAS for the collaborative activity, which underscores the region’s commitment to actively pursue peace by building superior and robust relationships. The Minister re-echoed the commitment of the Government of Ghana to ECOWAS initiatives in the promotion of peace and security in West Africa. He also reaffirmed the Ghana Government’s support to the KAIPTC to undertake activities that would build requisite capacity for sustainable peace especially within the sub region. He indicated that the organization of the workshop is timely and crucial for two reasons; first the ECPF is a valuable document for achieving lasting peace in the sub-region. Second, the workshop will help build partnership with other stakeholders in maintaining peace in West Africa. He concluded with the expectation that the workshop recommendations would guide governments and institutions in the implementation of the ECPF within the sub-region.

**Mr. Augustin Sagna**, head of Bureau - Zone IV of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention and Management Program conveyed the support of the ECOWAS Commission and the Director of Early Warning for the workshop and effort of KAIPTC with respect to the ECPF. He noted that the ECPF is a very important document for ECOWAS conflict prevention agenda and need to be pursued vigorously, with support from all stakeholders.

In her keynote address, the Counsellor of the Royal Danish Embassy in Ghana, **Madam Vibeke Gram Mortensen**, lauded efforts of KAIPTC in undertaking research in the area of peace and security. Particularly, she noted KAIPTC’s effort in the training of civilians, the police and the military for the Standby Force operations, which will help ECOWAS achieve the objectives of the ECPF. She therefore emphasised the Danish Government’s unflinching support through partnership for sub-regional peace and security. She expressed optimism that the workshop would unravel critical issues that can be adopted by ECOWAS to help in the maintenance of peace and security in the sub region.

Several presentations relating to the implementation of the ECPF were made. The presentations included the Processes leading to the ECPF, the ECPF Project at KAIPTC and Research
Findings; the 14 Components of the ECPF, the ECOWAS Early Warning System, the ECOWAS Standby Force within the context of the ECPF; Gender, Peace and Security: Lessons from KAIPTC Gender Programs; and Civil Society and Implementation of the ECPF. Each of the presentations was followed by discussions, a summary of which are captured in the main report.

At the end of the two-day workshop, participants came out with the following recommendations:

- Liaison offices should be set up in member countries to collate and coordinate activities relating to the implementation of the ECPF;
- A division should also be created under ECOWAS Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS) to monitor and evaluate progress relating to the implementation of the ECPF;
- There is the need for the creation of a network of civil society organizations involved in the implementation of the ECPF;
- Translation of the document into Portuguese to help ensure that it is beneficial to all West African;
- ECOWAS to attach urgency to the development of POAs to guide the implementation process; and
- ECOWAS to ensure that the ECPF is integrated into policies on conflict prevention within member states.
SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

In 2008, the Security and Mediation Council of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, a comprehensive conflict prevention tool that enables and guides stakeholders to mobilize and utilize available human and financial resources within and outside the sub region to manage conflicts. It comprises 14 components; each expected to be accompanied by a Plan of Action (POA) to successfully guide efforts and initiatives towards its implementation.

Two years thereafter, it has become necessary to take stock of progress or otherwise in the implementation process and to rekindle stakeholder interest in the Framework. It was based on the aforementioned that the ECPF Project, (under the International Institutions Program) of the Research Department of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) conducted a four-nation field study in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia to measure the level of awareness among policymakers and identify stakeholders, opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the ECPF.

Findings from the survey formed the foundation for the policy workshop, ‘Enhancing the operationalisation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework’; organized in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission and with support from the Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Governments on 21 – 22 October, 2010, at the KAIPTC in Accra, Ghana.

Aims and objectives of the workshop

The Workshop had an overall aim of creating an international platform for dialogue and consensus building in the implementation of the ECPF and to make recommendations to the ECOWAS Commission for consideration. Within the overall agenda, the workshop had the following specific objectives;

- Share and discuss the findings of the policy research on the level of awareness about the ECPF among policymakers in the four ECOWAS member states.

- Discuss opportunities and challenges towards the implementation of the ECPF at the ECOWAS and state levels.
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- Discuss the extent to which ECOWAS can be supported by various stakeholders in the implementation of the ECPF.

- Discuss how awareness and ownership of the ECPF can be raised at the level of member states.

- Formulate policy recommendations to guide the implementation of the ECPF.

Participation

The workshop drew its participants from diverse backgrounds, taking into consideration their specific expertise and areas of engagement from the four countries in which the field research had taken place in June/July 2010. Participants at the workshop included Ministers of State, officials from diplomatic missions in Ghana, official from the European Union (EU), head of ECOWAS Zonal Bureau, heads and officials of civil society institutions and inter-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, and media associations. Most of the participants were involved in the field study conducted prior to the workshop.
SECTION TWO: OFFICIAL REMARKS

We have reproduced below official remarks by the Deputy Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana, and the Counselor of the Royal Danish Embassy in Ghana.

Remarks by the Deputy Commandant, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Accra, Ghana

Brigadier-General George K. Adjei

Excellencies, Invited guests, Participants

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all participants and invited guests to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and particularly the opening ceremony of this workshop: ‘Enhancing the operationalisation of the ECOWAS conflict prevention framework’. The KAIPTC deems it important to provide the platform for shaping national and regional policies in West Africa. This workshop therefore forms part of efforts to bring policymakers in the region together to discuss matters which are crucial for the development of our region. Our focus on the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) is based on the fact that conflict prevention and peacebuilding is less expensive than managing violent conflicts in terms of human and material costs. The Centre, through the Research Department, has developed a three-year plan of action through which it will work collaboratively with ECOWAS towards the implementation of the ECPF.
The project began this year with awareness creation and field research in four-West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia. I understand most participants come from these four countries.

