

# Regional Seminar REPORT



## *Towards Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery in West Africa, Accra, Ghana, 27-29 June 2010*



**With the financial support of  
the Belgian Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
Executive Summary	4
Introduction	6
Opening Ceremony	8
<b>SESSIONS</b>	
1) Political Violence and Instability in West Africa: A Critical Analysis of the Role of Parliamentarians and Political Parties	11
2) Parliamentary Performance and Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery Mechanisms in West Africa	14
3) Parliaments as Peace-Building Institutions: Responding to the Challenges of Gender-Based Violence in West Africa	17
4) Working group discussion on the basis of the research papers	20
5 & 6) Strengthening the Role of parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Experience from the West African region	22
7) Possible solutions, opportunities and work plans at regional and national levels to collectively improve parliamentary performance in crisis prevention and recovery issues in West Africa	32
8) Plenary discussion on possible solutions, opportunities and work plans	32
9) Closing session: partnerships and recommendations on how to better work together – solutions identified and next steps	37
Conclusion	39
<b>Annexes</b>	
1) Agenda	40
2) Participants list	43

# ***ACCRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS***

<b>AWEPA</b>	Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa
<b>BCPR</b>	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
<b>BDP</b>	Bureau for Development Policy
<b>CBP</b>	Capacity Building Program
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CIDA</b>	Canadian International Development Agency
<b>CPR</b>	Crisis Prevention and Recovery
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CSPA</b>	Civil Society Policy and Advocacy Program
<b>DCAF</b>	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
<b>DGG</b>	Democratic Governance Group
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>ECOFEPA</b>	ECOWAS Female Parliamentarians Association
<b>ECOWARN</b>	ECOWAS Warning and Response Network
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>FES</b>	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence
<b>GPPS</b>	Global Programme for Parliamentary Strengthening
<b>IPU</b>	Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>JLP</b>	Justice Lens Program
<b>PC</b>	Parliamentary Centre
<b>RCPM</b>	Regional Crisis Prevention Mechanism's
<b>SALW</b>	Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>SSG/R</b>	Security Sector Governance / Reform
<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNREC</b>	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
<b>WAANSA</b>	West African Action Network on Small Arms
<b>WACSO</b>	West African Civil Society Forum
<b>WANEP</b>	West Africa Network for Peace-building
<b>WAPI</b>	West Africa Peace - building Institute
<b>WARN</b>	West Africa Early Warning and Response Network
<b>WIPNET</b>	Women in Peace-building Network

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the basis of *UNDP Guidelines for the International Community on Parliaments, Crisis Prevention and Recovery*, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) hosted a **regional seminar “Towards Strengthening the role of Parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery in West Africa”**, in Accra (Ghana) on June 27-29 2010 with **60 participants** representing **13 parliaments** from the region<sup>1</sup>, the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament**, key international and regional organizations (such as the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*, the *United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)*, The *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)*), civil society organizations (*West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)*, *West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP)*), and practitioners (*European Commission Delegation*, *Canadian International development Agency (CIDA)*, the *Parliamentary Centre (PC)*, and *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* colleagues ) with the financial support of the **Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

The **regional seminar** provided a unique opportunity to reflect on **past and future capacity development activities** in the field of *crisis prevention and recovery*: what has been **successful** and the impact of such activities for parliaments in **West Africa**. Participants stressed that strengthening **parliaments as a whole institution is a major crisis prevention tool** as this allows the parliaments to effectively play their oversight, legislative and representative functions including on *crisis prevention and recovery* issues such as the creation of dedicated peace parliamentary committees (**Ghana**), legislating on *gender-based violence* in application of **UN Resolution 1325** and **1820** (**Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire**), oversight of the implementation of peace-building or prevention and reconciliation strategies (**Togo, Guinea-Bissau**), and parliamentarians mediating with the rebellion at the local level (**Mali**).

At the **regional level**, participants recognized the multiplier force of the *Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament* and its capacity to interface with national parliaments on *crisis prevention and recovery* issues (particularly during the **Niger** and **Guinea Conakry** crisis). The *Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliaments* sits at a critical stage of evolution with the newly adopted **vision 2020** moving from an **ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of the people** with the establishment of a single economic region (single currency, single central bank, and a legislative community parliament). **Mainstreaming peace and security issues** throughout the **13 standing ECOWAS committees** was highlighted as a way forward. The launch of the *ECOWAS Female Parliamentarians Association (ECOFEPA)* provides another opportunity to further engage on *gender equality* and *gender-based violence* issues in the region.

The **regional approach** was recognized by the parliamentarians as highly relevant as it provided them with an **open space to exchange inspiring good practices and challenges** they face on sensitive issues such as personal security concerns, independence of the parliament from the executive, corruption when dealing with *gender-based violence*, independence from political parties’

<sup>1</sup> Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Republic of Congo, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo.

positions within the region. This regional approach made parliamentarians less isolated in their opinions and questions on the role they can play on *crisis prevention and recovery* issues.

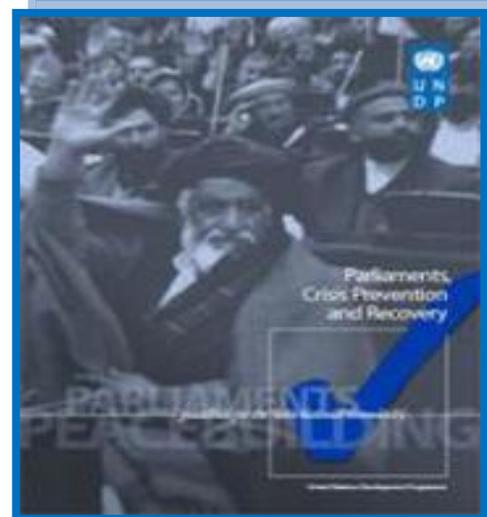
At the **national level**, participants stressed that **parliamentary institutions often remain weak in relation to the executive, armed groups and other non-state actors in post-conflict situations**. As stated in the **UNDP** guidelines, “*building effective democratic governance requires correcting this imbalance*”. The presence of strong and legitimate parliaments is crucial for a greater role in *crisis prevention and recovery* (e.g. **Niger** crisis).

Participants recommended strengthening the role of parliamentarians in the area of *crisis prevention and recovery*; by building their **mediation and communication capacities** to intervene positively in, for example land disputes, border issues and to better engage with their communities on local crisis issues before they escalate. **Joint investigation missions** by parliamentarians, government representatives and civil society organizations were also recommended. **Parliamentary outreach** to citizens and civil society was also highlighted as an important legitimacy strategy to work on crisis prevention and recovery. The question of finding the **right balance between strong political parties and weak parties** also came up during the discussions. Mainstreaming a **conflict sensitive approach to law drafting and review of existing laws** was also identified as an opportunity for parliamentarians to play a greater role in *crisis prevention and recovery*.

On the basis of the **recommendations** of the **regional seminar**, **UNDP** will share the findings with its country offices in the region to better integrate this conflict-sensitive approach in existing parliamentary development projects. The **UNDP self-assessment tool** on parliaments and crisis prevention will be piloted in two countries in the region in the coming months to support two parliaments to better address *crisis prevention and recovery* issues. **UNDP** will continue engaging parliamentarians and partners at the regional level to **consolidate the network of parliamentarians** and identify and **pilot south-south solutions and recommendations**. Finally, all knowledge and research available will be shared on-line under the dedicated **West Africa page** available in French and English on **AGORA** (<http://www.agora-parl.org/node/2713>) and parliamentarians will be invited to continue the discussions and experiences sharing on the *trusted area* of **AGORA**.

# INTRODUCTION

1. On the basis of *UNDP Guidelines for the International Community on Parliaments, Crisis Prevention and Recovery*, **UNDP** has launched a dedicated **initiative and strategy towards empowering parliaments as actors in violence and crisis prevention and post-conflict recovery** through a series of activities in **West Africa** with the financial support of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).
2. The **UNDP Bureau for Development Policy (BDP)** through the *Global Programme for Parliamentary Strengthening – GPPS III* and the **UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR)** have pulled together their expertise and resources for a more effective action towards **empowering parliaments** as actors in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. To this end, a **new dedicated programme** has been launched with the following **objectives**:
  - **Inform the role that national parliaments can play** in supporting the prevention of conflict and of violence and the restoration of community security through research and case studies;
  - **Promote the involvement of national parliaments** in conflict prevention and armed violence reduction with a view to influence policy changes;
  - **Build the capacity of regional organizations and of national parliaments** on conflict prevention and armed violence reduction related issues;
  - **Foster parliamentary coordination** on conflict prevention and recovery with a first thematic window on armed violence and community security related issues at the international, regional and national levels on **AGORA** ([www.agora-parl.org](http://www.agora-parl.org)) and sub-regional parliamentary networks.
3. The programme is working at the global, regional and national levels, with a regional focus on *Central America, West Africa* and the *Arab States Region*. **Activities for 2010 and 2011** include:
  - **Knowledge development and dissemination of case studies** on the role of parliaments in supporting the restoration of community security through dedicated research;
  - **Regional working groups** composed of parliamentarians on specific regional relevant issues of community security;
  - **Capacity development of MPs** skills in law review / modification or in drafting new laws related to community security issues;
  - **Building the capacities of relevant national parliamentary committees.**
4. In the framework of the above mentioned initiative, this the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* hosted a **regional seminar: “Towards Strengthening the role of Parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery in West Africa”**, in *Accra (Ghana)* on **27-29 June 2010**, with the financial support of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).



5. The **regional seminar** brought together around **60 participants** including **parliamentarians** from **13 countries in West Africa**<sup>2</sup> and *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)* Member States, representatives of the **ECOWAS Parliament**, key international and regional organizations [such as the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*, the *United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)*, the *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)*], civil society organizations [such as the *West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)*, the *West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP)*], and practitioners (**European Commission Delegation**, *Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)*, the *Parliamentary Centre (PC)*, and **UNDP** colleagues).
6. The **regional seminar** provided a unique opportunity to establish a **forum for parliamentarians** from **West Africa** to reflect on **past and future capacity development activities** in the field of crisis prevention and recovery, armed violence and community security. The discussions held revolved around the following questions: What is **the impact of such activities** for parliaments in **West Africa**? What has been **successful**? What **support** is needed for effective parliamentary oversight and performance in crisis prevention and peace-building?
7. More specifically, the **objectives** of the **regional seminar** were to:
  - 1) **Present, review and discuss the findings of three research papers**, highlighting best practices and lessons learned in the region, and use the findings of the regional studies to initiate and develop a dialogue and open space for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to identify critical challenges and priorities regarding violence prevention and peace-building in the region;
  - 2) **Identify and debate how parliamentarians see their role** in overcoming obstacles to effective parliamentary oversight and performance in crisis prevention and recovery and security sector reform issues, including concrete examples for sharing good practices and experiences;
  - 3) **Present a draft self-assessment tool** on parliamentary performance on crisis prevention and recovery and security sector reform, ascertain its relevance and **identify 2 potential country-case studies** to be developed in the second semester;
  - 4) **Develop a Joint Action Plan** for partners to be put in place at the regional and national levels in the region. The **Joint Action Plan** will identify issues that parliamentarians want to address, existing mechanisms and bottlenecks to effective action on those issues, and identify what support is needed from **UNDP** and key partners in the region to empower parliamentarians to address priority issues.
8. **This report presents highlights of topics discussed, recommendations and conclusions of the regional seminar.**

---

<sup>2</sup> Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo.

