

Overview of the Security Situation in West Africa

In **Zone One** (Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Senegal), the general political and security situation during the quarter could be described as somewhat tense. Apart from Cape Verde, the remaining three countries experienced some incidents that posed challenges to the political and security order. **Guinea Bissau**, yet again, came close to another military take-over. On 1 April, troops under the command of the then-Deputy Chief of General Staff, Major General António Indjai, took control of the armed forces' headquarters, detaining the Chief of General Staff, Vice Admiral José Zamora Induta, and briefly holding Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior. Military personnel later stormed the UN office in Bissau in search of Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchto, who was seeking refuge in the premises. Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchto left the UN building after signing a statement that he was leaving on his own accord.

The invasion of the UN premises by Bissau Guinean army was roundly condemned by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his latest report on Guinea Bissau calling the violation of the UN site “unacceptable and condemnable,” urging the national authorities to comply with their obligation to protect the world body's installations, personnel and assets. The report underscored “the extreme fragility of the peacebuilding process [in the country] and its vulnerability to reversals.” The report listed weak State institutions, development gaps, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime as among the obstacles to stability in Guinea-Bissau. Civilian control of the armed forces is very weak. The mutiny leader, Maj.-Gen. Indjai was later on appointed as the new Chief of General Staff of the armed forces and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General. According to the report, his appointment was criticized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), the United States and other partners.

In nearby **The Gambia**, the issue of national concern was the detention and treason trial of the former Chief of Defence staff of the Gambia Armed Forces Lang Tombong Tamba and seven others. Lang Tombong Tamba was the first-ever highest ranking Gambian military officer. If the accused are found guilty of treason, they would receive the death penalty. And by all indications, everything points towards that direction. In addition to the treason trial, there was the arrest, detention and trial of the dismissed Inspector General of Police and the Director General of the National Drug Enforcement Agency (NDEA). Political observers are worried about the political situation in The Gambia given the spate of arrests, detentions and disappearances of top civil servants, journalists and human rights defenders. Equally worrisome was the announcement of The Gambia Government in May about the seizure of two tons of cocaine worth over a billion dollars. The seizure led to the arrest of twelve individuals of various nationalities. This latest seizure of cocaine in The Gambia would reinforce the view that the West African sub-region has now become the hub for international drugs trafficking including illegal weapons.

In **Senegal** the quarter was marked on the one hand by an historic vote in Parliament in favour of the Parity Law to attain gender equity. Moreover, the last cabinet reshuffle brought about the creation of a Ministry of Gender in line with the recommendations of ECOWAS. On the other hand, the country was plunged into darkness due to power cut. From May to June, the country experienced protracted power outages that forced people in the street in protests at the lack of electricity especially in Dakar. The protests were contained without any recorded cases of death or damages to property.

In **Zone 2** (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger), the issue of political transition was of primary concern. In **Burkina Faso**, the voter registration exercise got off to slow start in the month of April. Meanwhile, political parties and experts fiercely debated the application and interpretation of Article 37 of

the Constitution that sets a two term limit. If the application of Article 37 would be retroactive, it meant that President Blaise Campaore would not be eligible to run for president in the upcoming Presidential elections scheduled for 21st November of this year. If the Article comes into force this year, it means President Blaise Campaore has two fresh terms to vie for the office of the president. Political observers are of the view that President Campaore will have his way in this matter, and come 21st November, he will still be in power.

On the aspect of security, the rainy season during the quarter did not record large-scale agro-pastoralist conflicts except for few isolated cases of conflicts in the Bam province in May and June 2010. No death was recorded. Usually, the rainy season heralds agro-pastoralists conflicts. Beside agro-pastoral conflict, the enthronement of a traditional leader in the Gnagna Province of the Eastern part of the country sparked off violent confrontation forcing the government to deploy the military to restore order.

Whereas Burkina Faso seemed certain to organize its presidential elections this year, the same could not be said for the Ivorian elections. No date was announced during the quarter for the “make-or-break” presidential elections of **Cote d’Ivoire**. It seemed that any chances of holding elections in Cote d’Ivoire would be next year. Nonetheless, the process of resolving the contentious issue regarding the electoral list and the stalled payment of ex-combatants got underway.

In **Zone 3** (Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), the spotlight was more on the democratic transition in **Guinea**. The organization of the presidential elections had been of concern. There were skepticism and grave concern that the elections might not hold. Nonetheless, the election was held on the stipulated date of 27th June. No major violent incidents were reported save for the scuffle that marred the final day of the political rallies between the parties of Sydia Toure of UFR and Cellou Dalein Diallo (UFGP) in Coyah resulting in the death of two to three individuals depending on the source of information. The first round of the elections did not produce an outright winner. The country is now preparing for the second round of voting between the frontrunner Cellou Dalein Diallo and Alpha Conde. Again, there is grave concern about the potentials of a post-electoral communal violence between ethnic groups involving mainly the Peulhs and Malinke.

In **Liberia**, the Threshold Bill is causing heated debate across the length and breadth of the country. The Threshold Bill is meant to address the need to create a minimal threshold for constituency representation for the coming 2011 Presidential and General Elections. The Bill was submitted to the National Legislature for passage into law. The delay in the passing of the Bill provoked strong reactions from civil society. During the period between April and June and up to present, the issue of the Bill made the headlines news of every media outfit (print or electronic) in Liberia. The National Legislature received enormous pressure from the public as well as private institutions to fast track the passing of the Bill which many perceived as key to the successful conduct of the 2011 elections. Women and students engaged in peaceful protests in May and June to push for the passage of the Bill as several non-governmental organizations including civil society coalitions increase lobbying and advocacy for the expeditious passage of the Bill. The National Elections Commission officially announced the halting of the preparations for the 2011 elections until the passage of the Bill. In the last weeks of June, religious groups led by the Liberia Council of Churches held meetings with the Senate Pro Tempore to resolve the issue regarding the protracted delay of the passage of the Bill.

As a result of the delay in passing the Bill, some opposition political parties had already broached the idea of establishing an Interim Government in case there may be a delay in holding elections in 2011. This idea was strongly rebuked by the President of the Republic of Liberia during a press conference held in Monrovia during which she stated that come 2011, there would be no interim government.