This workshop is part of this year’s activities that intends to (a) provide the opportunity for our researchers to share their research findings, and from the research findings (b) discuss the challenges and opportunities for implementation of the ECPF. It is expected that this workshop will also come out with a set of practical recommendations to guide policymakers in West Africa in the implementations of the ECPF.

It is on this note that I want to urge all participants to share your knowledge within the two days to meet the workshop objectives.

Finally, I want to thank the Government of Denmark for her continuing support to the KAIPTC in general and the implementation of the ECPF in particular.

Thank you very much and enjoy your short stay at the Centre and Accra.
Remarks by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Ghana

Ambassador Chris Kpodo

Excellencies, Invited guest, Participants

It gives me great pleasure to be present here today for the opening ceremony of this workshop: ‘Enhancing the implementation of the ECOWAS conflict prevention framework.’

Two years after the adoption of the ECOWAS conflict prevention framework, I think that this workshop is timely and crucial for several reasons. First, the ECPF is a valuable document which when implemented would contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the sub-region. And second, it is important to create partnership and collaborative networks around the implementation of the ECPF: this workshop provides that opportunity.

I therefore want to congratulate the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training (KAIPTC), for taking the bold initiative to join ECOWAS in the implementation of the ECPF. I understand that the workshop is not one off event but part of series of activities that will be implemented by the Research Department’s ECPF Project.

The Government of Ghana supports the initiative taken by the KAIPTC and ECOWAS to implement the ECPF. The commitment of the Government of Ghana to ECOWAS initiatives remains as firm and resolute as the commitment of Ghana to the promotion of peace and security
in West Africa. We believe that West Africa has suffered a lot from conflicts and that efforts should now be focused on addressing the root causes of conflict, hence the adoption of the ECPF in 2008.

Based on the Government firm belief in conflict prevention, we take interest in this workshop and look forward to the recommendations that will come out at the end of it. I therefore want to exhort participants to come out with practical suggestions to guide governments and institutions in the implementation of the ECPF within our sub-region.

I wish you a successful deliberation.
Honourable Deputy Minister, Deputy Commandant, Excellencies, all protocols observed,

The ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework is on our agenda for the next two days. The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) is one of the three ECOWAS designated research and training centres in West Africa, mandated under the ECPF to conduct research and training on conflict prevention and peace-building, as well as train and prepare civilians, police and military for future ECOWAS Standby Force operations. Danish support to the KAIPTC should be understood against this background.

The West African sub-region faces a number of challenges including the problem of poverty, with the sub-region representing one of the poorest regions of the world and being highly prone to violent conflicts.

On a more positive note, the ECOWAS region has seen some positive developments in recent times, including a deepening democratic political culture in parts of the sub-region, and progress
in resolving some of the region’s conflicts. However, the threat of political instability and armed conflict continue to impede the broader developmental agenda of the West African sub-region.

Through all of these challenges, countries in the ECOWAS region are showing commitment to enhancing their capacities for effective structural prevention in order to prevent conflicts from arising in the first place while laying realistic and sustainable foundations for growth and development.

The challenges facing the achievement of these goals, however, are considerable. In many cases the baseline conditions for their improvement are hardly in place. One of the major obstacles to peace in West Africa has been the lack of viable systems of democratic governance in the sub-region.

At the regional level, the ECOWAS Commission has worked to strengthen its conflict prevention and peacekeeping mechanism while, at the international level, the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN) and the international community have provided support at various levels to ensure peace and security within the sub-region.

In December 1999, ECOWAS Heads of State and Government signed the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security in which commitments were made to address the security challenges in the sub-region. Subsequently a number of frameworks and follow-up action plans have been initiated by ECOWAS that focus on specific security and political challenges in the sub-region.

Among them is the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF), which is intended to serve as a framework for conflict prevention and peace-building strategy. The ECOWAS Standby Force, for example, is part of the strategy to achieve the objectives of the ECPF.

The Danish Support to the Africa Peace Programme 2 is aligned to the regional security structure and for this region, ECOWAS.

The Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre plays an important role in this by training peacekeepers – and like today - by arranging this policy workshop on the implementation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework. Hopefully after these two
days, we will know better where we are and what is to be done to be one step closer to a peaceful region.

I wish you good wind and good luck.
SECTION III: PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section is based on presentations made by various speakers at the workshop. The report captures the central theme of the presentation and followed by summary of the discussions under each of them.

(a) The process leading to the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework

The West African region has been afflicted by conflicts and socio-political crises whose causes are multiple and were not detected at the appropriate time for prevention. Efforts at managing these conflicts though quite successful were plagued by discrepancies and lack of harmonization even at the highest levels. Eruption of intra-state conflicts ushered in rebel and militant groups who perpetuated severe atrocities. Rebellions and devastating civil wars in parts of West Africa including Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau prompted the need for an all encompassing framework to guide future initiatives aimed at protecting life and property as well as security of member states, institutions and most importantly human security in the region. The growing concern to outline activities and programs that will help to effectively prevent conflicts led to the enactment on 16\textsuperscript{th} January 2008 of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework by the Mediation and Security Council of ECOWAS. The document’s general aim is to strengthen the human security architecture in West Africa.

The ECPF draws its strength from the following legal frameworks;

- Protocol on Non-aggression - 1978
- Declaration of ECOWAS Political Principles - 1991
- ECOWAS Revised Treaty - 1993
- Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security - 1999

\[1\] This topic was presented by Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, Executive Director, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding.
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- Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance - 2001
- Declaration on a Sub Regional Approach to Peace and Security – 2003
- ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Other Related Materials – 2006

These constitute the frameworks for addressing regional peace and security issues.

**Summary of discussions**

Discussions that ensued after the presentation touched on multiple issues including the prospect of employing the ECPF as a working tool or document and the provisions and avenues for civil society engagement in all matters relating to conflicts, peace and security.