# OPENING CEREMONY

9. The **opening ceremony** was marked by a **knowledge fair** for partners to present their **latest publications** on crisis prevention and recovery and parliamentary development, and a **movie presentation** of **AGORA** (*the web portal on parliamentary development: [www.agora-parl.org](http://www.agora-parl.org)*).

10. During the **opening ceremony**, *Hon. Michael Aaron Oquaye*, Second Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana emphasized the **role and importance of political actors and institutions in fragile / post-conflict states in driving and supporting transitions to peace and security**.

*Hon. Oquaye* stated that the role of parliaments is particularly crucial in terms of **strengthening accountability mechanisms, reconnecting citizens to the state, and rebuilding trust in government institutions** through parliamentary debates, agreements and dialogue between political parties and parliamentarians, and interaction between parliament and constituents. *Hon. Oquaye* further indicated that **legitimately elected**

**parliaments which reflect diversity, ensure fair representation of vulnerable groups, and provide a forum for national dialogue** where the concerns and aspirations of diverse societal actors (including women and minority groups) can be expressed, **contribute substantially to peacebuilding and peacekeeping**. Touching on the theme of the **regional seminar**, *Hon. Oquaye* shared a few examples based on **Ghana's experience, on how parliaments can contribute to crisis prevention, recovery and peacebuilding**: With support from **UNDP**, the Ghanaian parliament **deepened democratic control over the security sector** by ratifying the **ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms**. On *gender-based violence*, the parliament of **Ghana** has been key in amending the legal framework to address these challenges by adopting: the **Domestic Violence Act (2007)**, the **Human Trafficking Act (2005)**, a National Domestic Violence Policy and National Plan of Action (2009-2019); and also by creating a Domestic Violence Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) and making available training manuals on school related gender-based violence.



11. His Excellency *Mr. Dirk Verheyen*, Ambassador of the **Kingdom of Belgium** to **Côte d'Ivoire** - expressed his appreciation to **UNDP** for taking the initiative to organize this seminar, and his honor



to speak on behalf of the *Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)* which **financially supports UNDP's activities in West Africa**. The **Belgian MFA** carries out an active policy to promote peace, security, human rights, and the rule of law. *Mr. Verheyen* particularly stressed the importance to **mainstream gender equality** and **strengthen the participation of women in politics and decision-making** as a means to **reduce conflict and violent outbreaks**. He gave a few examples of the work carried out by his own country including the **Belgium National Action Plan** to implement the **UN Security Council resolution 1325** and the *Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*. *Crime of genocide, crime against humanity and war crimes* have been transposed in **Belgian criminal law (5/8/2003)**, including the **codification of violence against women and girls as a crime against humanity, or war crimes**. *Mr. Verheyen*

concretely explained how **Belgium's legal framework** ensures the protection of women during and after conflicts - he referred to the law against torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (14/6/2002) and the law which promotes gender mainstreaming (12/1/2007) in all national policies including the budget) – thus demonstrating how parliaments can effectively address gender-based violence issues through their legislative, representative and oversight functions and responsibilities.

12. *Mr. Kamil Kamaluddeen*, **UNDP** Country Director, **Ghana** presented **UNDP country office work** in **Ghana** which is mainly focalized on **advocating democratic governance practices and building up the capacity of Ghana's national institutions to help maintain peace and promote democratic development**. He then referred to **UNDP's** work in the field of democratic governance and its active support to parliaments. **UNDP currently supports one out of three parliaments around the world** (166 countries) at the global, regional and national levels, mainly through the *Global Programme for Parliamentary Strengthening (GPPS)*.



The programme is part of a more global and long-term human development objective in line with the *Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)*. *Mr. Kamaluddeen* also paid a strong tribute to the *Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)* for financially supporting **UNDP's activities in West Africa** and recalled the relevance and importance of **UNDP's democratic governance priorities** in the region which focus on:

- Building inclusive, responsive and capable states together with addressing sexual and gender-based violence through community-based programmes;
- Preventing conflict and supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants;
- Encouraging inclusion of disaster risk reduction policies and programmes in national plans.

More specifically, *Mr. Kamaluddeen* indicated that this seminar is organized in the framework of a **new programme aiming at:**

- 1) Strengthening regional parliamentary activities in **West Africa** through parliamentary fora, regional dialogue and parliamentary working groups;
- 2) Developing mechanisms and approaches to facilitate swift response to parliamentary assistance requests in **West Africa**;
- 3) Promoting knowledge sharing and dissemination of good practices through **AGORA**, the parliamentary development web portal.

To conclude, *Mr. Kamaluddeen* stressed the importance of **networks, peer support and south-south cooperation** and urged parliamentarians to take advantage of this opportunity to learn from each other by discussing and sharing their experiences, success stories and similar challenges with regard to the role parliaments can play in preventing political violence and crisis, and ensure that they acquire the knowledge and know-how to play their role accordingly.

13. *Mr. Olivier Pierre-Louveau*, **UNDP** Parliamentary Development Knowledge Manager - presented a **short movie on AGORA** ([www.agora-parl.org](http://www.agora-parl.org)) – a web Portal for knowledge sharing on parliamentary development which brings together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, donors, practitioners, as well as academics, civil society and the media. The **Portal** seeks to **consolidate knowledge, expertise and lessons learned** as well as **facilitate active collaboration among the worldwide parliamentary development community of practice**. **AGORA's Trusted Area**, a private platform for members of the global community of practice, offers e-discussions, private groups such as the group on *'parliaments and crisis prevention and recovery in West Africa'*, a calendar of events, a blog, a newsfeed and much more. A *Trusted Area* member can post documents and articles, share works, and join new networks. In order to get an **AGORA account**, participants were invited to request an invitation via [www.agora-parl.org](http://www.agora-parl.org) or directly on <https://agora.trustedarea.net> or by contacting the **AGORA** Knowledge Manager, at [olivier.louveau@undp.org](mailto:olivier.louveau@undp.org).



## SESSION 1: Political Violence and Instability in West Africa: A Critical Analysis of the Role of Parliamentarians and Political Parties

14. The *first session* was devoted to **presenting, reviewing and discussing the findings** of *Mr. Issaka Souare's draft research paper* entitled: *"Political Violence and Instability in West Africa: A Critical Analysis of the Role of Parliamentarians and Political Parties"*.
15. Mr. Souare defined **political violence** as an *organised violent or potentially violent activity or coordinated violent reaction to an organised activity to achieve political goals*. He summarized the issues generating violence and political violence by referring to a quote from **Kofi Annan**:

*"the nature of political power in many African States, together with the real and perceived consequences of capturing and maintaining power, is a key source of conflict across the continent" (1998)*



16. In his paper, Mr. Souare examined where political parties and parliaments stand vis-à-vis those structural and triggering factors through the **example of 5 case studies of countries** marked either by civil wars, popular uprisings and insurgencies, military coups or attempted ones, electoral violence, violently repressed protests or massacres, namely: **Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo**.
17. While recognizing that political parties and parliaments play an essential role in preventing conflicts or relapses into hostilities, he indicated that **many obstacles still remain**. These obstacles are mainly linked to: **political challenges** (role of the executive, partisanship, legitimacy); **legal and constitutional limitations** (mandates, dissolution); and **capacity and material limitations** (research and reference materials, office space, assistant staff, and funds).
18. To conclude, Mr. Souare recalled the importance of **transparency** as a means to prevent violence. He also indicated a series of **recommendations** to prevent political violence and favor access to power through peaceful ways in West Africa:
- The executive should adhere to **principles of good governance** and provide parliaments with **necessary resources**;
  - Parliaments should ratify the **African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance**;
  - Political leaders and parliamentarians should **act responsibly, for the national interest**, and be proactive in crisis prevention;

- Parliaments should adopt a **region-wide binding instrument on term-limits** and lock it;
- **Minority leadership of committees** should be authorized and **clear rules of procedure for debates**, established;
- Political leaders and parliamentarians should work with *civil society organizations (CSOs)*, research institutions, academia, media, and religious groups;
- Political leaders and parliamentarians should **share experiences** with other parliaments and parties;
- **UNDP** and the international community should **continue offering support** with consistence and in a proactive manner.

19. *Mr. Baffour Amoa*, President of the *West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)*, and respondent during *session 1*, further stressed that parliamentarians, as direct representatives of the voice of the people, play a crucial role in violence prevention including in land and religious disputes. He laid special emphasis on the notion of **transparency** mentioned by *Mr. Souare*, stating that **free and fair elections are crucial in a conflict prevention perspective**. He also insisted that the **lack of resources and capacities** of many parliamentarians should be considered as a top priority. Finally, he stressed the important role of **national parliamentary committees** and urged parliamentarians to increase their involvement and participation in peace missions.



*Hon. Touré (left) and Mr. Amoa (right)*

20. *Hon. Abdoulayé Touré*, Member of the Parliament of **Guinea** – and also respondent during *session 1* – recalled that political violence has always been present in the history of **Guinea** and referred to *Captain Camara's* recent **coup in 2009**. With regards to the **causes of political violence**, he criticized the behaviors of too many parliamentarians who are more committed to their personal interests rather than those of the nation. He underscored the failure of the political institutions to take into account the concerns of the people resulting from **the lack of interaction between civil society and the Parliament in Guinea**. The **following actions were recommended**:

- Enhance **consultations between all the political stakeholders** to prevent violence;
- **Strengthen the capacities of the executive and legislative**;

- **Promote civic education** to sensitize future politicians on the rights and duties pertaining to the exercise of their functions;
- Ensure the **effective and efficient role of the security forces** - and that they receive the proper training with a particular focus on human rights protection;
- **Institutionalize mediators within the State's institutions;**
- **Promote social dialogue and understanding** between trade unions, political parties, parliamentarians and civil society organizations.

21. The presentation and comments of the two respondents were followed by **general discussions on the following issues:**

- The work carried out by international organizations to prevent coups;
- The need to ensure the security and protection of parliamentarians who promote change and democratic reforms;
- How to deal with political leaders who monopolize power;
- The importance of the role of the international community and national institutions in the field of political stability;
- The lack of willingness on the part of governments to provide the appropriate means to parliament to play their role correctly and the need for greater support from international organizations;
- The necessity to establish independent electoral commissions;
- The essential role of women / spouses (1<sup>st</sup> ladies) in conflict prevention;
- The need to strengthen education - and civic education in particular;
- A greater involvement of women in politics;
- The relevance of traditional ways of resolving conflicts.



