

# WANEP hosts ECOWAS Coordination meeting

A coordination meeting between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) West Africa Regional Programme was held at the Sun lodge Hotel, Tesano in Accra, Ghana from May 05<sup>th</sup> to 06<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The meeting was chaired by the Director of the Early Warning Department, Col Yoro Kone, and brought together participants from the ECOWAS Early Warning Department (EWD), the Zonal Bureaus of the EWD and key stakeholders in the partnership for early warning conflict prevention in West Africa, including the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF) represented by its General Secretary, Professor Ndongo.

The focus of the quarterly coordination meeting induced: an update of the functioning of the early warning (ECOWARN) field reporter (incident and situation reporting); the next phase of the USAID-support known as EWARDS (Early Warning and Response Design Support) project; briefing on the Conflict Systems and Country Risk Assessment of the EWD led by Club du Sahel (the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/CSAO)); and the training of the newly recruited analysts of the EWD.

The various modalities of implementation of the ECOWAS Peace Exchange forum which complements the two first modules of ECOWARN were also discussed. An update of the next training of focal points of ECOWARN scheduled for June 2009 in the framework of a partnership between the German-based training organisation-INWENT- and ECOWAS was also discussed. Recommendations were made on best options and strategies to enhance the process of early warning conflict prevention in West Africa and how best to maximise the role of civil society (WANEP).

Building Relationships for Peace