Some of the participants argued that Protocols are becoming increasingly ineffective in addressing West Africa’s conflicts and insecurities. For the past years, efforts have been made to identify and address the challenges at ECOWAS borders. However, the challenges still persist. Customs, immigration and police officers at various borders work without recourse to the various protocols and this has over the years undermined the effort of the sub-region towards integration. Consequently, politicians must put in extra effort to remove all hindrances at the various borders and to see to the effective implementation of the various protocols and more importantly the ECPF which makes it possible to implement the ECOWAS Strategic Vision 2020 aimed at transforming the regional body from an ECOWAS of States to ECOWAS of the People. Linked to the idea of bringing ECOWAS to the people is the issue of poverty and how its management could help achieve the goal of human security. To help address this, participants stressed that the 14 components of ECPF directly or indirectly attempt to address poverty. As a result, they must be pursued vigorously and in an integrated manner. They cited the issue of common currency and free movement of goods and services as important steps, which will ultimately help deal with poverty. However, as has been noted earlier, the challenges at the borders, which are exacerbated by corruption, continue to slow progress. To lend credence to the argument on border challenges, they noted that member states should travel with certificate rather than passport in order to achieve the huge project of ECOWAS of people.
Contributing to the discussion on the operationalisation of the ECPF, a participant from Liberia noted that issues such as marginalization and corruption should be seriously taken into consideration. He argued that, in Liberia, civil society organizations are playing active roles in ensuring that the county does not relapse into another conflict. Corruption in most West African countries continues to be a major challenge and should be seen as a systemic problem and that approaches to dealing with it must be multifaceted and comprehensive.

Another point that engaged the attention of participants was the issue of women and their involvement in conflict prevention. While some participants emphasized the need to involve women, others were of the opinion that the women peace and security component of the ECPF is being overplayed to the neglect of men. The speaker stressed the fact that the involvement of women has recently gained currency in security discourses partly because women suffer most in conflict situations, especially regarding sexual exploitation. He made reference to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that emphasizes the role of women in peacekeeping. Despite this Resolution, mediation efforts in Congo and Sierra Leone did not include women to enable them make relevant inputs pertaining to their needs and to help address conflicts in the sub region.

The discussion finally centered on the viability and the sustainability of the ECPF. How different would it be from previous protocols? Clearly, the previous protocols continue to remain in the hands of the Heads of States and Governments, who often do not have the political will to make things happen. The difference between the ECPF and previous documents is the fact that it provides the opportunity for several stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector to get involved in its implementation.

Flowing from this discussion, some experts present argued that the overarching challenge inherent in the implementation of the ECPF is that, each stakeholder/actor has a critical role to play in the entire process and not just at the level of the heads of States and Governments of ECOWAS, creating issues of ownership of the document. The discussion therefore concluded on the points that all principal actors (Governments, CSOs and ECOWAS) must play their roles to ensure effective implementation of the ECPF document and its sustainability, which success or failure is a collective responsibility.
(b) The International Institutions (ECPF Project) and Research Findings

The International Institutions Program (IIP) is one of four programmatic areas based at the Research Department of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC). The IIP has the objective of forging closer collaboration between the KAIPTC and partner institutions such as the Economic Community of West Africa State (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) for the purposes of supporting their conflict prevention, peace and security programs. Beyond these institutions, academic and donor institutions who work in the area of conflict prevention, peace and security are also important partners. In the years ahead, the Program seeks to build valuable networks that will allow it to achieve its objective of promoting peace and security through partnerships.

The Program operates two Projects: the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) and the Civilian Component of the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF).

The ECPF Project

The first phase of the ECPF Project covers a three-year period and has the objective of supporting ECOWAS in the implementation of ECPF through policy research, workshops and training programmes.

Detailed objectives of the Project are to:

- Ascertain levels of awareness of the ECPF among policymakers in the sub-region;
- Promote awareness about the ECPF at the state level among policymakers;
- Promote the implementation of the ECPF through policy dialogues;
- Identify stakeholders in the implementation of the ECPF;
- Assist stakeholders to propose appropriate policy options towards enhancing the implementation of the ECPF; and
- Develop training programmes based on the various components of the ECPF.

Research Findings

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2 This presentation was made by Mr. Samuel Atuobi, Head of Program, International Institutions (ECPF Project) at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
The Project conducted a study in four West African states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia) in June 2010. The study sought to measure the level of awareness of the ECPF among policymakers and identify stakeholders as well as opportunities and challenges associated with implementation in a bid to come out with suggestions on how to enhance the implementation of the ECPF. The study was conducted along with the distribution of flyers containing relevant information about the ECPF. Among the findings of the study are the following:

- Level of awareness is low in all the countries surveyed
- Those who are aware of the document are not conversant with its key objectives.
- Level of interest in the document is high
- Few respondents had copies of the document
- There is a lack of national ownership as the document is still viewed as an ECOWAS document
- Civil society and government organizations are undertaking similar initiatives related to the 14 components although these have not been coordinated or seriously promoted.
- There are no specific activities directly aimed at implementing the ECPF within the countries surveyed.

**Based on the findings, the study made the following recommendations:**

- There is the need to embark on state-level awareness campaign about the ECPF in all the 15 ECOWAS member states;
- Awareness campaign should include distribution of the ECPF document in all the 15 ECOWAS member states;
- There is the need to broaden stakeholder participation in the implementation processes of the ECPF;
- Civil society participation in the implementation of the ECPF is crucial given the fact that most of them are already engaged in interventions on the 14 components of the document;
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- There is the need for ECOWAS to complete all the Plans of Action on the 14 components of the ECPF and make it available to all stakeholders so that their activities would aim directly at the implementation of the ECPF.
- Institutions working on initiatives captured in the ECPF should be encouraged to implement it by focusing on activities identified in the Plans of Actions;
- Copies of the ECPF document should be made available and accessible to stakeholders in the sub-region and beyond. The general public could also find the document useful.

