

SYMPOSIUM SERIES

THE WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

On 20th September 2006, WANEP held a symposium entitled: “*Reflecting on the Security Council Presidency of Ghana: The Role of the Security Council for Peace and Security in Africa and beyond and the Implications of Reform*”.

The goal of the symposium was to instigate a debate that would provide new perspectives and fresh ideas on the role of the Security Council and discuss the implications of its potential reform towards peace and security in Africa.

The symposium which was moderated by Mr. Daouda Toure, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Ghana, attracted a team of expert panelists from the state: Honorable Akwasi Osei Adjei, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ghana, from the academia: Professor Gilbert Bluwey, University of Ghana, Legon Centre for International Affairs, and from civil society: Ms. Oury Traore, Program Manager of WANEP. Among the audience were members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps which were represented by a total of ten embassies at the event.

Addressing issues ranging from the Roadmap of the African Union (AU) for Security Council reform, Ghana's Presidency on the Security Council, to NGOs Role at the Security Council, the panelists initiated an engaging discussion that drew valuable contributions from the audience. A comprehensive report of the symposium will be shortly posted on our site.

This symposium marked the first of a series of symposia that will be held on a quarterly basis. This event is going to be regular feature of our programme of activities. The goal of this WANEP initiative is to raise awareness and generate new ideas and thinking about regional, continental, and international issues that could impact on the peace and security situation in Africa by bringing together leaders and experts in the political, academic, diplomatic, and civil society arena to share and exchange views and strategies on ways and means to address most pressing issues in our sub region in the interest of peace and security in Africa and around the world.

The next symposium, scheduled to take place in December 2006, will address the issue of peacekeeping forces and national territorial integrity: the impasse of the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur as a case study and also analyse the implications of the conflict in Sudan at a regional scale.