In **Sierra Leone**, there is a growing concern with respect to the emergence of the politicisation of ethnicity under the current political dispensation. Observers are worried that it may not augur well for the fragile

peace of the country if such practice continues. On a positive note, President Ernest Bai Koroma launched the National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on the implementation of the two UN Security Council Resolutions: 1325 and 1820 at Miatta Conference Hall in Freetown making the country the third in West Africa and 17th in the World to develop a National Action Plan. At the launching event, the first female Army Brigadier in the country's history, as well as in West Africa, Kestoria Kabia, made a statement to extol the gender ethics adopted in the Armed forces of Sierra Leone. The national network coordinator of WANEP-Sierra Leone made a statement at the event.

In **Zone Four** (Benin, Nigeria and Togo), like the previous zones, the issues of political transition dominated the news. In **Benin**, the newly introduced permanent computerized electoral list (LEPI) stirred up heated debate along partisan lines. This political wrangling bugged down the registration exercise. In response to the deadlock, the President Yayi Boni put in place a working group to make recommendations regarding the modalities and modus operandi in going about the electoral process in a consensual way. His strategy brought back sanity into the electoral process giving momentum of the voter registration exercise. The quarter also marked the fourth anniversary of President Yayi Boni in power. The anniversary was cause for celebration for his supporters, while a moment for condemnations and criticisms by those pointing to the price hike in fuel as well as the government's plans to privatize the national telecommunication company Benin TELECOM. On the other hand, the Parliament in Benin voted unanimously for arbitration by the International Court of Justice regarding the border issue with Burkina Faso.

In **Nigeria**, the death of President, **Umaru Musa Ya'ardua** of acute Pericaditis on 5th May 2010 ushered in the presidency of **Jonathan Goodluck**, putting an end to the fear-mongering about the power vacuum and political instability in Nigeria. The new administration immediately dissolved the Federal Executive Council and appointed a new one that would lead the country to the Presidential and General elections in 2011.

The much-criticised and condemned chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu, together with his members was relieved of their duty. With the appointment of the new INEC Chairman, Professor Jega Atthairu, a professor of political science and former Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, the Nigerian civil society, spearheaded by the Save Nigeria Group (SNG), started a campaign for a new voters' register as a measure to curb rigging and other electoral frauds which characterized the last elections in 2007. The need for a new register stemmed from allegations that many names of eligible voters were missing on the register while several ghost names were included therein.

Still on politics, the quarter witnessed violent altercations at the National Assembly over the allegations of embezzlement to the tune of 9 billion naira against the speaker of the House of Assembly. There were calls for his impeachment by a group of legislators labelling themselves as 'the progressives'. On the 22nd of June when the house resumed for plenary, the speaker of the Lower Chamber called for the forceful ejection of the progressive group from the session. This led to a free-for-all fight in the House that was captured live on national television. Members of the 'progressive group' were suspended and barred from entering their offices. The incident was condemned by activists and human rights groups as shameful and an abuse of power.

In the Niger Delta region, the Post Amnesty programme recommenced to encourage dialogue in search for lasting peace, while in Zamfara state, lead poisoning as a result of illegal gold mining claimed over 300 lives.

In **Togo**, on May 3, Faure Gnassingbé was sworn in as the president for his second term in office after a controversial presidential election that nearly threatened to undo the fragile peace of the country. In spite of the political rapprochement of President Gnassingbé to the opposition offering them seven ministerial positions including the Prime Minister position, the supporters and militants of the FRAC party continue to demonstrate, though peacefully, in the streets of Lome against the elections results.

WANEP REGIONAL SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

From the Regional Secretariat in Accra, WANEP engaged in various activities sometimes as the originator and other times as invitee. For the quarter under review, the following activities and events took place:

ECOWAS/InWEnt Consultation Workshop

In April 2010, WANEP was invited in its capacity as the implementing partner of ECOWARN to participate in a consultative meeting jointly organized by InWEnt, and the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) of ECOWAS, in Abuja, Nigeria. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a strategic direction for the InWEnt/EWD partnership for the next two years (2010 – 2012) in meeting the training needs of EWD and WANEP for the operationalisation of ECOWARN. InWEnt is the capacity building arm of the German Ministry of Cooperation and Development and have been partnering with ECOWAS in crisis management since 2002 and specifically with the EWD and WANEP in providing training in information gathering, conflict analysis, report writing and response development.

Workshop to Review a Study on ECOWAS Preventive Diplomacy

WANEP participated in a workshop to review a study on ECOWAS Preventive Diplomacy funded by the HD Centre in Switzerland to assess the challenges and opportunities of applying preventive mechanisms using early warning data. The workshop served as a forum to examine how to utilize the recommendations at the working level and how to initiate the implementation process within the ECOWAS structure. The workshop further explored ways and means of strengthening the inter-relationship between early warning and early response for greater proactive actions in the mitigation of conflicts in West Africa.

Consultations with CSOs on the Comprehensive Review of the Recommendations Contained in the 1998 Report of the Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

WANEP took part in a UN-organised meeting in consultation with Civil Society on “the Comprehensive Review of the Recommendations contained in the 1998 Report of the Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflict and the promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa.” The meeting which was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10th to 11th June 2010, examined the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in that report, with the aim of bringing attention to the full scope of new and old security challenges facing Africa, and of proposing new and creative ways to generate political, human, financial and technical support, as well as innovative and effective partnerships, to address the causes of conflict and promote durable peace and sustainable development in the 21st century. The review was a multi-stakeholder initiative involving the participation of UN system-wide agencies, member states, African regional organizations and civil society organizations, including strategic bilateral partners and the private sector

International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament

On the occasion of the International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament, WANEP issued a press release which was circulated to media houses in Ghana and to its national networks across West Africa. In the press release, WANEP reminded all concerned the devastating effects of armed conflict in the West African sub region, the fight against arms proliferation contributing to gun-related violence and deaths, dealing with ill-disciplined militias and mercenaries amongst others. WANEP underscored the need for effective implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons to support a culture of responsible transfers and management of small arms that would not threaten the peace and security of women in the region.