(c) The 14 Components of the ECPF

The ECPF contains 14 component areas that stipulate expansive set of activities to be undertaken in each area and benchmarks for assessing progress. It also identifies the level of capacity required to accomplish or facilitate the accomplishment of set objectives. The 14 components address multidimensional issues not only applicable to ECOWAS but member states and civil society organizations and therefore imperative for all actors to be involved in the process.

The components are; Early warning; Preventive diplomacy; Democracy and political governance; Human rights and the rule of law; Media; Natural resource governance; Cross-border initiative; Security governance; Practical disarmament; Women, peace and security; Youth empowerment; ECOWAS Standby Force; Humanitarian assistance and Peace education. All activities by ECOWAS, member states and civil society are expected to revolve around these components. Beyond these components, there is also the enabling mechanism which spans advocacy, cooperation, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation. The presenter took participants through the details of each of the components, that is, the activities, the benchmarks for progress and capacity required to accomplish the identified activities.

Summary of discussions

The discussion basically focused on the involvement of civil society in accelerating the process of implementing the ECPF. The head of the ECPF program indicated that the involvement of

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3 Kenneth Abotsi, Technical Expert, GTZ program at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
many civil society organizations in the workshop is ample demonstration that civil society organizations will not be left out in the implementation process. The KAIPC and ECOWAS see CSOs as key partners in the implementation of the ECPF. Through further discussion it became clear that a lot of civil society organisations are already involved in the implementation of several of the components the presentations had focused on. It was emphasized that with increased financial support to CSOs they can focus a lot more on the implementation of the ECPF. It is therefore necessary for ECOWAS to begin identifying CSOs involved in the implementations of the ECPF and provide them with the necessary financial and technical assistance.

(d) The ECOWAS Early Warning System

Breakout of civil wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone and later in Cote d’Ivoire leading to devastating loss of lives and property and the risk of spill-over into other West African States prompted a shift in the original ECOWAS agenda of economic integration to conflict prevention. The basic understanding was that economic integration can only be achieved in an environment of peace and security. Early warning was conceptualized around human security rather than the existing models of traditional intelligence and state security, ensuring civil society plays a central role in the process. It is an open source system of information gathering and sharing covering issues of environment, intra-state conflicts, human rights abuses, natural disasters and humanitarian crises, crime and other socio-economic and political issues.

With 4 zonal offices that coordinate activities from focal points in all member states, information is gathered based on 94 predefined criteria, collated and disseminated to the ECOWAS Evaluation and Monitoring Centre (EMC) for analysis and response. The Early Warning System adopts both qualitative and quantitative approach to information gathering and maintains its credibility by ensuring that information gathered is timely, accurate, valid, reliable and verifiable. Effectiveness of response hinges on fundamental linkages between analysis and action, making it imperative for zonal offices and CSOs at the grassroots to work in close

\[4\] Presentation by Mr. Augustin Sagna, Head, ECOWAS Zonal Bureau 4, Benin.

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collaboration with the EMC and hence all ECOWAS structures tasked with the execution of response.

The Early Warning System derives its legitimacy from a variety of legal instruments. Article 58 of the 1993 Revised Treaty which bothers on regional security is emphatic on the establishment of a regional security observation system. Chapter IV of the Mechanism further prescribes a framework for the establishment of the peace and security observation system mentioned in the Revised Treaty. The Mechanism lays a comprehensive structure encompassing NGOs and CSOs at the local level that collect raw data and send them to zonal offices for collation. Data from this point is passed on to the EMC for analysis and then to ECOWAS bodies tasked with responsive action. Sections of the 2001 Supplementary protocol also espouse issues that form the basis for conflicts prevention within the region such as Article 36 which enjoins member states to institutionalize a national mediation system, for which data from the early warning system is fundamental. Finally, the 2003 declaration on a sub regional approach to peace and security which deals with the integration of various actors into ECOWAS activities makes it possible for ECOWAS to engage civil society in all matters relating to regional peace and security, including early warning.

And with the adoption of the ECPF, it is not inadvertent that early warning appears foremost amongst the 14 components within the framework. Over the years, the early Warning System has contributed immensely to the aversion of large-scale instability in some parts of the region by volunteering timely information leading to application of direct spontaneous action. However, the lack of a direct feedback or reverse reporting system remains a major challenge of the entire system as zonal offices and focal points are unable to evaluate the efficacy or otherwise of the information volunteered to ECOWAS.

**Summary of discussions**

Discussions that followed the presentation focused on the reliability of the information gathered through the Early Warning System. Some participants wanted to know whether the existence of two focal points in each country does not contribute to conflicting information. In response, the speaker noted that the critical issue of concern is not only the reliability of information gathered but the timeliness of data received from focal points. However, he admitted
that in some cases there may be conflicting reports from the two focal points as data is gathered from open sources and added that measures are taken to ensure that conflicting reports are managed. The focal points, which are the civil society and the government, are ranked 1 and 2 respectively. The focal point 2 which represent the government is ranked higher in terms of reporting of early warning signs in the sub-region. Essentially, however, the 2 exist to determine what is happening at any particular point in time and offer information leading to timely response in terms of deployment to prevent imminent conflict. To ensure the data from the system is reliable, participants agreed that, it was important for the two focal points (from the government and civil society) to work closely together in an atmosphere devoid of mistrust.

(e) The ECOWAS Standby Force within the context of the ECPF

The ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) is situated within a larger context of the African Standby Force (ASF). The ESF has perhaps been strategically placed within the 14 components of the ECPF only to be utilized after early warning, preventive diplomacy and all other initiatives have failed to elicit the anticipated outcome. It is an initiative that derives its legal mandate from Article 4(d) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union which calls for the establishment of “a common defence and security policy for the African Continent”. Also Article 3(e) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union which mandates the Peace and Security Council with the object to “develop a common defence policy for the Union, in accordance with article 4(d) of the Constitutive Act”.