## SESSION 2: Parliamentary Performance and Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery Mechanisms in West Africa



22. The second session was devoted to presenting, reviewing and discussing the findings of **Mr. Mitchell O'Brien's draft research paper entitled: "Parliamentary performance and Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery Mechanisms in West Africa"**. The paper analyzes the existing regional **Crisis Prevention and Recovery (CPR)** mechanisms in place in the region and how such systems impact parliamentary performance on **CPR** oversight and legislative work. The paper also identifies **usefulness, challenges and bottlenecks in the implementation of such mechanisms** in terms of parliamentary performance with a particular focus on the work of the **African Union** and different activities in **West Africa**.
23. *Mr. Mitchell O'Brien* made a presentation on the different **crisis prevention and conflict management techniques, tools and mechanisms employed by regional and national parliaments**. On the global trends in conflict, he highlighted the strong **correlation between poverty and conflict**, particularly in **West Africa**.
24. He defined formal *Regional Crisis Prevention Mechanism's (RCPMs)* as the normative methods, procedures or initiatives utilized by a variety of governmental and non-governmental actors in order to prevent violent conflict, whether through **operational prevention measures** (applicable in the event of imminent crisis) or **structural prevention measures** (medium term conflict prevention measures to address the structural issues that make a country prone to conflict and ensure that crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do, that they do not re-occur).
25. *Mr. O'Brien* then gave **examples of how different actors engage with formal RCPMs in West Africa**:
- **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** [Mechanism for Conflict, Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security; *ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF)*];
  - **Civil Society** [*ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN)*]; *West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP)*; *West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF)*];
  - **ECOWAS Parliament** (Committee on Political Affairs, Peace and Security; development committees; engagement with **ECOWAS Mechanism**; implications of direct mandate);
  - Examples where national parliaments sought to use their primary functions to restore democracy or manage conflict (**Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Niger**);
  - **African Union and Pan-African Parliament.**

26. Mr. O'Brien's **concluding remarks and recommendations** centered on:

- The **intrinsic link between economic development, sustainable growth, secondary school education and conflict prevention**;
- The difficulty of states to manage conflicts and **the need for international actors to step in**;
- The relevance of a **whole parliament approach**;
- The need to **engage ECOWAS national parliaments in official regional mechanisms** particularly in preemptive interventions and early warning mechanisms.

27. Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP) - and respondent during *session 2*, emphasized the **lack of legal frameworks for conflict prevention**. According to Mr. Bombande, the lacks today are not so much related to the efficiency of the functioning of the mechanisms, but rather to the **deficiencies of the donor driven process**. However, he also indicated that there are **positive trends emerging to create mechanisms** to prevent conflicts and gave the example of the *ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN)* which has recently identified **94 indicators to monitor conflicts**. In his short address, he highlighted the **connection between state-building and peace-building**, and the importance of **ownership of the mechanisms** put into place.



*Hon. Diomandé (left) and Mr. Bombande (right)*

28. Hon. Mamy Diomandé, Member of the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire – and also respondent during *session 2* - indicated that **conflict prevention mechanisms should mainly aim at:**

- a) Strengthening **cooperation among parliaments** and creating regional **inter-parliamentary networks**;
- b) Encouraging **state-building and good governance especially in the security sector** (by promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights, democratic elections, gender equality and civic education);
- c) **Reinforcing the capacities of parliaments** in the area of crisis prevention and recovery by:
  - Enabling them to carry out investigations, implement sanctions, and ensure effective oversight over the executive especially with regard to the security sector;

- Increasing the number of defence, security and investigation committees on human rights violations-related issues;
- Strengthening arms control and the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
- Creating more synergies between the different actors involved in crisis prevention, including civil society.

*Hon. Diomandé* concluded that parliaments play a major role in crisis prevention and peace-building by passing the laws which conform to the above mentioned mechanisms. However, according to *Hon. Diomandé*, a number of **obstacles** still prevail such as **the lack of knowledge of the laws, the widespread use of political violence rather than the implementation of the laws, the tendency to react rather than prevent.**

29. **Participants further discussed the following issues:**

- A general acknowledgement of **the lack of laws** dealing with conflict prevention and the urgent need to **build crisis prevention capacities** which are largely nonexistent within parliaments;
- The **absence of conflict prevention advocacy from civil society** as a direct consequence of the general lack of education of the population.
- Some participants argued that **African parliaments today are more part of crises, rather than a solution to crises.**
- **Niger** and **Guinea** were singled out as an exception to the rule of dismissing parliaments following a coup. In **Niger** for example, a ***National Consultative Council*** representing all professional categories, political parties, trade unions and civil society, was established, allowing an **inclusive dialogue** where decisions are taken by consensus. So far, all recommendations issued by the *Council* have been accepted by the *military junta*, including the agenda for the elections, the electoral code and the organisation of the transition. Participants expressed their interest to know how and why the military juntas have decided to create these institutions.
- Participants also questioned **how parliamentarians can better ensure their independence** to achieve their goals in transition and fragile countries where **tribal systems are often stronger than democratic national values?** And how they can become a constructive counterbalance?
- **Widespread communication** was presented as a **good practice** to avoid conflicts in transition countries. In **Guinea** for example, the *transition programme* was exposed to a large part of the population, therefore civil society was supporting the process along with political parties. All stakeholders abided by the rules and conflict had thus been prevented on the day of the elections.



## SESSION 3: Parliaments as Peace-Building Institutions: Responding to the Challenges of Gender-Based Violence in West Africa

30. The *third session* focused on *Ms. Ceri Hayes' draft research paper* entitled: "*Parliamentary Responses to the Challenges of Gender-Based Violence in West Africa*".

31. According to a quick overview of *gender-based violence (GBV)* in **West Africa**, GBV has reached alarming levels in the region and is still on the rise due to **unequal gender roles, harmful customary practices, cultural traditions, and a widespread culture of impunity**. **Poverty, conflict and political violence also exacerbate the problem**. Even though a majority of countries have some form of gender-based violence legislation in place – **the pace of implementation is quite slow** and all favor a **multi-legislation approach rather than a single comprehensive law**. Furthermore, gender-based violence is largely seen as a *'women's issue'* instead of being mainstreamed or prioritized; most **gender committees are under-resourced and marginalized**; and **women remain under-represented in decision-making**.



32. In terms of **parliamentary responses to gender-based violence and legislation put in place** to address the problem, *Ms. Hayes* acknowledged the widespread ratification of international and regional instruments (**CEDAW, African Protocol**, etc.) and action plans (for example, **Liberia** has a **National Action Plan** on the **UN Security Council Resolution 1325**). Some **concrete examples of parliamentary action, efforts and involvement in this field include:**

- Passage of legislation;
- Monitoring - implementation of legislation;
- Scrutiny of budgets;
- Addressing gender-based violence through peace-building and security sector reform;
- Engaging political parties;
- Increasing women's political participation.

33. To conclude, *Ms. Hayes* stated that the *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)* strategy on gender, *Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU)* resolution and priority actions on violence against women, and **UN agencies'** work in the area of gender-based violence including the United Nations Development Fund for Women's (**UNIFEM**) *'Say No to Violence'* campaign and **UNDP's** recommendations on peace-building and democratic reform, all constitute **good entry points for moving forward**. She particularly **recommended to:**

- Adopt **gender-sensitive laws** and ensure their full implementation;
- Invest in **gender training** for parliamentarians;
- Strengthen **parliamentary oversight of gender issues**;

- Increase **women’s representation** at all levels of decision-making;
- **Encourage parliamentarians to work in partnership** with civil society, other parliamentarians, the international community and survivors of **GBV**.

34. *Dr. Rasheed Draman*, African programs Director for the **Parliamentary Centre** - and respondent during *session 3*, called attention to **the need to**:

- **Train and brief new parliamentarians** on gender-based violence-related legislation;
- **Encourage cultural dialogue** among different regions;
- **Work with civil society**;
- **Address the problem of the non independence of the judiciary and the limited resources** in terms of human resources and awareness which blocks any attempt of law enforcement on GBV.



*Dr. Draman (right) and Hon. Lahai (left)*

35. *Hon. Bernadette Lahai*, Member of the Parliament of **Sierra Leone** – and respondent during *session 3* – also identified areas in which efforts and initiatives on GBV should be focalized. **The following actions were recommended**:

- **Ensure follow up on the implementation of the legislation**;
- **Increase awareness** through advocacy and networking;
- **Encourage public hearings, trainings and provide information on laws**;
- **Establish GBV’s mechanisms** at the local level as well as the national level;
- **Include GBV in the educational system**;
- **Create committees on GBV** within the parliament;
- **Develop lobbying and advocacy activities** for the resources needed;
- **Promote national ownership**.

36. **General reflections on the following points were shared by the participants:**

- The relevance of **quota systems** within political parties and during legislative elections (**30%**);
- How to provide and improve **assistance to women networks**;
- The utility of **assessing GBV** and taking into account the **different sensitivities** within the society when it comes to gender;
- **The correlation between poverty and GBV; and lack of education and GBV;**
- The importance of ensuring **a) the effective implementation of the laws** adopted for **GBV** reduction and **b) available resources** for follow-up and study of impacts of **GBV** laws;
- The general **lack of awareness of GBV laws** adopted and need to **reinforce communication strategies and constituency outreach** regarding these matters (ensure that parliamentarians have the financial means to carry out these activities);
- The need to **mainstream a gender-sensitive approach** in legislation.
- The possibility of looking into the work carried out by **Pan-African caucus** on **GBV**.



## SESSION 4: Working group discussion on the basis of the research papers

37. During *session 4*, participants were divided into **three groups** and invited to discuss the previous presentations on the role of parliaments in political violence and instability, gender-based violence, and regional crisis prevention and recovery mechanisms in **West Africa**. Participants shared experiences, good practices, and challenges from their respective countries regarding these issues. The **main ideas developed** are summarized below:

### ✓ Crisis Prevention mechanisms

38. Participants agreed that **parliamentarians have the capacity to act as mediators and agents of peace** during times of crisis. The following examples were highlighted: In **Mali**, the Parliament had mediated with the rebels. In **Guinea Bissau**, a protocol on conflict prevention has been issued, ratified by the Parliament and supported and promoted by women networks. During the conflict in **Côte d'Ivoire**, the Parliament passed a number of laws on prevention and reconciliation, such as the *Amnesty law*, the *law on the functioning of political parties*, and on the *electoral commission*, etc. Participants underscored:

a) The need to institutionalize crisis prevention mechanisms. In **Togo** for example, since 2005, an all party consultative committee has been set up and is currently led by the opposition; a *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* has also been established;

b) The need for sustainable and lasting crisis prevention mechanisms;

c) The need for mechanisms which allow parliaments to follow-up and monitor adopted laws to ensure they are effectively implemented and able to promote peace in the long term.

### ✓ Gender-Based Violence

39. Most of the participating countries have passed **gender sensitive legislation** such as quota laws (**Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry**, etc.), legislation against human trafficking (**Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone**), female genital mutilations (**Togo, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone**), gender violence and domestic violence laws in application of **resolutions 1325 and 1820** of the **UN Security Council** (**Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Liberia**); laws related to customary marriage (**Sierra Leone**), free education for women (**Togo**), HIV/ AIDS (**Sierra Leone**). Gender-sensitive legislation is therefore progressing; in **Guinea Bissau** and



**Sierra Leone** for example, a reproductive health law addressing GBV was adopted. However, the impact of these laws has not been measured yet and parliaments lack the appropriate means and tools to do so. Many of these laws are not correctly implemented - in **Congo Brazzaville** and **Guinea Bissau** for example, the quota laws are not respected.