Transitional Justice and the Role of TRCs in Africa: Emerging Lessons and Implications for Post-Accord Societies

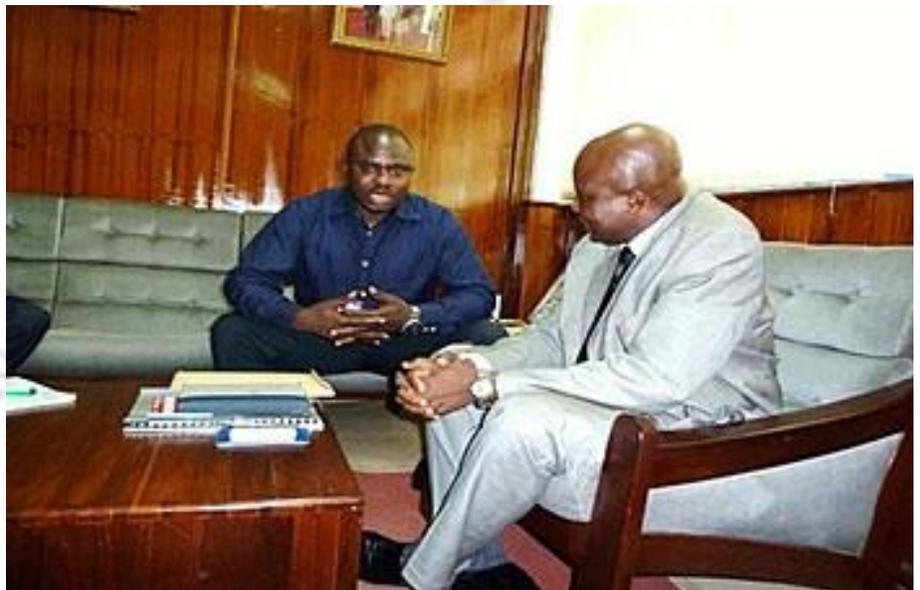
In April 2010, WANEP renewed its partnership with the Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI-Africa) in the implementation of the second phase of a project assessing Transitional Justice in Africa. The theme of the second phase is “*Transitional Justice and the Role of TRCs in Africa; Emerging Lessons and Implications for Post-Accord Societies.*”

The project is a follow-up to the field research carried out in the first phase titled, *Transitional Justice Experiences in Africa and the Rise of the TRC Model: Emerging Lessons and Implications for Post-Accord Societies* in Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone and South Africa between February 2007 and May 2009. The second phase aims to broaden and enhance access to the research findings through targeted dissemination of the findings and publishing the research report.

In May, a meeting was held between the project team of the two organisations at NPI – Africa office in Nairobi Kenya where delineation of roles and responsibilities was done for the successful implementation of the project.

Bawku Stakeholder’s Consultative meeting

On May 8th and 9th 2010, with the support of UNDP-Ghana, WANEP organized the 2nd Bawku Stakeholder’s Consultative meeting in Kumasi Ghana between the conflict parties. The theme of the meeting was *Searching for and the Restoration of Peace in Bawku*. The meeting brought together a total of Seventy (70) participants including nine (9) Honourable members of Parliament in Ghana, representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, IBIS, the Northern Development Forum and the National Peace Council. WANEP served as the convener and facilitator and through its technical expertise in



WANEP Program Director presenting the report of Bawku Stakeholder’s Consultative meeting with the Country Rep of UNDP

Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution facilitated the sessions as well as developed appropriate tools to help

stakeholders bring to the fore their main concerns. The report of the meeting was presented to UNDP. Discussions were later held between WANEP and UNDP for possible follow-up actions

A Retreat of Partner Organisations of the West Africa Human Rights and Democratization (WARHD) Project

The first phase of the (WARHD) programme ended in March 2010 since its commencement in 2006. WANEP has been the implementing agency of the programme in collaboration with three other CSOs in Ghana with the financial and technical support from IBIS. In the first quarter of 2010, the partners worked together to develop the activities of the second phase of the project (2010 – 2014) and expand its areas of coverage. In order to review, appreciate and fine-tune the new proposal, a retreat was organized for the WAHRD coalition partners at the Holy Trinity SPA, Sogakope, Ghana.

Partner organizations developed proposed activities for the first year spanning April to December 2010 under the specific programme component as well as the joint RRIF programme component. WANEP proposed to work on a project titled “election barometer” – developing indicators for monitoring and mitigating electoral violence in Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, while under the Rapid Response component WANEP will collaborate with partners to address Ghana’s Local Government Elections.

Organising a Training on “Overcoming violence – Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace”

WANEP is hosting the Africa desk of the International Fellowship for Reconciliation – Women Peacemakers Programme (IFOR-WPP). WANEP subscribes to the view that in order to transform cultures of war and violence, women peace activists need to work together with male allies, and that issues of masculinities need to be addressed in the field of peacebuilding and active nonviolence.

As part of the follow-up plan of the WPP first Training of Trainers Programme on the theme “Overcoming violence – Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace” held in the Netherlands exclusively for men, WANEP replicated the training on May 27-28 2010 at the WANEP conference hall in Accra for nine (9) men in Ghana drawn from civil society organisations and the academia. A female ally was identified to provide mentorship to the male trainer and co-facilitate the replication training.

The objectives of the training were to: 1) reduce violence against women in Ghana 2) promote peace and reconciliation in the Northern and Volta regions of Ghana through active non-violence and 3) promote collaboration and partnership between men and women in Ghana particularly in the target regions for gender equality.



A session of the training in progress

As part of its strategy, WANEP approached the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs for partnership in this endeavour to broaden its scope of intervention and provide the leverage to influence transformation at the political level.

Workshop on Response Design and Typology in West Africa

Under the Early Warning and Response Design Support (EWARD) project funded by USAID, WANEP partnered with ARD Inc., the project management team, to organise a workshop on "Response Design and Typology in West Africa" at Sogakope, Ghana on 6th and 7th of May 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss ways that conflict early warning data and signs of conflict could be acted upon more expeditiously and systematically within a tripartite partnership among interstate, governmental and civil society actors. The response workshop, which was exploratory and foundational, aimed at establishing an overview of the early warning and response landscape to inform the content of subsequent workshops seeking to build response capacity in West Africa and to link it more effectively to early warning systems.