Within the ECOWAS context, Article 58 of the Revised Treaty among other things stipulates the establishment of a regional peace and security observation system and peacekeeping forces. Articles 21 and 22 of the Mechanism also describe the composition and role of the standby force as well as other provisions in Chapters V, VI, VIII and IX. Furthermore, Section IV of the Supplementary Protocol mentions the ESF with particular reference to Article 28 of the Mechanism. Within the context of the ECPF, the objective of the ESF is to ensure peace and security in conflict and disaster situations by way of observation, monitoring, deployment and

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5. By Emma Birikorang, Head of Program, International Institutions, Civilian Component of the ECOWAS Standby Force, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
humanitarian assistance. Several activities have been prescribed to help achieve the objective of the ESF. They include:

- Reinforcing the capacity of the Departments of Peace and Security and Humanitarian Affairs;
- Strengthening the mission planning and operational support division;
- Reinforcing the offices of the Special representatives and mediators (Council of the Wise);
- The use of expertise of think tanks;
- Enlistment of citizens into civilian component;
- The role of civil society through awareness raising; and
- Humanitarian liaison and the involvement of all regional actors.

Three centers of excellence in Nigeria, Ghana and Mali have been earmarked by ECOWAS to conduct and deliver training at the strategic, operational and tactical levels respectively aside other training centers in the region. The ESF is arguably the most developed and advanced regional standby force on the African continent. Though the ESF has met many of the benchmarks for operationalisation of the ASF by 2010, it is still faced with some challenges, among which are the slow development of the civilian component within member states, the lack of political will of member states to make due their commitment to the standby arrangements, lack of capacity within ECOWAS and member states and political challenges inherent in the operationalisation of the ESF which are yet to be surmounted.

**Summary of discussions**

There were concerns that functions of the ESF and ASF may overlap. This was clarified by the speaker who said that within the framework of the ECOWAS peace and security architecture the functions of the ESF and ASF do not overlap. This is because the ASF is made up of five regional standby forces that will come together upon receipt of mandate for peace operation. In this context the ASF can be used to deal with security challenges in different regions of Africa,
especially where the AU has the responsibility to request a member country to respond to a situation other than in its own country. Nevertheless, it is necessary to have one composite office in a member state to deal with multiplicity of issues.

Another issue that came up during discussions was opening of the office of the special representative for ECOWAS in troubled countries and their closure, when in the minds of some participants, problems still persist in those countries. It was explained that such offices are not meant to be permanent hence their closure when ECOWAS feels that a semblance of stability has been restored. It should be recalled that ECOWAS closed down its office for the special representative in Monrovia on the basis of peace and stability restored to the country. It was therefore not cost effective to run an office when the conflict was no longer raging.

(f) Gender, Peace and Security and the ECPF: Lessons from KAIPTC Gender Program

The presentation centered on Gender, Peace and Security Program and Women, Peace and Security Institute (WPSI), which are all based in the Research Department of KAIPTC.

Contextualizing gender, peace and security within the ECPF, reference was made to Section VIII Paragraph 81 of the ECPF document, which deals with Women, Peace and Security. This component aims to facilitate the realization of the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1325; the relevant provisions of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty, in particular Article 63; the relevant provisions of the Mechanism; and the provisions of Articles 40 - 43 of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. The objective of the Women, Peace and Security component of ECPF shall be to propel and consolidate women’s role and contribution to centre stage in the design, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of conflict prevention, resolution, peace-building and humanitarian initiatives while strengthening regional and national mechanisms for the protection and advancement of women.

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6. By Ms Aissatou Fall, Head of Program, Gender Peace and Security, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
Against the background of the above frameworks and treaties, the Gender Peace and Security program at Research Department of KAIPTC deems it important to mainstream gender issues in training courses. Consequently, the Gender Peace and Security Program focus on the following:

- Sexual exploitation and abuse of women in conflict and post-conflict states
- Mainstream gender into peace and security issues at the national and regional levels.

In pursuit of these objectives, field studies have been undertaken in some West African countries, including Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire and Sierra Leone. The field studies revealed a glaring abuse and lack of protection for women in conflict situations. Victims who report their situation to the security agencies, particularly the police are branded prostitutes. This is an example of stereotype against women. The field study also revealed that structures at work places are not gender sensitive. Based on this field work, it became imperative that serious effort has to be made to correct the situation. To help achieve this, a module on sexual exploitation has been designed to help train peace support staff, both men and women.

The second program, ‘Women, Peace and Security Institute (WPSI), was due to be launched on 27th October. The 7-year project is initiated by the UN through United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and implemented by KAIPTC. The first two years will be used as pilot and the subsequent five years for the operationalisation stage which will be contingent on five pillars. These are:

- Women’s participation in peace negotiations and preventive diplomacy;
- Increasing women’s leadership role in security institutions and participation in peacekeeping activities;
- African women’s leadership in responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict;
- Policy and academic research on gender, peace and security; and
- Documentation of women’s contributions to peace processes in Africa.

The project derives its strength from the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820. These resolutions show that there are existing gaps regarding the role of women in peacekeeping. The WPSI program which started in June, followed by the expert meeting in July and the baseline
study in September, 2010 in Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia will constitute reawakening of the consciousness of women in peace operations. Measures will also be put in place to make it more sustainable as opposed to previous women projects.

**Summary of discussions**

Issues that were raised during discussions bordered on the concept of gender. That is, whether gender is only about women, and the role of men in discussing gender issues? Response from the speaker was that gender is not only about women issues. Rather, it encompasses issues of men, vulnerabilities and culture. However, in relation to conflicts and peace operations, women suffer unduly to their vulnerability. A clear case of women abuse is sexual exploitation, which affects women socially, physically and psychologically. It became clear that the abuse of women is caused by several factors, among which are ignorance and socio-economic/cultural factors. Research conducted by the Women, Peace and Security program at KAIPTC indicated that women who had suffered sexual exploitation were unable to testify before the police, the ordeal they had gone through because of cultural issues and the fear of stigmatization. Given the extent of the problem of gender-based violence, participants suggested the need for countries to come out with stringent punishment for perpetrators. Again, there is the need for organisations involved in gender issue to step up awareness creation as part of the fight against gender-based violence.