Many women parliamentarians present at the **regional seminar** asserted the existence of caucuses/networks within their parliaments (**Togo, Sierra Leone, Guinea Conakry**; etc) which advocate in favour of the adoption of gender sensitive laws. **Women caucuses/networks** seem to have an impact in conducting advocacy campaigns in favour of the domestication of gender international conventions; however they do not play a role in crisis management and national reconciliation yet due to a lack of power/skills.

✓ Political violence



40. Participants mainly focussed on **the potential for violence during elections**. For example, many candidates running as independents experience forms of harassment, particularly women. Participants acknowledged **clear improvements** after the passage of the **AU Charter**. In **Togo** and **Mali**, polling station observers have been deployed. *Electoral Commissions* and the *High Council for Communication* have had a positive impact on containing and restraining

political violence during elections. In **Guinea** for example, preparations for post electoral reforms are moving forward (creation of a permanent electoral commission; review of electoral processes; the set up of a reconciliation commission to deal with the issues of the country since the independence).

## SESSION 5 & 6: Strengthening the Role of parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Experience from the West African region

41. In sessions 5 and 6, representatives from **10 regional organizations** (ECOWAS Parliament, UNREC, DCAF, FES, Parliamentary Centre, WANEP, WAANSA, IPU, AWEPA and UNDP) presented their activities, initiatives and efforts regarding regional crisis prevention work with parliaments in **West Africa** with a particular focus on success stories, impacts, bottlenecks and challenges.

### The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament

42. Professor *Kabeer Garba*, Bureau Manager of the **ECOWAS Parliament** - gave a brief historical background of the ECOWAS Parliament: establishment, composition, structure, organs, and competence. He stressed the fact that even though the ECOWAS Parliament as a **Community Institution** does not have a clear mandate regarding crisis prevention, the Parliament is still involved in crisis prevention efforts thanks to an enabling environment: The Chairman of the **ECOWAS Authority** and the President of the **ECOWAS Commission** encourages and supports these efforts; **ECOWAS** parliamentarians are also



concerned and committed to regional peace and security. They debate over *Country Reports* at all Ordinary Sessions of Parliament, including reports from parliamentarians from the opposition who report on happenings in their countries. Professor *Garba* cited a few examples of **success stories** of the ECOWAS Parliament such as the **ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN)**, the Parliament's contribution to the resolution of the **Liberia crises** and peace efforts in **Côte d'Ivoire** and the **Mano River area**; its response to the attempt by the Government of the ousted Nigerian President *Tandja Momodou* to perpetuate itself in power after the military *coup d'état* in February 2010; its intervention to restore constitutionality and democratic order in the **Republic of Guinea**. Regarding the **challenges** of ECOWAS parliament crisis prevention work, Professor *Garba* mentioned:

- The **lack of continuity** of these efforts;
- The **duality of membership** by parliamentarians;
- The **lack of knowledge** by community citizens of the existence of the Parliament and its role;
- The **lack of legal instruments** which restrains the Parliament from attaining the level of law making and restricts it to its present **advisory role**.

### The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)

43. Mr. *Kossi Agokla*, security Sector Reform (SSR) Expert at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) - provided a quick overview of **UNREC's activities** with parliaments regarding crisis prevention and recovery issues in **West Africa**. **UNREC supports:**

- a) Effective **parliamentary oversight of the security sector**;
  - b) A greater involvement of parliamentarians in **small arms control**;
  - c) The **ratification and integration in the national law** of regional and international conventions regarding small arms and light weapons.
44. **UNREC's strategy and methods** consist in organizing **advocacy, experience sharing and information workshops** for parliamentarians to enhance their capacity and strengthen their willingness to exercise oversight over the security sector (this includes initiatives to secure electoral processes, small arms and light weapons control, defense budget oversight). UNREC has carried out such activities in **Benin, Togo and Mali**. Another successful initiative pointed out by Mr. *Agokla* concerns the collaboration between parliamentarians and superior officers in **Sierra Leone**: UNREC helped build a quality and harmonious joint oversight effort of the security sector. **UNREC's** approach also consists in **providing capacity building and trainings** especially on law drafting for security sector reforms, and guidance on how to transpose international security-related conventions into the national law.
45. According to Mr. *Agokla*, the **main challenges of crisis prevention work with parliaments** in **West Africa** revolve around the **lack of expertise in terms of security sector reform and budget procedures and management**. In order to improve support to parliaments dealing with crisis prevention and recovery issues in **West Africa**, Mr. *Agokla* identified **3 major priorities**: **First**, ensuring the sustainability of capacity-building impacts on parliamentarians with regard to their responsibilities in security sector oversight. **Second**, the establishment of regional platforms for parliamentary defense and security committees in the region to come together, share experiences and improve their expertise in dealing with defense and security oversight. **Third**, the establishment of an open space where discussions can take place between parliamentarians and defense and security forces to better assess security needs.

### The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

46. Mr. *Okey Uzoechina*, Focal Point for West Africa at the *Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)* - presented the programmatic agenda of DCAF for **building the capacity of West African Parliaments in the oversight of the security sector and in post-conflict reconstruction and peace building**. He first pointed out the intrinsic link between the security sector and human security, crisis prevention and sustainable development. With regard to **DCAF's work objectives** with West African Parliaments, Mr. *Uzoechina* underscored efforts made to **reinforce the civil-military dialogue on defense and security issues** between the parliament and a variety of stakeholders including the armed forces, the police, security and intelligence services; and dialogue between the parliament and the executive, media and civil society organizations, and other oversight bodies.
47. At the **regional level**, DCAF has developed in close cooperation with the **ECOWAS Parliament**, a **Guide for West African Parliamentarians** on the oversight of the security sector and the role of parliaments in fighting trans-border crime, small arms and light weapons. DCAF also developed in cooperation with ECOWAS a **Code of Conduct for Armed Forces and Security Services in Africa**. DCAF also supports the **ECOWAS Commission** in the development of an ECOWAS security sector governance concept and action plan within the **ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework**.

48. Mr. *Uzoechina* gave further examples of **DCAF's work at the national level**. Since 2004, DCAF has conducted interactive **needs assessment** and a series of **training programmes** for **Liberian parliamentarians** targeted at promoting the role of the parliament in security sector oversight and in post-conflict peace-building. Training themes included: defense budgeting, transparency and gender sensitive security sector reform. In November 2009, DCAF held a **workshop** to **improve civil-military relations** in **Mali** with parliamentarians and representatives from the executive and the armed forces. In June 2010, DCAF also put in place **cooperation with the Defence and Security Committee of the Senegalese Parliament** (capacity-building training of parliamentarians). DCAF now plans to organize jointly with the Senegalese Parliament and **IPU**, a **West African seminar concerning the role of Defence and Security Committees in oversight of the security sector**.
49. To conclude, Mr. *Uzoechina* stressed on the **current challenges** facing West Africa in terms of crisis prevention work with parliaments:
- Generally **weak parliaments in relation to strong executive and military and security forces** especially after conflict. Parliamentary capacity in the areas of security, crisis prevention and peace-building is often weakened;
  - **Rapid turnover of parliamentarians** after elections which leaches away already existing capacity and **expertise and slows down legislative initiatives**;
  - **Scarce attention given to the role of women and the rights of minority groups** in crisis prevention and peace-building;
  - **Insufficient human and financial resources** allocated to reinforcing technical capacity of parliamentary support staff;
  - **Multitude of external actors** working on crisis prevention and peace-building but with **different objectives and lacking coordination**.

### The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

50. Mr. *Simon Asoba*, Project Manager at *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)* - first talked about the **objective of FES** which is to **empower parliaments to play a role in the formulation and implementation of security policy and in the democratic control of the security sector**. **FES' approach** is based on the following 4 points:
- Strengthening demand for democratic control (establishing regional standards; strengthening capacities on security policy of media, civil society). For example, FES participated in the development of a draft **ECOWAS SSG/R concept and action plan**;
  - Bringing experts and parliamentarians together through workshops and trainings to expose them to *Security Sector Governance* and *Reform* discussions regarding trans-border crime and small arms proliferation for example;
  - Creating opportunities for political dialogue on (regional) security policy (on the AU and ECOWAS peace and security architecture, for example);
  - Facilitating (inter)regional exchanges to encourage peer learning. For example, FES established a series of regional parliamentary networks/dialogues/workshops on **SALW control** which led to the implementation of some recommendations on **SALW control** by national parliaments.

51. Mr. *Asoba* identified **4 major challenges and bottlenecks** of crisis prevention and recovery work with Parliaments in **West Africa**:
- **High turnover of parliamentarians** which jeopardizes the sustainability of actions undertaken;
  - Individual/societal incentive structures are not in line with the democratic mandate of parliamentarians;
  - The internal rules regarding the rotation of designation for duty trips in parliament is a challenge to the **continuity of work in regional forums**;
  - The **absence of a strong regional parliament body** to coordinate regional initiatives / the lack of existence of a strong mandate for the **ECOWAS Parliament**.
52. To conclude, Mr. *Asoba* made a couple of **recommendations** to improve support to parliaments dealing with crisis prevention and recovery issues in **West Africa**:
- **Strengthen the basic functions and mandates of parliaments** in the democratic system / democratic security policy, oversight;
  - **Strengthen networking at the regional level**;
  - Strengthen the **ECOWAS Parliament** as the appropriate coordinator of regional parliamentary initiatives;
  - Strengthen the demand for **parliamentarianism and democratic oversight** (e.g. through media, civil society).



*Mr. Simon Asoba, FES (left), Mr. Okey Uzoehina, DCAF (centre), Mr. Rogier Huizenga, IPU (right)*

## The Parliamentary Centre (PC)

53. Dr. *Rasheed Draman*, African programs Director of the Parliamentary Centre - reviewed the key **achievements and results of the different programmes** implemented by the Parliamentary centre with regard to parliaments, conflict prevention and peace-building.
54. ***ECOWAS Parliament - Conflict Prevention and Management Project***: Through the ECOWAS project, the Parliamentary Centre aims at **reinforcing the mandate of the ECOWAS parliament** to enable its members to intervene in conflict situations when necessary. The project supports the direct election of parliamentarians in order to minimize loss of capacity, institutional memory and competence due to the attrition rate of members whose mandates are tied to national elections. A **training manual** for parliamentarians on conflict prevention was developed. The Parliamentary Centre is currently developing a **Gender Strategy** that will help parliamentarians deal with gender-based violence.
55. ***Sudan – Peace-building and Parliamentary Strengthening Project***: In Sudan, the Parliamentary Centre’s project focused on helping the Sudanese Parliament make a contribution to the **Comprehensive Peace Agreement** by fostering dialogue between the North and the South (through their representatives in Parliament) and also dialogue between the two major parliaments.
56. ***Rwanda – Peace-building and Democratic Reform Project***: In Rwanda, the Parliamentary Centre works with parliamentarians from all parties in Parliament to promote dialogue, understanding and an equitable distribution of resources.