Consultation for a Peaceful and Credible Democratic Transition in Guinea

In the lead-up to the Guinean Presidential elections, WANEP held its Third National Consultative Meeting, under the theme "Peaceful and Credible Democratic Transition", on the 1st and 2nd of June 2010 at the Novotel Hotel in Conakry, Guinea. The consultative meeting was organized with financial support from the Government of Norway within the framework of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC). The meeting attracted 53 participants drawn from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), the Ministry of Defense, MATAP, the National Council for Transition (CNT), the Special Representative of ECOWAS, the National Workers Union (CNTG-USTG), the National Council for Communication responsible for capacity building of the media, local authorities, the National Umbrella of Civil Society Organisations (CNOSCG) and other non-governmental organizations.



A Group Photo of the Participants with the Executive Director of WANEP

The meeting provided the forum for key stakeholders to learn about the state and level of preparedness for the Presidential elections. Participants from the government and civil society exchanged views and concerns in ensuring that the elections would be peaceful, credible, transparent and representing the choice of the Guinean people.



Cross-Section of the Participants at the Guinea Consultation

Observation of the June 27 Presidential Election in Guinea

WANEP joined hundreds of international and national observers to monitor violence and observe the June 27th Presidential election in Guinea. WANEP was part of the ECOWAS Election Observation Mission team of 200 strong observers – the largest international observation team on the ground. On Election-Day Guineans from all walks of life came out in their numbers to resolutely put an end to the military rule through the ballot box. The election was considered to be an historic one in the political annals of the country in the sense that this was the first time in 52 years of independence that a presidential election was organised where incumbency was not a decisive factor; the outcome of the results was not a foregone conclusion; and there was no boycott from any quarters as all candidates believed to have fair chances of winning.

Regardless of the logistical challenges that beset the election, the important thing was about the political change that would bring the country back into the fold of democratic comity of nations. Like the ECOWAS Election Observation Mission emphasised, their observation of elections in West Africa was not about “choice for details” but “choice for change”. The Election-Day was violence-free.

Regional seminar on Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery in West Africa:

From 27th to 29th June 2010, WANEP participated in a regional seminar of members of Parliament in West Africa organised by the UNDP. The theme of the seminar was “Towards Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery in West Africa”. The seminar provided a platform for reflection on past capacity development activities in the field of crisis prevention, armed violence and community security and accounted for what has been successful, and the impact of such activities in the region. WANEP participated in a panel discussion and made a presentation of its experiences working with members of parliament at national and regional level in West Africa. Follow-on activities have been planned to involve members of parliament more actively in conflict prevention activities.

WANEP NATIONAL NETWORKS ACTIVITIES

WANEP-BENIN

Creation of CSO Coalitions for the Election in Benin:

Given the very tense socio-political situation in Benin, some influential personalities and credible civil society organisations including WANEP-Benin met in a forum held at Ahémé village in Possotomè on May 06-07, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to reflect, analyse and develop new strategies in view of minimizing the risks of violence associated with the upcoming 2011 elections. As an outcome of the conference, a coalition of civil society organisations was formed FORS-ELECTIONS (Union of Civil Society Organisations for Free, Transparent and Peaceful Elections) on June 6th in Cotonou. Hosted by WANEP-Benin, this coalition comprises of labour unions, NGOs and key personalities with the objectives to carry out effective advocacy strategy in view of influencing necessary reforms to ensure transparent and peaceful elections and to encourage political actors to take part in the electoral process accepting the results of the elections with honesty and sincerity. FORS-Elections has set up an alternative electoral commission of citizens called *Commission Electorale Citoyenne Autonome Alternative (CECA)* (Alternative Independent Citizens' Electoral Commission) to monitor, observe and supervise the elections in Benin and neighbouring countries where Beninois nationals will be voting.

Advocacy and Sensitisation for the Permanent Computerized Electoral Register LEPI:

WANEP-Benin continued throughout this quarter to serve as the lead agency in coordinating the activities of the CSO consortium working on the implementation of LEPI (Permanent Computerized Electoral Register) accessible on the link www.fors-lepi.org. The CSO consortium initiated many activities including undertaking two country-wide missions (from 7-30 April and from 16-17 May 2010) to monitor the door-to-door registration of voters, organising three-day massive sensitization campaigns in May in 12 regions of the country; holding a Press Conference on May 26 to inform the public about the findings of their field missions carried out to monitor the registration process.



From left to right: Orden ALLADATIN, Board Chair of NNC WANEP-Bénin, Julien OUSSOU, WANEP-Benin ; Joseph DJOGBENOU et Joël ATAYI-GUEDEGBE, members of WANEP-BENIN

Capacity building Seminar on Lobbying and Advocacy for the Reform of the Judicial System

WANEP-Benin in partnership with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) under the Africa Human Security Initiative (ASHI) programme organised a seminar at Marina Hotel on June 9th on the above theme. The seminar gathered a total of 55 participants drawn from human rights institutions, the defense and security forces, the judicial organs, prison services and civil society organisations. This activity was a follow up to the study on the status of the judicial system in Benin whose report was validated in August 2008 in Cotonou.



Cross-sections of the participants

Radio Programme for Peaceful Elections

In the framework of the Integrated and Collaborative Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management programme in West Africa financed by the Finnish Government, WANEP-Benin, through its WIPNET programme implemented a series of radio programmes in June 2010. In view of addressing the tense socio-political context triggered by heated debates regarding the 2011 Presidential elections, the radio programmes provided the space for women to contribute in the political discourse. The discussants carried out sensitization campaigns for the maintenance of peace calling for the use of active non-violence approaches in dealing with the contentious electoral matters.

Regional Seminar on Traditional *Justice and Reconciliation after Violent Conflicts*:

On April 28-29 2010, the National Network Coordinator (NNC) of WANEP-Benin attended a regional seminar on the theme: *Traditional Justice and Reconciliation after violent conflicts: the rich African Experiences*. The seminar was held at the Goree Institute in Senegal. WANEP made a presentation on the topic: *the pertinence and role of the Benin traditional justice mechanisms*.

WANEP-BURKINA FASO

Recruitment of National Network Coordinator and Zonal Coordinator

The national network in Burkina Faso was relatively dominant since the death of its zonal coordinator who was acting as national network coordinator. In April, following a recruitment process, a substantive National Network Coordinator (NNC) and a Zonal Coordinator (ZC) in charge of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger were recruited. A General Assembly was held in April electing a new Board of Directors that was inaugurated in June.