**Civil society and implementation of the ECPF**

The ECPF makes a strategic reference to civil society in its introductory stage by acknowledging in Section II (4) the critical roles of civil society in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. The ECPF further recognizes member states and civil society as principal constituencies and partners in conflict prevention and peace-building, with ECOWAS acting as facilitator of conflict transformation interventions by member states and civil society. Although the ECPF concedes the responsibility to ensure peace and security to governments of member states,

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7. By Mr. Francis Acquah, Programs Coordinator, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, Accra, Ghana.
Section IX, the enabling mechanism further identifies civil society organizations as partners at all levels in the implementation and evaluation of the ECPF.

The involvement of CSOs in the implementation of the ECPF holds a lot of potentials given the success which governments/ECOWAS and civil society partnership has recorded in the area of the ECOWAS Early Warning System. In the implementation of its early warning program, ECOWAS continues to work with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding whose affiliates serve as focal points for ECOWAS. So far, civil society involvement in the implementation of the other components of the ECPF is yet to be fully explored.

Civil society groups on their part also need to improve coordination and build their capacity so that they can take advantage of the opportunities that the implementation of the ECPF offers. The lack of coordination at the regional, national and local levels among CSOs often lead to unhealthy competition and duplication of efforts that hampers their effectiveness.

**Summary of discussions**

Discussions centered on the availability of funds and capacity building programs for CSOs to participate in the implementation of the ECPF. Most of the participants who were members of civil society argued that though they are prepared to embark on activities under the various components of the ECPF, they are not sure of potential sources of funding. It however became clear during the discussion that CSOs need to work hard to attract funding based on good project proposals that donors, including ECOWAS, could help finance. It also became clear that some CSOs do not have the capacity in terms of expertise and human resource to implement projects. To this end, CSOs who want to get involved in the implementation of the ECPF should take a second look at their own capacity. One area in which CSOs were encouraged to improve their capacities is as regards project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Given the consensus that the involvement of civil society was very critical for the successful implementation of the ECPF, there is the need for the KAIPTC and ECOWAS to identify some civil society organizations to partner in the implementation of the ECPF for capacity building.
SECTION IV: GROUP SESSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Day two of the workshop was devoted to group exercises on three thematic areas on the ECPF: (a) awareness creation; (b) stakeholder collaboration and partnership; and (c) capacity building. The purpose of the exercises was to task groups to come out with practical suggestions on what needs to be done under the above themes for the purpose of enhancing the implementation of the ECPF. What follows are presentations made by the working groups.

**Group A – Awareness Creation: Taking the ECPF closer to the West African people**

Against the backdrop of the findings from the 4-nation study which observed among other things low level of awareness about the ECPF among policymakers and stakeholders, this group was tasked with fashioning out various media through which awareness creation about the ECPF can be facilitated. The group also needed to consider the roles CSOs, ECOWAS and member states had to play in awareness creation in relation to the ECPF. The following observations and recommendations emanated from the group:

- **Education**: Formal and informal education should be used as a major means of raising the awareness level of the ECPF among policymakers and the general populace in West Africa. In this regard, it is necessary to incorporate ECOWAS Studies into educational curricula of member states from the basic to tertiary stages and with emphasis on the study of the various protocols, declarations, the treaty and decisions including the ECPF.

- **Sensitization workshops/seminars**: These must be targeted at special interest groups including academic institutions, religious groups, local and traditional authorities, youth and women groups, media, political institutions, professional groups, vulnerable and disabled groupings as well as other civil society organizations. Such targeted efforts will ensure that specific audiences are reached with specific components of the ECPF.

- **Town Hall meetings**: In order to propagate the idea of the ECPF, discussion forums should be established in various towns and villages in collaboration with traditional rulers
and local authorities to inform and educate the population about the objectives of the ECPF and to explore ways of incorporating it into their activities.

- **Social and Peace Clubs**: Formation of clubs in communities and schools should also be encouraged with support provided in facilitation of exchange programs, debates and academic competitions. These would rekindle people’s interest in ECOWAS and the ECPF and facilitate the implementation of various ECOWAS initiatives.

- **Media**: The internet has been one of the main media of information dissemination utilized by ECOWAS. However, there are other equally effective means that could be explored to promote the ECPF agenda.
  
  - **Radio and Television**. By far, the most universal medium of information dissemination, radio and television could be utilized for talk shows, advertisements, ECOWAS jingles and panel discussions on critical issues to mobilize support from grassroots and influence policy formulation and implementation.
  
  - **Newspapers/magazines/publications**. Press releases and statements, brochures, leaflets and articles are also important in the drive to create and increase awareness about ECOWAS initiatives. It would be useful to broaden the scope and coverage of such efforts to get the ECPF idea across to majority of people.

- **Other Medium**. With its enhanced capacity to unite large and diverse numbers of people, sports can serve a valuable platform in promoting not only the ECPF but other ECOWAS agenda. ECOWAS should therefore use its status and good offices to organize sporting events and festivals in member states at regular intervals to keep the ECOWAS spirit alive.
Role of ECOWAS, member states, and CSOs in awareness creation

- **The Role of Civil Society:** Civil societies including political parties should include in their sensitization programs, party manifestos and institutional codes relevant portions of the ECOWAS protocols and conventions including the ECPF.

- **The Role of ECOWAS Member States:** Member states should adhere to and fully implement the protocols, conventions and decisions of ECOWAS, particularly the ECPF. They should also ensure that ECOWAS protocols are reflected in their national development and policy decisions, as well as educational policies.