## The West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP)

57. Mr. *Emmanuel Bombande*, Executive Director of the *West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP)* - first pointed out the different **programmes** of his organization in the field of conflict prevention and peace-building in **West Africa**, including:
- The *West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN)*;
  - The *Women in Peace-building Network (WIPNET)*;
  - The *Capacity Building Program (CBP)*;
  - The *West Africa Peace-building Institute (WAPI)*;
  - The *Civil Society Policy and Advocacy Program (CSPA)*;
  - The *Justice Lens Program (JLP)*.
58. Mr. *Bombande* then informed participants of WANEP’s peace-building efforts at the **sub-regional level** with the **ECOWAS Parliament**. WANEP seeks to create **opportunities for civil society to learn about the ECOWAS Parliament and its functioning committees**, and develop relationships with the various structures of ECOWAS to be able to benefit from and influence the legislations and policies related to human security, peace-building, and human rights in the region.
59. Mr. *Bombande* gave two concrete **examples of successful peace-building initiatives** led by WANEP with parliaments.
- At the **regional level**, in the framework of the **Rapid Response Initiative**, WANEP together with members of the **ECOWAS Parliament (Côte D’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone)** successfully implemented activities of support to stakeholders in **Guinea** in the process of a peaceful transition to end the political stalemate. The activities were shifted to country level

consultations and campaigns for peace and democracy in **Guinea**. **ECOWAS** parliamentarians and civil society organizations engaged in discussions that produced recommendations which in turn influenced the **Ouagadougou Joint Declaration** that set out the road map for peace and the return to constitutional order in Guinea.

- At the **national level**, WANEP engaged in a **peace-building process with the Parliament of Ghana to help resolve the inter-communal conflict taking place in Bawku** (area of the Upper East Region). The financial support of the Parliament to the **Inter-Ethnic Peace Committee** in the Municipality and presence of Ghanaian parliamentarians facilitated dialogue between the leaders of the community who, as a result, committed themselves to promoting reconciliation and ending the violence and impunity that has torn their community.

60. To conclude, Mr. *Bombande* emphasized the urgency of prioritizing conflict prevention in the same way as economic development and integration. He added that **West Africa needs to enhance its own capacities at various levels to provide efficient responses to protracted conflicts** rather than relegate these responsibilities to external actors. According to him, even when there is a need for external support, it cannot replace local and national expertise and leadership. Therefore, parliaments have a duty to provide the framework and the resources for such national capacities (he cited as an example the **Ghana Architecture for Peace** and the **ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework**).

#### West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)

61. In his introduction, Mr. *Baffour Amoa*, President of the *West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)* - explained **WAANSA's role in conflict prevention in West Africa** by:

- a) **Serving as a forum** for the exchange of information, experiences and strategies in combating the proliferation of *small arms and light weapons (SALW)*;
- b) **Working for the reduction of the causes of the demand** and the negative impact of SALW in **West Africa**;
- c) **Being a rallying force/point** for all those who work in the area of small arms.

62. He then detailed **WAANSA's work** both at the regional and national levels.

- At the **regional level**, WAANSA acts as a strategic partner of the **ECOWAS Parliament Peace and Security Commission** and manages all the funds of the *ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP)*. WAANSA contributed to: the drafting of the **ECOWAS Convention on SALW**; the ratification of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms (WAANSA delegates visited ECOWAS member states and carried out lobbying and campaigning activities); the promotion of an **Arms Trade Treaty**; the setting up of **Parliamentary Networks on Small Arms and Light Weapons**.
- At the **national level**, WAANSA's efforts focus on ensuring the effective implementation of the **ECOWAS Convention on SALW**. WAANSA recently started to work with national parliaments to help them set up parliamentary networks on small arms and light weapons in collaboration with the **Parliamentary Forum**. WAANSA has successfully achieved this in **Burkina Faso** and **Sierra Leone** so far.

## Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

63. Mr. Rogier Huizenga, Human Rights Programme Officer at the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)* - made a presentation on the role of IPU in promoting parliaments' contribution to conflict prevention. To begin, he briefly explained **IPU's approach** to crisis prevention and recovery which is built on **three major pillars**: the **concept of human security**; **strong and representative parliaments**; **a conducive national environment for the rule of law**.

64. Mr. *Huizenga* then mentioned **IPU's initiatives** which focus on:

- Parliamentary capacity-building and assistance on topics related to human rights, human trafficking and parliamentary oversight of the security sector;
- The protection of human rights of parliamentarians;
- Post-conflict reconciliation;
- The empowerment of women in post-conflict countries;
- Parliamentary oversight of state policies on foreign aid;
- Standard-setting regarding parliamentary democracy (through the publication of various studies, guidelines, handbooks, self-assessment tools for parliaments on issues such as free and fair elections, good practices of parliamentary democracy, the role and responsibility of the opposition, etc.).

Mr. Huizenga highlighted the **areas in which IPU has been particularly successful**, namely:

- Bi-partisan constituency visits;
- The development of a draft code of conduct for parliamentarians;
- The development of parliamentary strategic plans;
- Good offices mechanism;
- The implementation of human rights action plans;
- The release of parliamentarians from arbitrary detention.

65. Mr. *Huizenga* ended his presentation by enumerating the **current challenges** facing **West Africa** in terms of promoting parliaments' contribution to conflict prevention:

- Post-conflict situations often present unstable environments; long-term planning versus short-term flexibility;
- Ensuring institutional support from parliament and from committed parliamentarians across party-lines;
- Mistrust between parliamentarians and civil society;
- Multitude of international support initiatives and limited parliamentary absorb capacity;
- Sustainability of parliamentary projects; the absence of an exit strategy;
- Balancing the need for capacity-building with respect for human rights;
- Pressure to obtain quick and tangible results in areas which require a long-term investment and which cannot be measured easily;
- Lack of feedback on long-term impact of activities;
- Reaching the right balance between genuine party needs and individual parliamentarians' freedom of action.



*From left to right: Dr. Rasheed Draman (PC), Mr. Simon Asoba (FES), Mr. Okey Uzochina (DCAF), Mr. Rogier Huizenga (IPU), Professor Kabee Garba (ECOWAS Parliament), Mr. Kossi Agokla (UNREC)*

### The Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA)

66. Hon. *John Corrie*, Honorary Life President of the **ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly** - reviewed AWEPA's parliamentary support work regarding crisis prevention and recovery issues in **West Africa**. Hon. *Corrie* began his presentation by underscoring AWEPA's commitment to strengthening the role of parliaments in promoting peace, reconciliation and good governance. AWEPA has supported conflict resolution parliamentary efforts in states emerging from conflict such as **South Africa, Southern Sudan, Republic of Congo and Mozambique**; fragile states such as **Somalia**; and regions where one or more of the states have experienced or are emerging from a conflict situation such as the *Great Lakes region* (**Burundi, DRC, Rwanda**) and the **Horn of Africa**.
67. Hon. *Corrie* gave **three examples of success stories** of AWEPA's work in crisis prevention and recovery related issues with Parliaments in **Africa**.
- ✓ In **Mozambique**, AWEPA implemented an extensive training programme for civic educators, published the "*Election Process Bulletins*" and contributed to the development of legislation on child protection and human trafficking.
  - ✓ In **Burundi**, AWEPA was successful in supporting the peace process/accord by increasing information sharing between the Burundian Parliament and local elected representatives, and had been supporting capacity building for staff parliamentarians since 1996.
  - ✓ In **Southern Sudan**, AWEPA supported and contributed to the production of the **verbatim report** of the Parliamentary proceedings, the drafting of bills on the establishment of a **Youth Councils in South Sudan**, and the job description of all available posts in the Legislative Assembly.
68. To conclude, Hon. *Corrie* made the following **recommendations** to better support parliaments dealing with crisis prevention issues in West Africa:
- Ownership of crisis prevention / resolution projects.
  - Non-partisan and even handed treatment of political parties and actors.

- Facilitation of the capacity of parliaments to develop a parliamentary diplomacy that complements and supports traditional diplomacy.
- Combined investment in socio-economic development to maintain stability).



*From left to right: Mr. Rogier Huizenga (IPU), Hon. John Corrie (AWEPA), Mr. Okey Uzoechina (DCAF), Mr. Baffour Ainoa (WAANSA)*

### The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

69. Ms. *Alessandra Pellizzeri*, Governance Programme Officer at **UNDP Mauritania** - presented the work of UNDP in the area of parliamentary development and crisis prevention and recovery in **West Africa** through a **comparative analysis of two case studies: Mauritania and Niger**.

- In **Mauritania**, UNDP's Parliamentary Programme (GPPS) focuses on: oversight procedures; gender; administrative reform; research and documentation; crisis management and conflict prevention; involvement in the PRSP process and contribution to MDGs.
- In **Niger**, UNDP's Parliamentary Programme (GPPS) focuses on: legislative and oversight procedures; strengthening the capacity of the administration; building inter-parliamentary cooperation; strengthening communication between parliamentarians and the electors; promoting MDGs and Human Rights.

70. According to Ms. *Pellizzeri*, the **main challenges and bottlenecks** of crisis prevention and recovery work with Parliaments in **West Africa** revolve around:

- The **development of the capacities of parliaments** to prevent political crises or mitigate their impact;

- **Strengthening the mechanisms of regional organizations** to deal with crisis prevention, recovery and peace-building;
- **UNDP's lack of guidelines and flexibility** to work with parliaments in times of crisis.

71. Ms. Pellizzeri recommended **four priority actions** to improve support to parliaments, namely:

- **Mainstreaming crisis prevention and recovery** in parliamentary work (enhancing tools and capacities of parliaments as peace-builders);
- **Engaging work with parliament's political groups** to promote political dialogue;
- **Continuing parliamentary work in times of crises** (and ensure sufficient flexibility of programmes);
- Promoting **South-South cooperation** and regional exchanges among parliaments on crisis prevention and recovery related issues.



### Plenary: Questions and Answers - Highlights



72. Participants noted that while **many parliaments are developing strategic action plans** to deal with crisis prevention and recovery such as the Parliament of **Sierra Leone** for example, many are still waiting for or are in search of **financial resources** to be able to proceed with the implementation of their policies. Participants also urged for **better coordination and collaboration between the various organizations** providing aid and support. They particularly stressed the need to **pay more attention to women and social discriminations, and reinforce women's caucus**. They finally drew attention to the fact that too many projects are being developed according to the interest of the donors and requested that **support be more demand-driven and based on the assessment of needs**.

## **SESSION 7: Possible solutions, opportunities and work plans at regional and national levels to collectively improve parliamentary performance in crisis prevention and recovery issues in West Africa**

73. Proceedings of the day continued with **discussions on solutions, opportunities and work plans to improve parliamentary performance in crisis prevention and recovery issues**. **Three round tables** were set up for that purpose; two were dedicated to discussing parliamentary performance in crisis prevention and recovery issues at the **national level**, and one at the **regional level**. Participants were asked to adopt a **SWOT analysis approach** (*strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats*).