Induction and Orientation Training in Accra, Ghana

As part of the induction and orientation trainings for the new staff, both coordinators participated in a three-day intensive training for all WANEP regional and national staff on the WANEP-ECOWAS early warning system and on Proposal Writing and Financial management in Accra, Ghana.

Radio Programme

The network started a community radio programme on conflict prevention and the promotion of the rights of women during the quarter.

WANEP-COTE D'IVOIRE (WANEP-CI)

Governance Training for Monitoring Committee:

In the framework of the project entitled '*civil society engaged for democracy and good governance*', WANEP-CI carried out a series of capacity building trainings for members of the Monitoring Committee for Democracy and Good Governance established in all the five geopolitical regions of Cote d'Ivoire (East, West, North, Central and South). The objective of the training sessions was to strengthen the capacity of the monitoring committee members on the prevention and management of conflicts and the decentralization process in view of facilitating their oversight roles in their communities. The training sessions were facilitated by experts from the Interior Ministry.

The 11th Statement on the Ougadougou Peace Accord

On 6th May, WANEP-CI issued its eleventh statement on the status of the Ougadougou Peace Accord calling attention to key issues. The statement, sent to all concerned and media houses, reminded the government about the renewal of the staff of the Electoral Commission for the period of February to May 2010.

Joint Press Release (WANEP-CI, COSOPCI, COFEMCI, FOSCAO-CI et le RAIDH).

WANEP-CI in partnership with other civil society organisations issued a press release expressing concern about a communiqué issued by the office of the Prime Minister and the Electoral Commission regarding the electoral process. In the press release, they urged the country's leaders to be more consistent and specific regarding the elections to avoid frustration and discontent.

Training of Civil Society and Actors of the Security Sector on Peace and Human Rights:

WANEP-CI in partnership with CLEEN Foundation organised a training workshop on the theme '*Transparency, Responsibility and strengthening of capacities of the security sector institutions involved in electoral processes in Cote d'Ivoire*'. The training took place in Grand Bassam on June 21-22 for participants drawn from the national police, the integrated command unit, civil society and private security firms.

ECOWARN situation and incident Reports:

During the quarter, 12 situation reports and 13 incident reports were submitted by the WANEP civil society focal point on ECOWARN.

Advocacy for Women Participation in Politics

With financial support from the World-Fund for Women, WANEP-CI intensified its advocacy under the project "support for extra judicial decisions in favour of women's active participation in political life and democratic debate in Cote d'Ivoire". The advocacy was directed at the Korhogo court which had received positive decision from the Ministry of Women to provide legal assistance in support of women whose marriage was not legally registered. Meanwhile, the court of Korhogo had called on the State to bear the legal fees and expenses for the registration of the women. The court further issued directive to the treasury department of Korhogo for the disbursement of funds needed to register the women.

WANEP- THE GAMBIA

Small Arms and Light Weapons Project:

Under the SALW Project, the Vet Drug store refurbishment work as well as furnishing of the store was completed. The Vet Drug store is a community project under the arms in exchange for development project.

Management Training:

10 community members (4 females and 6 males), mainly farmers and local government authority workers, of the Management Committee were trained by a consultant on management of micro projects. The training of the Management Committee provided a valuable opportunity for greater understanding of the project and its objectives.

Weapons Collection:

Five local hunting rifles were surrendered anonymously to the local military camp in the project location at the Upper River Region for storage and subsequent destruction.

Capacity Building Training for Sales Persons

This capacity building training was carried out alongside a two –day training for 4 sales persons (2 Males and 2 females) with the aim of enhancing the management of the drug store and drug dispensation. On the final day, a practical training was carried out at the store using a sample of the drugs while emphasis was laid on the mechanisms for handling of and dispensing drugs.

WANEP- GHANA

National Security Brief

As a result of information gathered through the WANEP-Ghana national early warning programme - Ghana-Warn and ECOWARN, the secretariat organized a National Security Brief on issues emerging from the preceding quarter in order to highlight security threats facing the nation. The briefing was held at the Radach Memorial centre in Tamale on April 7, 2010. The session was attended by Northern Regional Coordinating Council, Northern Regional Peace Advisory Council, WANEP-Ghana members, NGOs, the Security Services, and the Media etc. The security brief raised concern about the worrying situations of the issue of chieftaincy-related conflicts, resistance to the choice of chiefs in certain cases resulting in youth hooliganism, the barbaric murders of chiefs, kidnapping of chiefs, issuing of death threats to chiefs. It raised problems in relation to the grazing of farmland by Fulani cattle, rape of married women and young girls in the bush, increase in armed robbery and insecurity in these communities.

Radio Discussion Programmes:

A series of radio programmes was carried out during the quarter as an intervention mechanism in the chieftaincy-related conflicts in the hot spots in Dagbon namely: Sagnarigu, Bamvim, Dohine, Yendi, Golinga. The objectives of the radio discussions were to bring out the issues that were threatening the peace in Dagbon. The panellists used the opportunity to appeal for non-violence approach, especially among the youth and to put into perspective the murder of the chief in Garishegu and its consequences. They discussed

as well the death threats to the chief in Bamvim, the ban on drumming by the Dakpema and its after-effects, the youth violence in Yendi, Karaga and Tamale, and the issue of Fulani herdsmen in Dagbon. The radio discussions were aired live in the local dialects on two radio stations allowing phone calls. The recordings were also played back on a third radio station. The programme was funded by the Government of Finland through WANEP-Regional Secretariat with the extra 30 minutes of the programme sponsored by the radio stations as part of their social responsibility.

Human Security Programme

The Human Security Programme seeks to enhance human security through local capacity for community-based conflict prevention in Northern Ghana. The project is being funded by the UN agencies. With the participation of UDS, University of Ghana, OCHA, UNU, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP and UNIDO, WANEP-Ghana attended all the community visits held from April 19- 28 in Wa, Tamale and Yendi. Bawku could not be visited because of its insecurity. The conflict prone communities that were visited included Charia, Sokayiri, Fongo and Nayiri in Wa Municipality, Choggu, Nyohini, Changli, Abuabu and Lamashegu in Tamale Metropolis and Gutingli, Nayilfong and Kunfong in the Yendi Municipality.