- **The Role of ECOWAS:** ECOWAS should support awareness creation by its member states and civil society groups. Like the zonal bureaus, ECOWAS should establish focal points in each member state to push the agenda of awareness creation. The focal points will also serve as liaison offices for the full implementation of the ECPF.

The group strongly recommended that awareness creation (information dissemination) on ECOWAS and the ECPF should be carried out in both official and local languages in the various member states.

**Group B – Stakeholder participation and collaboration: a necessary precondition for collective implementation**

Stakeholder participation and collaboration is considered one of the key ingredients that can help propel the implementation of the ECPF. It was therefore important for the workshop to focus on it during group discussions. Our research findings indicate high interest in the ECPF, but low level of collaboration among various actors. This is because, notwithstanding the fact that a variety of actors are implementing some activities that can effectively be categorized under the 14 components of the ECPF, these efforts are uncoordinated leading to duplication of efforts and in some instance unhealthy competition among actors.

Group B was therefore tasked to identify potential actors/stakeholders crucial for the implementation of the ECPF and at what level they may need to collaborate. The following
actors were identified as necessary partners and stakeholders that should form the foundation for any targeted effort at implementing the ECPF.

- **Government/State:** Member States must take full ownership of the document by ratifying all protocols associated with the ECPF. The following state/government institutions were identified as actors crucial for the implementation of the ECPF;
  - Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
  - Ministries of Justice
  - Ministries of Education
  - Ministries of Interior/internal affairs
  - Ministries in Charge of Institutional Relations
  - Ministries of Information and Communication

- **Mass Media:** the media is considered as an important stakeholder in the implementation of the ECPF. This is because the media can help highlight all activities relating to the implementation of the ECPF.

- **Civil Society:** Civil society actors operating within the ECPF domain should play an active role in its implementation.

- **ECOWAS:** ECOWAS as the originator of the ECPF is an important actor in ensuring that it is successfully implemented.

- **Technical and Financial Partners (TFP):** TFP can support activities relating to the ECPF through technical and financial support to ECOWAS, member states and civil society groups working towards the implementation of the ECPF.
Levels of Collaboration among actors

ECOWAS should capitalize on leveraging on the synergies of actors involved to speed up the implementation of the document. A network of organizations should also be set up to facilitate the implementation of the plans of action. There is the need for a formalized or institutionalized collaboration between actors at each level of the matrix, with roles clearly defined and benchmarks set for the evaluation of performance and progress.

The table below shows the various roles stakeholder can play and the level of collaboration between them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Civil Society</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>ECOWAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gov</strong></td>
<td>Offer capacity building support</td>
<td>Provide the enabling environment for free speech to thrive</td>
<td>Identify avenues for mutual engagement</td>
<td>Cooperate with ECOWAS in peace and security issues</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Civil Society</strong></td>
<td>Influence policy decisions and implementation</td>
<td>Involve media in all conflict prevention activities</td>
<td>Design good conflict prevention proposals that will attract support from TFPs.</td>
<td>Undertake research that feeds into ECOWAS’ conflict prevention agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Media</strong></td>
<td>Propagate ECPF efforts by government to the grassroots</td>
<td>support CSOs to popularize conflict-related activities</td>
<td>Highlight critical areas for technical and financial support</td>
<td>Constant dialogue and dissemination of ECOWAS activities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TFP</strong></td>
<td>Support government activities with emphasis on conflict prevention</td>
<td>Provide technical support in project management</td>
<td>Give special financial support to specialized media houses in reporting early warning signs</td>
<td>Help establish M &amp; E systems to evaluate projects</td>
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</table>
Group C – Capacity building: empowering stakeholders towards successful operationalisation of the ECPF

In a bid to rally support and solicit cooperation within and outside the region, it is imperative for all actors and stakeholders to develop technical and professional capacities in relation to the ECPF. This will enable individuals and institutions to mobilize the needed technical, material and financial resources to implement the ECPF. In this regard, Group C was asked to identify capacity building at three levels; the ECOWAS, State and Civil Society levels.

- **ECOWAS Level:** human, material and financial resources should be mobilized to support initiatives within the ECOWAS Commission. The Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) should be reinforced to develop feedback mechanism that allows it to track and evaluate all activities relating to the implementation of the ECPF. Training of Trainers for various stakeholders is another area for capacity development to provide a solid base for continuous improvement. It would be helpful for ECOWAS to support the development of national action plans in line with regional POAs in order to commit member states to full ownership and implementation of the document.

- **State Level:** Member states should provide support for and collaborate with CSOs in developing national plans to implement the ECPF. Provision of training and institutional development as well as legal and regulatory frameworks should play a vital role in the implementation process at the state level.

- **Civil Society Level:** CSOs should develop training manuals for actors involved in the implementation of the ECPF. Specific projects should also be instituted around the 14
components of the ECPF with measurable objectives and appraisal mechanisms. Civil society groups will need to develop their capacity for monitoring and evaluation of activities relating to the implementation of the ECPF. This will help ensure that progress is well appraised and programs revised when necessary and at the right time.
SECTION V: CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The two-day workshop ended in the evening of 22 October with participants expressing satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting. For most of them, the workshop provided the opportunity to improve their understanding of what the ECPF stood for. They therefore expressed the willingness to take part in future activities relating to the ECPF. Participants also encouraged the organizers of the workshop to create a network of organisations working on the ECPF. Since most organisations (especially CSOs) have funding challenges, they requested that ECOWAS should help fund activities that relate directly to the implementation of the ECPF.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Augustin Sagna, head of Zonal Bureau IV of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention and Management Program expressed satisfaction over the frank and open manner with which discussions at the workshop were vigorously pursued. He stated that the debate to unearth new and improved ways of operationalizing the ECPF will continue unabated and urged all participants to share their experiences and insights on the ECPF with other organizations and their colleagues.