## **SESSION 8: Plenary discussion on possible solutions, opportunities and work plans**

74. The results of the round table debates were discussed in plenary during session 8.



- **Restitution of the regional group and discussion on regional priorities: Presentation of the SWOT analysis of the ECOWAS Parliament regarding CPR issues in West Africa**

Strengths	Weaknesses
1) Existence of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> , including a <b>Peace and Security Committee</b> . 2) Political will of member states to enhance and strengthen the role of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> .	1) Lack of visibility of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> among Member States and lack of communication between the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> and national parliaments. (Need to raise awareness of the role

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Successful interventions in the <i>Mano River area</i>, <b>Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Guinea</b> (advisory, fact finding and mediation role).</li> <li>4) The <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> has encouraged national parliaments to ratify of convention on small arms and trans-border criminality.</li> <li>5) Existence of a gender network.</li> <li>6) Support received by international community and civil society organizations for training and information sharing purposes on peace and security issues.</li> <li>7) Positive attitude of parliamentarians towards crisis prevention issues.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of the ECOWAS parliament in the villages; engage the media to become more visible).</li> <li>2) Limited coordination and strategic support provided to the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b>.</li> <li>3) Limited mandate of the ECOWAS Parliament, consultative role only excluding crisis prevention issues.</li> <li>4) Budgetary constraints.</li> <li>5) Limited human resource capabilities of the <b>ECOWAS</b> administration (members and staff Lack). Parliamentarians are obliged to hire consultants to make papers and researches for them for example.</li> </ol>
Opportunities	Threats
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Work more closely with national parliaments; for example, <b>Niger mediation</b> can enhance the role of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b>.</li> <li>2) Better assess and take into account the needs of parliaments in the area of crisis prevention.</li> <li>3) Improve the relations with civil society.</li> <li>4) Promote regional integration programmes to enhance the welfare of people.</li> <li>5) The revised treaty of the <b>ECOWAS</b> now includes peace, security and political stability.</li> <li>6) Newly adopted <b>vision 2020</b> - towards a more integrated entity which will enhance and develop the role of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> - <b>moving from an ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of the people</b>.</li> <li>7) Upcoming revision of the mandate and role of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> which should include legislative power.</li> <li>8) Training on peace and security spread across all 13 committees.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Lack of political will to enhance the role of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b>. Potential opposition from national parliamentarians against the enhanced role of the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> (need to inform them and raise their awareness of the utility of strengthening the <b>ECOWAS Parliament's</b> mandate).</li> <li>2) Existence of multiple parliamentary regional networks.</li> <li>3) No elected members (parliamentarians elected at the national level are designated).</li> <li>4) High turnover of parliamentarians (promote direct elections to avoid high turnover and loss of institutional memory).</li> <li>5) Duality of Membership. For example: the <b>ECOWAS Parliament</b> has never received a petition from national parliaments, although the possibility is given by the texts.</li> <li>6) Bureaucratic rivalry.</li> </ol>

- **Restitution of the national groups and discussion on national priorities: Presentations of the SWOT analysis of national parliaments regarding CPR issues in West Africa<sup>3</sup>**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Constitutional authority and legitimacy: parliaments draft, vote and amend laws related to crisis prevention and recovery.</li> <li>2) Social diversity.</li> <li>3) Membership of inter-parliamentary committees and other networks.</li> <li>4) Special committees dealing with ad hoc conflicts and general war, defense and peace issues, especially security issues; existence of</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Lack of independence and limited capacities of parliaments and committees due to interference and control of the executive authority.</li> <li>2) No systemic and sustainable mechanism in place to prevent and manage conflict.</li> <li>3) Parliamentarians are too politicized (partisan issues) and forget their <i>raison d'être</i>.</li> <li>4) Lack of basic capacities, resources (furniture, rooms for committees, etc.) and funds to carry out</li> </ol>

<sup>3</sup> This table summarizes the two national round table discussions.

<p>parliamentary investigation committees.</p> <p>5) Parallel investigations regarding potential conflict issues.</p> <p>6) Direct civic education activities (or through civil society organizations).</p> <p>7) Possibility to summon a minister or a national advisor before a committee regarding conflict prevention issues; can ask him / her to deliver an official statement regarding the (potential) conflict or to brief the parliament regarding the ministry's activities.</p> <p>8) Can support civil society organizations with technical and financial aid.</p> <p>9) Dialogue and communication between the parliaments and citizens.</p> <p>10) Can set up joint missions with parliamentarians, government representatives and civil society organizations to investigate and address issues.</p> <p>11) Some parliaments can vote and control their own budget and include it in the state's budget.</p> <p>12) Field visits.</p>	<p>legislation or other activities such as field visits to constituents.</p> <p>5) High turnover of parliamentarians: lack of experience and continuity. → need to focus on institutional capacity building</p> <p>6) Lack of institutionalization of international support → the knowledge disappears with people.</p> <p>7) No access or liberty to use the local development funds in the way parliamentarians think is the most appropriate.</p> <p>8) No budget for public hearings or for committees.</p> <p>9) Lack of specific law addressing gender issues.</p> <p>10) Excessive use of the word "terrorism" which doesn't allow any real discussion.</p> <p>11) Male parliamentarians lack of knowledge regarding women parliamentarians' challenges, including physical threats.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>1) Legal limitation to the number of mandates for the executive authority.</p> <p>2) Diversity of committees.</p> <p>3) Strategic plan: can allow access to funds.</p> <p>4) Gender budgeting.</p> <p>5) Effective party caucuses.</p> <p>6) The Parliament should be in control of its own budget: amend and approve a budget independent from the influence of the government.</p> <p>7) Internal democratization of the parties.</p> <p>8) Work with civil society organizations: expertise available and link with the people.</p> <p>9) Networking and mobilization of resources.</p> <p>10) Strengthening of parliamentary capacities and technical assistance in legislation, communication, mediation and crisis resolution.</p> <p>11) International seminar on capacity strengthening, which should involve the staff of the parliament.</p> <p>12) Lessons learned from the crisis and its roots; mainstreaming of conflict sensitive laws and review of existing laws.</p> <p>13) Role of parliament in recommendations.</p> <p>14) Training of parliamentarians.</p> <p>15) Role of independent think tanks in terms of policy advice.</p> <p>16) A special legal counsel unit could be created in parliament to help parliamentarians analyze bills.</p> <p>17) Greater access to international support.</p> <p>18) Ensure that ECOWAS is more involved and takes into account the concerns of national parliaments.</p>	<p>1) Abuse of power by the executive authority over the parliament.</p> <p>2) Unlimited number of mandates for the executive authority.</p> <p>3) Excessive use of the possibility to dissolve the parliament.</p> <p>4) The president's party absorbing the others and controlling the parliament.</p> <p>5) Personal security threat for parliamentarians and for women in particular who would like to run for parliament.</p> <p>6) IGO – NGO: hostile attitude sometimes.</p> <p>7) Gender attribution of dossier (social for women parliamentarians and economics for men).</p> <p>8) No possibility to run as an independent parliamentarian.</p> <p>9) No voice for people who don't belong to a political party.</p> <p>10) Reduction of the power of parliaments.</p> <p>11) Lack of understanding / qualification of parliamentarians.</p> <p>12) Self-censorship of parliamentarians.</p> <p>13) Donor fatigue.</p> <p>14) Instability of neighboring countries.</p> <p>15) Porous borders.</p> <p>16) Big contrast between political parties which are either too strong or too weak.</p> <p>17) Lack of forensic test facilities continues to entrench impunity with regards to rape and other gender-based violence.</p>

<p>19) Encourage parliamentarians to elaborate and include community programmes at the local level (especially when the central authority is too far from the villages).</p> <p>20) Promote closer and stronger relationships between parliamentarians and constituents.</p> <p>21) Campaign financing: need of code of conduct to make sure that parliamentarians remain independent once elected.</p>	<p>18) Religious and cultural constraints that limit access of minorities to parliament.</p> <p>19) The tendency for parliamentarians to favor their own personal interest over the national public interest.</p>
---	---

75. Through this exercise, parliamentarians realized the substantial number of similarities regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of their respective parliaments' work and functioning in terms of crisis prevention and recovery. They were able **to learn from each other and identify collective ways and solutions to address the ongoing problems and current challenges.**

76. During *Session 8*, Ms. *Diane Sheinberg*, Programme Specialist on Parliamentary Development (DGG, UNDP) - and Mr. *Marc-Antoine Morel*, Programme Specialist on Small Arms and Armed Violence (BCPR, UNDP) - presented **UNDP's crisis prevention and recovery programme for West African parliaments**, with a particular focus on the work carried out by the *Democratic Governance Group (DGG)* and the *Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR)* at the global, regional and national levels in **Central America, West Africa** and the **Arab States region**.



*Left to right: Diane Sheinberg, Francesco Torcoli, Marc-Antoine Morel*

77. Mr. Morel first explained the **objective of UNDP's programme** which is to **develop the capacity of national parliaments to prevent conflict and armed violence by:**

- Informing the role that national parliaments can play in supporting the prevention of conflict and of violence and the restoration of citizen security through research and case studies;
- Promoting the involvement of national parliaments in conflict prevention and violence reduction with a view to influence policy change;
- Empowering regional organizations and national parliaments on conflict prevention and armed violence reduction related issues;
- Coordinating further the parliamentary work on conflict prevention and recovery with a first thematic window on armed violence and citizen security.

78. Mr. *Morel* specified that **UNDP intervenes at:**

- ✓ **The *global level*** through **AGORA** (a virtual platform for global exchanges on parliamentary development);
- ✓ **The *sub-regional level*** (in **West Africa, Central America** and the **Arab region**) by supporting regional parliamentary working groups, sub-regional organizations, development of knowledge tools;
- ✓ At the ***national level*** by supporting parliamentary committees and parliamentarians, knowledge development and management.

**In the two next years**, UNDP plans to launch regional working groups, produce fact sheets and country case studies, launch national workshops, and pilot the self-assessment tool / provide technical support to two parliaments in each region.

79. Ms. *Sheinberg*, on her part, highlighted the **different tools developed by UNDP** to better engage with parliaments and parliamentarians in crisis prevention and recovery. She referred to “***UNDP’s Guidelines for the International Community on Parliaments and Crisis Prevention and Recovery***”, published in 2006. She also mentioned the **programming guide UNDP** is currently working on which includes core guidelines to help UNDP practitioners develop parliamentary programming, as well as a **self-assessment tool** to assist practitioners in assessing, understanding and identifying the weaknesses and needs of parliaments so they may in return improve their support and enable parliaments to better address crisis prevention and recovery issues. This tool will serve as a **needs assessment mechanism** and will help practitioners and parliamentarians **identify the appropriate support/response to adopt depending on the type of conflict they are facing** (coup d’état, electoral violence, political violence, etc.). Ms. *Sheinberg* further indicated that **the tool will be piloted in 2 countries in West Africa** which will serve as national case studies and welcomed participants to inform the UNDP team should they be interested in having their respective parliament take part in the exercise.

## **SESSION 9: Closing session: partnerships and recommendations on how to better work together – solutions identified and next steps**

80. The *closing session* was addressed by Mr. *Sunday Ochoche*, UNDP Senior Policy Advisor [Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), New York], and Mr. *Kevin Deveaux*, UNDP Parliamentary Development advisor [Democratic Governance Group (DGG), New York].



