



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

WARN POLICY BRIEF

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Transitions and Tensions in West Africa: Building on the Strength and Bridging the Gap in the

ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance

1.0 INTRODUCTION
In the past two decades, the ECOWAS region has been confronted with various levels of violent conflicts, exacerbated by bad governance, poor management and equitable distribution of resources and identity crises. West Africa has had three midsize civil wars, and experienced several coup d'états, civil unrests, electoral violence and most recently upsurge of violent extremism in

being elections continue to undermine political transparency and democratic stability. A case in point is the complications surrounding former President Laurent Gbagbo's refusal to accept the 2010 elections, a situation that triggered the country into political crisis. Also, the militarization of politics, often through

Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (MCPMR), Peacekeeping and Security in Liberia (PKSL). This instrument mainly aimed at addressing inter-state conflicts at a moment when intra-state conflicts were resulting in West Africa. In order to address the root causes of conflicts equally relating to governance and constitutional rules, ECOWAS further adopted a Supplementary Protocol on

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