Trainings and Capacity Building Workshops:

During the quarter, a number of staff attended courses and workshops to upgrade their skills. The National Network Coordinator attended the Chief Executive Officer training at Ghana Institute of Public Management and Administration (GIMPA), the Finance Officer attended MANGO II training, the Program Officer attended the Gender workshop organised by Christian Aid and the Data Analyst attended a “DO No Harm” training organised by World Vision.

WANEP-Ghana provided capacity building support to some organizations, namely: the Women in Peacebuilding Movement, Rural Media Network, Ghanaian Danish Community Association and NADMO.

WANEP-GUINEA

Promoting Peaceful Co-existence for a Violence-Free Election

In the run-up to the June presidential election, WANEP-Guinea organised sensitization campaigns on violence free elections. Part of the strategy of the campaigns was to celebrate and validate traditional values promoting peace and perform cultural activities emphasising on peaceful co-existence. With financial support from the local government authorities, the women and youth groups converged at the volatile *Commune de Ratoma* to sensitise people on violence free elections. In partnership with IANSA on the fight against armed violence, a sensitization campaign was later carried out for the traditional and local leaders in urban communities with lectures and debates at the Ratoma city hall.

Meetings at the Ministry of Women’s Solidarity and Promotion of Women and Children

WANEP-Guinea regularly took part in the civil society meetings organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Women’s Solidarity and Promotion of Women and Children. The focus of these meetings was to ensure the participation of women in all spheres of life and the prevention of violent conflicts during the transition period.

Seminar on Traditional Justice and Reconciliations Systems:

The NNC participated in a seminar on traditional justice and reconciliations systems in Africa held at the Gorée Institute in Dakar. The activity was financed by the International Institute for democracy and Electoral

Assistance (IDEA). The seminar examined the contribution of traditional justice systems in dealing with conflict and supporting post conflict reconstruction and development stages using 5 case studies from Burundi, Mozambique, Uganda, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.

Radio Programme:

Throughout the month of May, various radio discussions were aired at Sabari FM and Liberty FM Radio stations on peaceful elections. These radio programmes were funded with support from the Government of Finland to WANEP for peace consolidation and crisis management in West Africa.

Seminar for Women's Political Participation:

The NNC took part in a seminar for women on the theme "*Involvement of Guinean Women in the Transition Process*" supported by the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). The seminars were attended by many local actors and high level state civil servants and local authorities. As an outcome of the first seminar, WANEP-Guinea was chosen as the lead agency to implement a national project in Guinea. So far three activities were completed in Conakry and N'Zérékoré on conflict prevention and early warning enabling WANEP-Guinea to establish focal points in Beyla, Lola, Yomou and N'Zérékoré towns.

Third National Consultation on Peaceful elections

With technical support from WANEP-Regional Secretariat, WANEP-Guinea organised the 3rd National Consultation on the theme '*Peaceful, Democratic and Credible Transition in Guinea*'. The Consultation was held at Novotel hotel on June 1-2, 2010 with the participation of key national players in the electoral process; such as the interim Government, the Electoral Commission, the National Transitional Council (ad hoc parliamentary body) and civil society organisations. In recognition of its important role, WANEP-Guinea was granted election observer status by the Electoral Commission and key WANEP staff and members were deployed in Conakry on June 27 to monitor election-related violence.

WANEP-LIBERIA

Enhancing Women and Youth Political Participation:

The goal of the project is to undertake an analysis of the Electoral law and the Threshold Bill to tease out the issues that affect youths and women participation in the electoral processes. The project raises public awareness and conducts advocacy for reforms. It started this quarter in April. The project is being jointly implemented by the Federation of Liberian Youth, (FLY), the Liberia Democratic Institute, and WANEP specifically the WIPNET Programme, with LDI playing a coordination role. Considering the many challenges faced with the controversial Threshold Bill, the first quarter of the project focused on the organization of a massive campaign to ensure the speedy passage of the said bill. Several press conferences were held followed by sit-in actions at the Capitol Building where Senators had regular sessions on the bill. The Concern Sector Youth Development Association (COSYDA) took the issues of the threshold bill to the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Youth and Women Political Participation in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone:

A national launching of the project Youth and Women Political Participation was organized. The project, funded by the Royal Danish Government (DANIDA) through International Alert (IA), is conducted at both sub-

regional (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone) and national levels (Grand Gedeh, Rivergee, Maryland, Grand Kru and Sinoe, same counties as the above).

West Africa Peacebuilding Project (WAPP):

Under the WAPP Project, supported by CAUSE Canada with funding from the Global Peace and Security Fund and the Ford Foundation, a regional peacebuilding conference was organized by the Sierra Leone team. The conference brought together about 100 participants from Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast and Canada to deliberate on national and regional issues of peacebuilding. A key outcome of the conference was a communiqué aimed at all stakeholders engaging at national and regional levels to support the ongoing peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives.

Supporting Rural Women Learning and Leadership Development

This project, funded by TrustAfrica, is designed to address the issue of local capacity building at the local community level. It targets the 23 WIPNET sub-branches located in the 10 operational counties of the programme. During the quarter, a baseline survey was done to help inform the programme delivery and evaluation strategies over the one year period. Secondly, a training programme was arranged for 11 members of the WIPNET programme (10 from the sub-branches and 1 from the Secretariat) to travel to Ghana at the Krokobiety Institute to acquire knowledge and skills for a period of one month. As a result of this event some of the community women involved had for the first time travel documents to leave the country.

Advocacy for the Gender Equity Bill:

WANEP-Liberia through its WIPNET programme collaborated with the Women's Legislative Caucus, the Association of Female Lawyers and women organizations to reactivate the campaign for the passage of "the Gender Equity Bill", previously called "The Fairness Bill". In the past, this bill caused uproar and consequently was not accepted or passed by the Legislature. Women groups did not give up on the Bill and restarted the process as the country prepares for next elections. The Women's Legislative Caucus reinitiated the process and engaged internally their male counterparts (Legislators). The Gender Equity Bill calls for a minimum of 30% quota for women and not more than 70% of any gender in political leadership, and that there should be a reward mechanism for those encouraging and promoting increased participation of the minority groups through the political process. WIPNET succeeded in working alongside with the Ministry of Gender and Development to mobilize more than 300 women in support of the Bill at the House.