*Mr. Sunday Ochoche (left) and Mr. Kevin Deveaux (right)*

81. Mr. *Ochoche* recapitulated the **major conclusions and recommendations** on how to improve parliamentary support in the area of crisis prevention and recovery at the **regional level**: The regional approach was recognized as highly relevant as it provides parliamentarians with an open space to exchange inspiring good practices and challenges they face on sensitive issues such as personal security concerns, independence of the parliament from the executive, corruption when dealing with gender-based violence, independence from political parties' positions within the region, etc. **Mr. Ochoche acknowledged**:
- ✓ The **multiplier force of the ECOWAS parliament** and its capacity to interface with national parliaments on crisis prevention and recovery issues;
  - ✓ The importance of **mainstreaming peace and security issues** throughout the 13 standing ECOWAS committees;
  - ✓ The launch of the *ECOWAS Female Parliamentarians Association (ECOFEPA)* as an opportunity to further engage on gender equality and gender-based violence issues in the region;
  - ✓ The **vision 2020** moving from an **ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of the people** as another opportunity to strengthen the ECOWAS mandate, visibility, accessibility and role in crisis prevention and issues.

82. Mr. *Deveaux Kevin*, on his part, underscored the **findings and recommendations** for moving the work on parliamentary support in the area of crisis prevention and recovery forward at the **national level**: The **main challenges of national parliaments** today concern:
- The weak position of parliamentary institutions in relation to the executive, armed groups and other non-state actors especially in post-conflict situations;
  - The lack of independency;
  - The limited capacities of parliamentarians and their staff (human resources, funds and infrastructures);
  - The tendency for parliamentarians to be more concerned with their party's interest or personal interest rather than with the nation's interest.
83. Mr. *Deveaux* recognized the general consensus on the fact that **the presence of strong and legitimate parliaments is crucial for a greater role in crisis prevention and recovery**. Agreed **recommendations** included:
- ✓ Strengthening the role of parliamentarians in the area of crisis prevention and recovery by building their mediation and communication capacities to intervene positively in, for example land disputes, border issues;
  - ✓ Joint investigation missions by parliamentarians, government representatives and civil society organizations were highlighted as a way forward;
  - ✓ Parliamentary outreach to citizens and civil society was also highlighted as an important legitimacy strategy to work on crisis prevention and recovery;
  - ✓ The question of finding the right balance between strong political parties and weak parties also came up during the discussions (political parties which are too strong can undermine the work of a parliament as an institution);
  - ✓ Mainstreaming a conflict-sensitive approach to law drafting and review of existing laws was also identified as an opportunity for parliamentarians to play a greater role in crisis prevention and recovery.
84. Mr. *Deveaux* finally thanked all parliamentarians, practitioners and representatives of international / regional organizations and civil society organizations for their participation, dynamism and contribution to the high level of debates which prevailed throughout the **regional seminar**. He expressed **special thanks to**: *Honorable Michael Aaron Oquaye*, Second Deputy Speaker of the **Parliament of Ghana**; *Honorable Mohamed Traore*, Secretary General of the **Parliament of Mali**; and *His Excellency M. Dirk Verheyen*, Ambassador of the **Kingdom of Belgium to Côte d'Ivoire** and the **Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs** for their financial support and commitment to UNDP's project. Mr. *Deveaux* ended his address by reiterating UNDP's commitment to **strengthening collaborations and creating new forms of partnerships** in order to reinforce and improve parliamentary support activities in the region, and urged parliamentarians to make the necessary **follow-up on the implementation and application of the various recommendations** made during the seminar at the level of their respective parliaments.

# CONCLUSION

85. **Strengthening parliaments as a whole institution is a major crisis prevention tool.** Parliament's basic oversight, legislative and representative role in crisis prevention and recovery issues reduces tensions or identifies peaceful means of resolving them and prevents the outbreak, escalation, spread or recurrence of violence through, **for example:**

- ✓ The creation of dedicated peace parliamentary committees (**Ghana**);
- ✓ legislating on gender-based violence in application of **UN Resolutions 1325** and **1820** (**Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire**);
- ✓ Oversight of the implementation of peace-building or prevention and reconciliation strategies (**Togo, Guinea-Bissau**);
- ✓ Parliamentary mediating with rebellions at the local level (**Mali**), etc.

86. On the basis of the recommendations of the regional seminar, **UNDP will:**

- ✓ Share the findings with its country offices in the region to better integrate this conflict-sensitive approach in existing parliamentary development projects;
- ✓ UNDP will continue engaging parliamentarians and partners at the regional level to consolidate the network of parliamentarians and identify and pilot south-south solutions and recommendations.

**All knowledge and research information is available on-line** under the dedicated **West Africa page** on **AGORA** (<http://www.agora-parl.org/node/2713>) and parliamentarians are invited to continue the discussions and experiences sharing on the **trusted area** of **AGORA**.

# ANNEXES

## Annex 1: Agenda

### Sunday 27 June, 2010: Arrival at hotel – accreditation

<b>18:00 – 20:00</b>  <b>CONFERENCE BUILDING</b>	<p>Welcome cocktail reception + mini knowledge fair where partners can present their latest publications on crisis prevention and recovery and parliamentary development + AGORA booth to film parliamentarians + AGORA movie</p> <p>Welcome address by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Hon. Michael Aaron OQUAYE</b>, Second Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana – 10 minutes</li> <li>2) <b>His Excellency Mr. Dirk VERHEYEN</b>, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Côte d'Ivoire – 10 minutes</li> <li>3) <b>Mr. Kamil KAMALUDEEN</b>, UNDP Country Director (Ghana) – OIC – 10 minutes</li> </ol>
--	---

### Monday 28 June, 2010

<b>Outcome of the day:</b> To reflect on past capacity development activities in the field of crisis prevention, armed violence and community security: what has been successful, and the impact of such activities in the region.	
<b>08:30 – 09:00</b>  <b>TRINITY HALL</b>	<p>Introductory session: objectives and outcomes of the regional seminar Tour de table – Introductions</p> <p><b>Moderators : Mr. Kevin Deveaux (UNDP / Parliamentary Development Advisor - DGG New York) and Mr. Sunday Ochoche (UNDP / Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), New York)</b></p>
<b>Session 1: Political Violence and Instability in West Africa: A Critical Analysis of the Role of Parliamentarians and Political Parties</b>	
<b>09:00 – 10:00</b>  <b>TRINITY HALL</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Presentation of the research paper related to political violence in the region by the researcher: <b>Mr. Issaka Souare</b> (15 minutes)</li> <li>2) Respondents: <b>Mr. Baffour Amoah (WAANSA)</b> and <b>Hon. Abdoulayé Touré (MP, Guinea)</b> - (5 minutes each)</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Marc-Antoine Morel (CPR Programme Specialist - Small Arms and Armed Violence/ UNDP Regional Office for West and Central Africa)</b></p> <p>Questions and Answers session to collect feedback from parliamentarians in the region. Comments will be integrated in the final version of the research paper.</p>
<b>Session 2: Parliamentary Performance and Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery Mechanisms in West Africa</b>	
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>  <b>TRINITY HALL</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Presentation of the research paper on the regional crisis prevention and recovery mechanisms by the researcher: <b>Mr. Mitchell O'Brien</b> (15 minutes)</li> <li>2) Respondents: <b>Mr. Emmanuel Bombande (WANEP)</b> and <b>Hon. Mamy Diomandé (MP, Côte d'Ivoire)</b> - (5 minutes each)</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator: Dr. Rasheed Draman (Director, African programs - Parliamentary Centre)</b></p> <p>Questions and Answers session to collect feedback from parliamentarians in the region. Comments will be integrated in the final version of the research paper.</p>

<b>11:00 - 11:15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Session 3: Parliaments as Peace-Building Institutions: Responding to the Challenges of Gender-Based Violence in West Africa</b>	
<b>11:15 - 12:30</b>  TRINITY HALL	<p>1) Presentation of the research paper on GBV by the researcher: <b><u>Ms. Ceri Hayes</u></b> (15 minutes)</p> <p>2) Respondents: <b>Dr. Rasheed Draman (Parliamentary Centre)</b> and <b>Hon. Bernadette Lahai (MP, Sierra Leone)</b> – (5 minutes each)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Simon Asoba (Project Manager, FES Regional Office in Abuja)</b></p> <p>Questions and Answers session to collect feedback from parliamentarians in the region. Comments will be integrated in the final version of the research paper.</p>
<b>12:30 - 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break at the AFIA restaurant (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>
<b>Session 4: Working group discussion on the basis of the research papers</b>	
<b>14:00 - 15:30</b>  TRINITY Hall + ROOM 1 + ROOM 2	<p>1) Methodology for working group discussion: participants will be divided in <b>three groups</b>, and will discuss the three presentations, share experiences, good practices, challenges from their respective countries</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Group A: <b>Mrs. Diane Sheinberg + Mr. Sunday Ochoche</b> Group B: <b>Mr. Marc-Antoine Morel + Ms. Soulef Guessoum</b> Group C: <b>Ms. Alessandra Pellizzeri + Mr. Kevin Deveaux</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Diane Sheinberg (Programme specialist, Parliamentary development, UNDP / DGG New York)</b></p>
<b>15:30-15:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Session 5: Strengthening the Role of parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Experience from the West Africa region</b>	
<b>15:45 – 17:00</b>  TRINITY HALL	<p>1) Presentations of five regional organizations on success stories, impact, bottlenecks and challenges (10 minutes per organization)</p> <p><b>Professor Kabeer Garba (ECOWAS Parliament)</b> <b>Mr. Kossi Agokla (UNREC)</b> <b>Mr. Okey Uzochina (DCAF)</b> <b>Mr. Simon Asoba (FES)</b> <b>Dr. Rasheed Draman (Parliamentary Centre)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Rogier Huizenga (IPU)</b></p> <p>Questions and Answers session</p>
<b>17:00 - 17:30</b>  TRINITY HALL	<p>Summary of day 1</p> <p><b>Moderators : Mr. Kevin Deveaux (UNDP / Parliamentary Development advisor - DGG New York) and Mr. Sunday Ochoche (UNDP / Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), New York)</b></p>
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Dinner at the Silver Service Restaurant (Ground floor)</b>

### Tuesday 29 June, 2010

<b>Outcome of the day:</b> Identifying key issues and what support is needed to effective parliamentary oversight and performance on crisis prevention and peace-building	
<b>Session 6: Strengthening the Role of parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Experience from the West Africa region (continued)</b>	
<b>09:00 - 10:30</b>	<p>1) Recap of day 1</p> <p>2) Presentations of five regional organizations on success stories, impact,</p>