The head of the ECPF Project, Mr. Samuel Atuobi was delighted that participants worked so hard to accomplish the primary objectives set for the workshop. He appealed to all participants to carry the message of conflict prevention, with particular emphasis on the ECPF back to their countries, organizations, and colleagues. He further stated that the ECPF Project will be replicated in other West African countries in the near future and encouraged participants to avail their expertise when called upon.

Finally, he expressed satisfaction with the final recommendations of the workshops which he said are useful for the successful implementation of the ECPF. He said the workshop report will be distributed widely (in French and English) to ensure that it becomes reference point for policymakers on the implementation of the ECPF.

Although the group presentations above contain a number of recommendations, the workshop came out with key recommendations for consideration by policymakers (ECOWAS, member states, civil society and the international community). The recommendations are:
Liaison offices should be set up in member countries to collate and coordinate activities relating to the implementation of the ECPF;

A division should also be created under PAPS to monitor and evaluate progress of implementation;

There is the need for the creation of a network of civil society organizations involved in the implementation of the ECPF to brainstorm and share best practices;

Translation of the document into Portuguese with abridged versions in local languages of member states;

Mainstream gender into conflict prevention tools especially the ECPF to ensure that issues of gender are crosscutting in all respects;

ECOWAS to attach urgency to the development of POAs to guide the implementation process; and

ECOWAS to ensure that the ECPF is integrated into policies on conflict prevention within member states.
1. ANNEXES

A. Workshop Program

Policy Workshop on
Enhancing the Operationalisation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
Organised by the Kofii Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and the Economic Community of West African States

21-22 October 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20 October 2010</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
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Day One: 21 October 2010
Opening ceremony, presentations and discussions on the ECPF, the KAIPTC’s ECPF Project, and findings of research on state-level awareness about the ECPF in four ECOWAS member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia)

Opening ceremony
Coordinator: Mr. Ebenezer ANNUM-TETTEH, Head of Corporate Communications, KAIPTC

0830 – 0900 Arrivals and registration of participants

0900 – 0930 Opening remark
Brig. Gen G K ADJEI, Deputy Commandant, KAIPTC
HE Ambassador Chris Kpodo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Madam Vibeke Gram Mortensen, Counselor, Danish Embassy
Mr. Augustin SAGNA, Head, ECOWAS Zone 4 Bureau, Benin

0930 – 0945 Group photograph
### Enhancing the Operationalisation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session One 1015 - 1200</th>
<th>Moderator: Emma BIRIKORANG, KAIPTC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0945 – 1015</td>
<td>Refreshment/Media interactions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session One 1015 - 1200</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Emma BIRIKORANG, KAIPTC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>The processes leading to the ECPF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong></td>
<td>Emmanuel BOMBANDE, Executive Director West Africa Network for Peacebuilding</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Introducing the KAIPTC ECPF Project and Research Findings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong></td>
<td>Samuel ATUOBI, KAIPTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1015 - 1200</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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### Session Two 1330 – 1700

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Two 1330 – 1700</th>
<th>Moderator: Nansata Yakubu, Parliamentary Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>ECOWAS Early Warning System: How it functions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong></td>
<td>Augustine SAGNA, ECOWAS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Introduction of the 14 components of the ECPF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong></td>
<td>Ken ABOTSI, KAIPTC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>The ECOWAS Standby Force and the ECPF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong></td>
<td>Emma BIRIKORANG, KAIPTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 – 1530</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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### Session Two (cont.)

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Gender, Peace and Security and the ECPF: Lessons from KAIPTC Gender Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong></td>
<td>Aissatou FALL, KAIPTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
<td>Civil Society and the implementation of the ECPF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong></td>
<td>Francis Acquah, WANEP Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>1845 – 2100</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner (Buka Restaurant)</td>
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</table>
### Day Two: 22 October 2010

**Way forward: opportunities and challenges towards implementation of the ECPF by the ECOWAS Commission and member states based on issues emerging from research findings (a) awareness creation, (b) stakeholder participation and collaboration and (c) capacity building**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0900 – 0930</td>
<td>Presentation on synthesis of issues identified from Day One’s discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Okyere (rapporteur)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0930 – 1030</td>
<td><strong>Topic</strong> The ECPF Plans of Action: The Media Component</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Speaker</strong> Professor Kwame KARIKARI, Executive Director Media Foundation for West Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>1030 - 1045</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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**Session Three**

**Moderator:** Pascaline AHOUANNIMON, RASALED, Benin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1045 – 1200</td>
<td>Thematic group discussions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- awareness creation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- stakeholder participation and collaboration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- capacity building</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Session Four**

**Moderator:** Kaindii, Office of ECOWAS Special Representative to Liberia

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200 – 1300</td>
<td>Plenary presentation of outcome of group discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Awareness creation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Stakeholder participation and collaboration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Capacity building</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300 – 1400</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400 – 1500</td>
<td>Presentation of outcome of group discussions (cont.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Session Five**

**Moderator:** Col-Major Abdoulaye BARRO, President, National Commission on Small Arms, Burkina Faso
1500 – 1620  Final Recommendations

1620 - 1640  Closing remarks
   Samuel ATUOBI, ECPF Project KAIPTC
   Augustin SAGNA, Head of ECOWAS Bureau, Zone 4, Benin

1640 – 1700  Coffee break

23 October 2010  Departure
## B. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alfred F. QUAYJANDII</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>National Human Rights Centre</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Robert Y. LORMIA II</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mr. Kaindii MOMOLU Jnr</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Office of ECOWAS Special Rep to Liberia</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Julien N. OUSSO</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>WANEP Benin</td>
<td>Benin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Augustin SAGNA</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>ECOWAS Zonal Bureau</td>
<td>Benin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Slyvere B GBAGUIDI</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs &amp; African Integration</td>
<td>Benin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pascaline AHOUANGNIMON</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>ONG OFER Coordination RASALEB</td>
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