



### Highlights of Peace and Security in West Africa

The first quarter of 2011 saw the organization of three relatively peaceful elections in Benin, Niger and Cape Verde (legislative), while the security and humanitarian situation in Cote d'Ivoire kept degenerating due to the post-electoral crisis following the 28 November, 2010 run-off.

Democratic transitions are increasing the risk for political instability in many countries in West Africa. In 2011, Nigeria, Cape Verde, Liberia and Gambia will organize their presidential elections.

In Cote d'Ivoire, the post-elections crisis almost plunged the country into a civil war. Various diplomatic efforts at the level of ECOWAS and the AU and the International Community as well as CSOs, to talk President Gbagbo into stepping down for the internationally-recognized winner of the presidential elections, Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, failed giving grounds for the use of force to end the stalemate. . . . .

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