TRINITY HALL	<p>bottlenecks and challenges (10 minutes per organization)</p> <p><b>Mr. Emmanuel Bombande (WANEP)</b>  <b>Mr. Baffour Amoa (WAANSA)</b>  <b>Mr. Rogier Huizenga (IPU)</b>  <b>Mr. John Corrie (AWEPA)</b>  <b>Ms. Alessandra Pelizzeri (UNDP)</b></p> <p><b><u>Moderator: Mr. Okey Uzochina (DCAF)</u></b></p> <p>Questions and Answers session</p>
<b>10:30 - 10:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Session 7: Possible solutions, opportunities and work plan at regional and national levels to collectively improve parliamentary performance in crisis prevention and recovery issues in West Africa</b>	
<b>10:45 – 12:30</b>  TRINITY HALL + ROOM 1 + ROOM 2	<p>1) Methodology for round tables ( two organizations per table + one organization as moderator): one discussion on regional issues / two discussions on national level</p> <p>2) Three round tables discussions (one facilitator per table) (SWOT analysis)</p> <p><b><u>Facilitators: Group A: Ms. Soulef Guessoum + Mr. Sunday Ochoche (regional issues)</u></b>  <b>Group B: Mr. Kevin Deveaux + Mr. Remi Clavet (national)</b>  <b>Group C: Mr. Marc-Antoine Morel + Ms. Alessandra Pellizzeri (national)</b></p> <p><b><u>Moderator: Ms. Diane Sheinberg (Programme specialist, Parliamentary development, UNDP / DGG New York)</u></b></p>
<b>12:15 - 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break at the AFIA restaurant (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>
<b>Session 8: Plenary discussion on possible solutions, opportunities and work plan</b>	
<b>14:00 - 15:30</b>  TRINITY HALL	<p>1) Presentations of UNDP project (Mr. Marc-Antoine Morel &amp; Ms. Diane Sheinberg)</p> <p>2) Restitution of the regional group &amp; discussion on regional priorities</p> <p><b><u>Moderator: Mr. Francesco Torcoli (Governance Programme Officer, European Commission Delegation to Ghana)</u></b></p>
<b>15:30 - 15:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Session 8 (cont.) : Plenary discussion on possible solutions, opportunities and work plan</b>	
<b>15:45 – 17:00</b>  TRINITY HALL	<p>1) Restitution of the national groups &amp; discussion on national priorities</p> <p><b><u>Moderator: Mr. Francesco Torcoli (Governance Programme Officer, European Commission Delegation to Ghana)</u></b></p>
<b>Session 9</b>	
<b>Closing session - Closing session: partnerships and recommendations on how to better work together – solutions identified and next steps</b>	
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>  TRINITY HALL	<p>Summary of discussion and way forward</p> <p><b><u>Moderators : Mr. Kevin Deveaux (UNDP / Parliamentary Development advisor - DGG New York) and Mr. Sunday Ochoche (UNDP / Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), New York)</u></b></p>
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Dinner at the Silver Service Restaurant (Ground floor)</b>

## Annex 2: Participants List

Members of Parliament					
Burkina Faso	Kientega	Meng-Néré Fidèle	Member of Parliament	mengnere@yahoo.fr	+226 70 22 29 65 +226 50 31 44 49
Burkina Faso	Fancani	Niquiébo	Member of Parliament	nfancani@yahoo.fr	+226 50 43 32 24 +226 70 10 40 32 +226 76 46 17 05 +226 78 89 12 59
Benin	Sagui Yotto	Justin	Member of Parliament		+229 97 98 66 64
Benin	Degbey	Jocelyn	Member of Parliament	degbeyj@yahoo.fr	+229 90 91 32 55
Côte d'Ivoire	Bobé Née Assa	Emilienne	Member of Parliament	bobiasa@yahoo.fr	+225 05 61 56 50 +225 22 52 59 15
Côte d'Ivoire	Diomandé	Mamy	Member of Parliament	madio2008@yahoo.fr	+225 01 00 14 61 +225 22 47 08 02 +225 07 90 25 84
Côte d'Ivoire	Gorgui	Jean Jacques	Parliamentary administrator	gorguij@yahoo.fr	+225 07 19 85 42 +225 20 20 82 10
Ghana	Oquaye	Michael Aaron	Honorable Second Deputy Speaker	amoghana@yahoo.com parliamentofghanaspeaker@gmail.com parlprotocol@gmail.com	+233 264 64 86 86
Ghana	Avoka	Cletus Apul	Member of Parliament	avokatus@yahoo.com	+233 244 31 68 31 +233 244 35 53 60
Ghana	Osei-Opere	Frema	Member of Parliament	afremao@yahoo.com	+233 024 474 7436 +233 026 774 7436
Ghana	Ofori Bofo	William	Member of Parliament		+233 244 313 650
Guinea	Touré	Abdoulaye	Member of Parliament	amiralfbi@yahoo.fr	+224 662 447 74
Guinea	Diallo	Hadja Taïbou	Member of Parliament	taybata@yahoo.fr	+224 64 24 87 38
Guinea-Bissau	Gomes Naluak	Vesa	Member of Parliament	vesa.vincent@gmail.com	+245 68 05 133 +245 53 00 500
Guinea-Bissau	Sissé	Nhima	Member of Parliament	nenesisse@yahoo.com.br	+245 664 06 16 +245 616 06 16
Liberia	Ennos	Alomiza M.	Member of Parliament	princefour75@yahoo.com tunftunf96@yahoo.com	+231 683 8152

Mali	Aichata Cissé	Haidara	Member of Parliament	haichata@yahoo.fr	+223 66 74 21 51 +223 20 21 03 74
Mali	Touré	Mahamane-Ibrahim	Member of Parliament	mahamane@ymail.com	+223 76 13 55 27
Mali	Traore	Mohamed	Secretary General	mohamed.traore@yahoo.fr	+223 76 25 68 54 +223 20 21 45 61
Mali	Diaby	Sékou Mamadou Chérif	Technical Advisor	cherifdiaby@hotmail.com	+223 66 78 43 74
Niger	Yacouba	Ibrahim	Member of the National Consultative Council for Transition	ibrayac@hotmail.com	+227 97 340 000
Niger	Zeinabou	Gourouza	Member of the National Consultative Council for Transition	abdou_assane78@hotmail.com	+227 97 451 473
Republic of Congo	Moundzalo	Jacqueline Solange	Member of Parliament	jsmoundz@yahoo.fr	+242 661 07 77 +242 512 07 77
Republic of Congo	Kadia	Patrice	Member of Parliament	yenkadia@yahoo.fr	+242 576 79 61
Sierra Leone	Hassan	Sheriff B.	Member of Parliament	hassanbkm53@aol.com	+232 76 337 760
Sierra Leone	Lahai	Bernadette	Member of Parliament	drblahai@gmail.com	+232 76 636 881
The Gambia	Saidykhan	Essa	Member of Parliament	essa.saidykhan@yahoo.com	+220 66 89 491
The Gambia	Sanneh	Momodou	Member of Parliament	assembly.clerk@yahoo.co.uk	+220 99 21 338
Togo	Singo	Ayitou	Member of Parliament	ayitou@hotmail.com	+228 222 57 91 +228 904 15 99
Togo	Kouagou	N'térantémou	Member of Parliament	ntkouagou@hotmail.com	+228 909 38 25

### International and Regional Organizations / Partners

AWEPA	Corrie	John	Former Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and Council Member of AWEPA	johncorrie@btconnect.com	+44 1557 820 232 +44 7802 835 911
AWEPA	Kayitare	Frank	Project Officer	F.Kayitare@awepa.org	+254 202 731 132 +254 724 179 055
Belgian Embassy in Abidjan	Verheyen	Dirk	Ambassador of Belgium to Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan@diplobel.fed.be	+225 05 95 44 10 +225 22 48 33 60
CIDA - Ghana	Gopaul	Cheryl	Senior Governance Advisor	cheryl.gopaul@psu-ghana.org	+233 024 836 7459
DCAF	Uzoechina	Okey	Focal point, West Africa	okeysoffice@yahoo.com	+234 803 668 2174
ECOWAS Parliament	Garba	Kabeer	Bureau Manager	garbayallo_zg@yahoo.com	+234 802 313 0484 +234 803 659 0381 +234 803 240 0153
EU Delegation - Ghana	Torcoli	Francesco	Governance Programme Officer	francesco.torcoli@ec.europa.eu	+233 54 633 4943
FES	Asoba	Simon	Project Manager	simon.asoba@fes-westafrica.org	+234 7058 0523 56
IPU	Huizenga	Rogier	Human Rights Programme Officer	rh@mail.ipu.org	+412 291 941 50
Parliamentary center	Draman	Rasheed	Director, African programs	rasheedd@yahoo.com dramar@parlcent.ca	+233 21 24 23 45 +233 24 495 71 25
Parliamentary center	Yakubu	Nansata	Parliament and Conflict Expert	yakubun@parlcent.ca	+233 21 24 23 45
UNREC	Agokla	Kossi	SSR Expert	kagokla@unrec.org	+228 253 50 00 +228 922 50 42
WAANSA	Amoa	Baffour	President	baffour.amoa@waansa.org	+233 30 27 79 503 +233 24 43 64 232
WANEP	Bombande	Emmanuel	Executive Director	ebombande@wanep.org	+233 24 42 10 785

**United Nations Development Programme**

UNDP - Ghana	Azuimah	Francis	Programme Officer	Francis.Azuimah@undp.org	+233 21 77 38 906
UNDP	Cham	Marilyn	Conference planner	Marilync@unops.org	+33 664 16 43 35
UNDP - BCPR Geneva	Clavet	Remi	Conflict and Governance Specialist	remi.clavet@undp.org	+41 22 917 84 68 +41 76 267 98 83
UNDP - DGG New York	Deveaux	Kevin	Parliamentary Development Policy Adviser	kevin.deveaux@undp.org	+1 902 403 4325
UNDP Regional Centre - Cairo	Guessoum	Soulef	Project coordinator	soulef.guessoum@undp.org	+213 77 820 49 93
UNDP	Hayes	Ceri	Consultant	cerihayes@gmail.com	+44 86 90 50 73 +44 77 73 98 76 07
UNDP - Ghana	Kamaluddeen	Kamil	Country Director (Ghana) – OIC	kamil.Kamaluddeen@undp.org	+233 21 77 38 906
UNDP Sierra Leone	Kooshak	Stephen	Parliamentary Advisor	stephen.kooshak@undp.org	+232 76 319 904 +232 76 319 904
UNDP - BCPR Dakar	Morel	Marc-Antoine	Programme Specialist Small Arms and Armed Violence	marc.antoine.morel@undp.org	+221 77 819 3270 +221 33 869 3985 +221 77 332 4334
UNDP - Ghana	Nyathi	Clever	Senior Peace and Governance Advisor	clever.nyathi@undp.org	+233 21 78 53 93
UNDP	O'Brien	Mitchell	Consultant	mitch.obrien@gmail.com	+1 202 445 3600
UNDP - BCPR	Ochoche	Sunday	Senior Policy Advisor	sunday.ochoche@undp.org	+1 914 439 5356
UNDP - Ghana	Opuku	Eric	Programme officer	eric.opuku@undp.org	+233 244 46 86 92
PNUD Mauritania	Pellizzeri	Alessandra	Governance Programme officer	Alessandra.pellizzeri@undp.org	+222 726 15 60 +222 649 15 60
UNDP Brussels	Pierre- Louveaux	Olivier	Parliamentary Development Knowledge Manager	olivier.louveaux@undp.org	+32 25 049 056 +32 49 781 0089
UNDP - DGG New York	Sheinberg	Diane	Programme Specialist Parliamentary Development	diane.sheinberg@undp.org	+1 212 906 5075
UNDP	Souare	Issaka	Consultant	iks224@yahoo.co.uk	+27 12 346 9500 +27 799 055 331