

## **WANEP FACILITATES TRAINING OF ECOWAS ANALYSTS**

A four day “Experience Sharing and Training of Analysts” of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has just ended in Accra. The newly recruited Peace and Conflict Monitoring



Analysts of the Early Warning Department of ECOWAS and staff of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) convened at the Mensvick Hotel in East Legon, Accra to share experiences on practice-based early warning, lessons learned and how to improve the process of warning and response in the context of West Africa.

Facilitated by the WANEP resource persons (Emmanuel H. Bombande-Executive Director and Takwa Z. Suifon, Director of Programmes), the workshop

focused on (appropriate) terminologies and concepts of early warning and peacebuilding; understanding the dynamics of conflicts in West Africa; West Africa specific indicators (ECOWARN) and conflict analyses; and scenario building and early warning reporting.

The highly interactive session elicited a fruit discussion around the challenges associated with ECOWAS’ drive towards an effective and results oriented early warning and response system. Unlike other early warning initiatives and systems, ECOWAS’ uniqueness lies in the fact of its peculiar context, and the fact that it prioritizes working in tandem with civil society and other major stakeholders. The ECOWAS analysts were led by the Director of the Early Warning Department, Colonel Yoro Kone.

It emerged that regular experience sharing of this nature will consistently help to identify gaps and challenges within the ECOWARN system. This workshop was not only an ideal opportunity to consolidate good practices, strengthen networks and enhance the capacity of the newly recruited conflict analysts; it also helped to clarify the interdependent relationship between conflicts



monitors at the community level across the sub-region, the conflict analysts at ECOWAS Secretariat and those mandated to respond to warning.