Rural Women Peace Initiative Project

The project, funded by the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) for the fifth year, has basically come to an end for the year 2009/2010. The activities of the project included financial packages for education, individual women's empowerment and general community or group support initiatives, radio programming and sensitization. The project was able to support the schooling of about 30 youths boys and girls; 30 radio programmes aired at community level through the local community radio stations, and at least three advocacy actions taken by the project beneficiaries to increase partnership building and networking in dealing with issues of concerns.

As the project comes to an end, AJWS continues to remain interested in the work of WANEP and has for the sixth year approved another grant for general support for the Institution while the project beneficiaries

would continue to be engaged through other programs, projects and structures for ensuring continuity and progress.

Leadership With Integrity Project:

In continuation of the Les Aspen project, the project officer from the Secretariat along with the programme Director led a team of 11 others in April (Young Liberians) to attend a three week exchange programme in the United States of America in Washington DC. The exchange visit gave the participants the opportunity to learn about issues of governance, leadership development, rule of law etc. The participants returned to Liberia excited about the programme and anxious to replicate what they had learned during the visit. Upon return, a brief meeting was held at the WANEP office where participants shared lessons learned, successes and challenges of the programme as well as plans for moving it forward.

Intra County Reconciliation Project:

In continuation of the Peacebuilding Fund fast track project, at least four local community peace and reconciliation dialogues, one cultural festival, and one external project evaluation were held in two districts in two counties: Nimba and Grand Gedeh. The activities seek to promote intra county reconciliation between the residents of the targeted districts and the communities. The Early Warning System component is still on hold due to an underestimation of the budget, but discussions were held with UNHCR for supplementary funds to be added to the new up-coming WANEP EWER grant in support of the systems development and set up.

Participation at Partners' Meetings

WANEP-Liberia participated in several meetings with both local and international partners including the Global Fund for Women, the Open Society Initiative (OSI), Conciliation Resources and the UNFPA etc. In commemoration of the upcoming 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the UN Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, a two day preparatory meeting was organized by UNIFEM, UNMIL Gender Division and the office of the UNDP Gender advisor with women Institutions and programmes including WIPNET to develop a priority statement highlighting issues for women peace and security to be presented to the Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG). Following two weeks of the preparatory meeting and in line with the Global UN Women agenda, a one day open house meeting was held with women's organization during which time the statement was officially presented to the SRSG.

Visit of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on the New Gender:

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on the New Gender architecture visited Liberia and was escorted to the Peace Hut in Totota. During her visit, she was able to witness a mediated case of wife abandonment and inheritance. During this visit, the SRSG was escorted by the Executive Director of UNIFEM Liberia as well as a programme staff from the WANEP-Liberia secretariat.

Visit of American Students on Internship

WANEP- Liberia received as visitors 10 American students on internship with one of the partner organizations in Liberia. The interns were in Liberia for a period of three weeks and interested in learning

more about the work being done in the field of peacebuilding and some of the lessons and best practices from WANEP Liberia.

Internship at WANEP-Liberia:

Two interns from Nigeria and the United Kingdom completed their research and support work with WANEP. They departed Liberia in Late May. With the focus of both interns' interest on women peace and security, they were very helpful to the WIPNET programme especially in the areas of Monitoring and Evaluation and the development of a pilot micro-credit programme for the WIPNET Sub-branches.

International Missions and Travels:

In addition to the trip made to Sierra Leone by 4 staff and 2 Board Members to attend a conference, the Programme Coordinator travelled to London to attend a day strategic Planning Meeting of Amnesty International and to New York to finalize plans for the implementation of the second phase DFID/UNIFEM Project on security sector reform and peacebuilding to be implemented in four countries (Uganda, Timor Leste, Haiti and Liberia). The project is expected to commence in the next quarter.

Approval of New Grants:

WANEP-Liberia received approval for two new grants by UNIFEM for a short term advocacy campaign on the passage of the Gender Equity Bill and by the UN Peacebuilding Fund through the Liberia Peacebuilding Office and UNHCR for support to a project titled "Community Women Peace and security Initiative". The grants would provide support for Organizational Development for Women-led organizations as well as the promotion of community-based peacebuilding initiatives.

New Grant for Early Warning System:

A new grant was approved for support to the Early Warning programme specifically as it relates to the setting up of a National Early Warning and Response system. The project is expected to be implemented in four counties but the system would target all 15 counties of Liberia. The implementation should however begin within the next quarter.

WANEP-NIGERIA

Monitoring of HERD Early Warning Reporting

The incidence and situation reports by HERD Early Warning (EW) monitors sent online is collated and analysed by the Department for production of the Early Warning (EW) bulletins or to support the daily incidence and weekly situation reports for ECOWARN

Zonal Early Warning Refresher Trainings April and June 2010:

The Department organized a 2-day Refresher training for WANEP-Nigeria's Early Warning reporters in the Northern zone, Southern zones in Abuja and Benin Edo State respectively. The training was a forum to deepen the understanding and skills of monitors on how to report in the enhanced online HERD EW system. It also provided ample opportunity to address challenges faced by reporters in feeding reports into the system.



Participants at the Refresher Training

Distribution of Telecommunication Equipment to EW Reporters:

Thirty (30) mobile phones and SIM cards were purchased and distributed by WANEP-Nigeria to the early warning reporters to facilitate their reporting and communication processes for the EW system with support from the USAID/EDWARDS institutional support. The phones regarded as 'crises lines' are post-paid under contract in partnership with Globacom communication service provider.

Publication of HERD Newsletter:

The quarterly Emergency Response Newsletter was published reporting on issues of conflicts, peacebuilding, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nigeria.

Maiden Publication of the Early Warning Bulletin:

The maiden issue of the Early Warning bulletin was published. This bulletin, which will be a monthly issue, is a new initiative to present information in graphic format with brief analysis and descriptions of the proximate conditions emerging from the online Early Warning System from monitors and reporters across the 36 states of the country.

NEMA/WFP Workshop

WANEP-Nigeria participated in a day workshop organised by the National Emergency Management Agency (N|EMA) in conjunction with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Lagos on the 14th of May, 2010. The workshop examined Nigeria's Emergency Preparedness and Response with specific focus on Federal/States Capacity Assessment Mission.

Lessons Learnt Seminar on Peace Education Programme in Rivers and Delta States

A lessons learnt seminar on the peace education project being implemented by WANEP-Nigeria and supported by United States Institute of Peace (USIP) was organized at Calabar. Participants to the seminar consisted mainly of representatives of State Ministries of Education in the 6 States of the south-south geo political zone as well as a representative of the Federal Ministry of Education. It offered opportunity for

participants to appreciate the merits and prospects of the programme in formalised education sector in Nigeria towards youth transformation for social change, peace and development within their communities.

Evaluation and Impact Assessment of the Peace Education Program in Schools:

In June, an evaluation and impact assessment of the peace education project in the pilot schools was embarked upon by the department. The evaluation was designed to review the impact of the project as well as the challenges for its sustainability in the pilot schools. It also offered insight into possible opportunity for its expansion and institutionalization in Delta and Rivers States and beyond. The Special Project Coordinator conducted the assessment using semi- structured questionnaires as well as Focus Group Discussions and Oral Interviews methodologies.

Women in Peacebuilding - UNSCR 1325 Steering Committee Meeting

With support from Oxfam Novib Netherlands, the Women in Peacebuilding Programme of WANEP-Nigeria held a National Consultative Meeting with critical stakeholders on UNSCR 1325 in Nigeria in March 2010, where a steering committee was set up to oversee and channel implementation strategies for adoption of resolution bearing in mind the United Nation's 10th year anniversary of the Resolution in New York in October. The first meeting of the steering committee took place in Abuja in the first week of May, 2010. It provided a platform for deliberations on effective strategies for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Nigeria. The committee also deliberated on how to develop a national policy that reflects UNSCR 1325 for Nigeria.

Workshop to Develop Assessment Tools for Research on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women:

A day meeting was organised with WIPNET member organizations in Plateau State, the State Ministry of Women Affairs and the project team from the women in peacebuilding desk of WANEP-Nigeria to identify pilot areas as well as the suitable instruments and methodologies that will be utilised to generate balanced data on the impact of conflicts on women from diverse groups. The workshop was made possible with the support of Urgent Action Fund – Africa.

The assessment was based on records of series of ethno-religious violent conflicts that plagued the city of Jos spanning the January 17 Jos North crisis to that of the crisis of March 7, 2010 at Dogo Ha Hauwa in Jos South Local Government Council which led to cumulated deaths of over 500 persons.



Participants at the Meeting in Plateau State

WANEP-SENEGAL

Traditional Justice and Reconciliation systems after a conflict: The rich African Experiences:

Organized by the International Institute for democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), this seminar studied the roles and mechanisms of traditional justice systems in the management of violent conflicts in Africa, specifically in the following countries: Burundi, Mozambique, Uganda, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. With specific focus on post conflict societies, the study analysed realistic and unrealistic expectations of traditional justice systems, underpinned factual measures, highlighted strengths and weaknesses of traditional justice mechanisms in view of expanding efforts and opportunities in dealing with conflicts and post conflict situations.

Launching of Peace School:

WANEP-Senegal facilitated the launching ceremony of a peace club on May 6 2010 aimed at promoting synergy and partnerships between relevant actors so as to support the peace processes in the Casamance region. The programme celebrated the efforts of veteran peacebuilder as Abraham EHEMBA for their contributions in stabilizing the Casamance region in order to spur others to emulate their good examples.

Seminar on Security Challenges in West Africa:

The National Coordinator of WANEP-Senegal attended the seminar jointly organized by the Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces of Geneva, the Defence and Security Commission of Senegal and the Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development on June 2-3, 2010. The seminar discussed the role of National and Regional Parliaments in the search for dialogue to end the conflict in the Casamance region.

WANEP-SIERRA LEONE

Launching of the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UN Secretary Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820

The National Network Coordination of WANEP-SL delivered a statement at the launching ceremony of the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SiLNAP) at Miatta Conference Hall in Freetown. In his statement, he noted that the marginalization of women could delay or undermine the achievement of sustainable peace, security and reconciliation in the country.

Meeting with the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon

Peacebuilding civil society organizations met with the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon during his visit to Sierra Leone. CSOs, including WANEP-SL, appealed for the inclusion of CSOs and non-governmental organizations in peace, security, governance and related sustainable development issues.

Civil Society Peacebuilding Engagement Committee (CSPEC) holds National Dialogue Session on peace and human security

As member of CSPEC, WANEP-SL participated in a National Dialogue Session (NDS) on peace and human security. The NDS serves a platform to promote democracy and reconciliation as well as identifying emerging issues in Sierra Leone.

Peace and Non-Violence Summit for University Students in Sierra Leone

In the run-up to Students Union elections which are usually characterized by violence and strong language, WANEP conducted a Peace Education and Non- Violence Training at Fourah Bay College. The just concluded Students Union Government election was peaceful.

WANEP-TOGO

Training of WANEP-Togo personnel on the Early Warning system:

On May 11, 2010, personnel of the WANEP-Togo secretariat benefitted from an in-house training on the ECOWARN. The training, facilitated by the civil society focal point of ECOWARN reporting, was to deepen the understanding of the personnel in relation to generating information and timely reporting. During the quarter under review, the early warning programme in Togo submitted a total of 30 incident reports and 11 situation reports.

Validation Workshop of Evaluation Report:

On April 2nd, a validation workshop was organised to review the report of an external evaluation of the Peace Education and Active Non-violence programme in schools at the Plateau Region. The evaluation was conducted by a consulting firm – KABA QUALITE.

Second and Third Sessions Of Meetings between Peace Clubs:

The last educational meeting between Kindergarten pupils took place on May 6 and 7 2010 in Kpalimé at the premises of the CFPD Diocese and at JEP Kpadapé respectively. The objective of the meeting was to bring the children of the peace clubs to exchange their experiences from the conducted activities. There were a total number of 33 nursery school pupils with each peace club comprising of at most 6 members.

Organisation of Inter Peace Club Competition:

Under the Peace Education and Active Non-violence Programme in Plateaux nursery schools, a prize-winning competition was organised on the theme; *'violence free in schools'* on June 3rd, 2010 in Kpalimé town. This competition allowed the children in the peace clubs to demonstrate knowledge and practical experiences in applying what they learned through mentoring by their teachers on the values of peaceful co-existence. The activity marked the end of an 18-month pilot project.