



*Regional Working Group on DDR
Programmes and Post-conflict Management
in West Africa*

Workshop organised by the Sahel and
West Africa Club

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Volume 1 ♦ Summary Report

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Workshop

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in West Africa* »

Volume 1 ♦ Summary Report

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ANRAC	National Agency for the Reconstruction of Casamance (Agence Nationale pour la Relance des Activités économiques et sociales en Casamance)
AU	African Union
DC	Developing Country
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of ex-combatants
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
IFEGWA	Intergenerational Forum on Endogenous Governance in West Africa
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MFDC	Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFEP	Organisation of Eburnean Women for Peace (Organisation des Femmes RWG Regional Working Group on DDR Programmes and Post-conflict Management in West Africa)
PNDDR/RC	National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilisation and the Reintegration of ex-combatants/ Community rehabilitation
SSR	Security Sector Reform
SWAC	Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD
UN	United Nations
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNOMSIL	United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone d'Eburnie pour la Paix)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOWA	United Nations Office for West Africa
WANSED	West African Network for Security and Democratic Governance

I- Context and the workshop's objectives

1.1 DDR and Post-Conflict Management

For the international community, especially the United Nations, the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programmes are an important tool for maintaining peace and managing exit from armed conflict.

The DDR is an integral part of all the armed conflict resolution mechanisms and an important step in the peace process. The DDR involves diverse actors (States, non-governmental, civil, military, national and international organisations) that define the synergistic opportunities that can be undertaken.

As an essential component to the post-conflict stabilisation mechanisms, the DDR faces many difficulties and constraints in its implementation of which some are specific and linked to a local context while others are recurring, transnational and closely related to the regional dimension and/or spreading of conflicts.

This situation contributes to strengthening the importance of the DDR's regional approach and post-conflict strategies.

The African Union and NEPAD, on one hand, and on the other, ECOWAS as concerns West Africa, have taken the necessary steps, already arranged with the United Nations, to set up strategies and mechanisms to handle the issues of the maintenance of peace and post-conflict management.

In February 2003, a "**Programme for Peace and Security**" was developed within the framework of the African Union and concerning the coordination of NEPAD's strategy on the construction and promotion of peace in Africa. This programme has eight priorities among which are:

- *"To promote an African-adapted definition and action to the disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation and reconstruction (DDRR) initiatives in post conflict situations;*
- *To assure an effective and consolidated action in view of prevent, combat and eradicate the problem of illicit proliferation, circulation and traffic of light arms."*

Furthermore, the "*Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union*" (Durban July 2002) must be cited as an important tool.

Parallel to the political framework of rebuilding post-conflict in Africa, there exists on the level of West Africa a device and mechanisms of the CEDEAO which opened a regional prospect:

- **Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security;**
- **Declaration (by Heads of State) on the sub-regional approach for peace and security;**

- **PCASED which has become ECOSAP (Economic Community Small Arms Program), and the Moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa which has resulted a convention.**

These mechanisms and programmes co-exist at the regional level. Within a regional context marked by the spreading of conflict throughout the region and the circulation of arms and combatants, they essentially have a national approach and management to the DDR.

The assumption of responsibility of peace keeping on the level of the programs of DDR would gain to support with a regional approach, which would allow the best taken into account of the reality of dynamics of conflicts. This is especially so since the challenges encountered by the exit from crisis process concern not only countries entangled in conflicts, but also those which are in situations of exit from crisis or peace.

A regional approach through decompartmentalisation and harmonization should be examined as regards what such an approach could provide or strengthen, while recognizing the importance and pertinence of national DDR programmes that have ended, or are in the process of being perfected or launched according to country (Casamance in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone).

The Sahel and West Africa Club has developed a close partnership with ECOWAS in which one of the main areas of collaboration is the strategy for building peace and a security system serving development at the regional level.

The setting up of a **Regional Working Group on the DDR and post-conflict in West Africa** will fulfil one of the recommendations by the ECOWAS Commission of Defence and Security and at the same time implements the conclusions of the workshop co-organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club and ECOWAS in Bissau in November 2005 on the "Dynamics of Exit from Crisis in West Africa".

The problematic of conflict prevention, management and resolution while supporting the dynamics of exit from crisis in West Africa, has been examined by the SWAC Secretariat in partnership with actors of the region during a series of complementary initiatives in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. These initiatives aimed to contribute to a better understanding of the perception, the experience and possible perspectives according to the actors. The understanding gained from this partnership contributes to shedding light on the dynamics of exit from crisis by recommendations raised, among which features the regional approach for the decompartmentalisation of the DDR.

It is important to note that the main objective of this meeting, co-organised with ECOWAS and actors of the region, is not only to address a country's specific problems but rather support a shared knowledge of various experiences in order to identify common and recurring problems, obstacles and challenges to overcome by decompartmentalisation, to bring about efficient and sustainable post-conflict solutions throughout the region. The Working Group will examine the related experiences in each country with this perspective.

1.2 The workshop's objectives

This Regional Working Group on the DDR and post-conflict management in West Africa must contribute to strengthening the impact of national programmes, as well as the mobilisation and actions that will be undertaken by decision-makers, State and non-State actors at much the national as at the regional level.

It must enable strategic thinking and informed debate to be deepened at the regional level and contribute to building sustainable synergies between actors in order to share responsibility of the dynamics of exit from crisis at the local, national and regional levels.

The workshop's main objectives are to:

- ◆ Set up a Regional Working Group on the DDR and post-conflict management in West Africa;
- ◆ Share lessons learned from DDR experiences in the region; within this framework account for the achievements and problems encountered in the implementation or launching these programmes;
- ◆ Work towards the decompartmentalisation and harmonisation of the DDR in order to contribute to the adoption of a regional approach to post-conflict management while being aware of the local socio-cultural issues;
- ◆ Strengthen the favourable factors of the dynamics of exit from crisis in West Africa.

1.3 Organisation of Work

The workshop proceedings were held in sessions over three days and divided into a series of panel discussions on the last day.

- **The first stage** of the proceedings was dedicated to providing an overview of DDR programmes and post-conflict management in West Africa.
- **The second stage** dealt with problems encountered in the national experiences as well the lessons learned and any possible outstanding challenges.
- **The third stage** summarised the regional experiences and projects, addressing the synergies to be developed as well as the opportunities for action and practical actions required to make these synergies possible.

1.4 Key questions

- ◆ What is the assessment of the DDR in the West African countries concerned?
- ◆ Within this context, what are the problems encountered and the lessons learned in the DDR's implementation?
- ◆ How will a regional approach through decompartmentalisation enable better handling of these problems?
- ◆ With such an approach, what are the perspectives of harmonisation and synergy as regards action to be taken?
- ◆ Within this framework, what are the role and place of ECOWAS and other concerned actors at the local, national and international levels?

II – Progress of Works

2.1 Opening ceremony

The workshop was chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr Charles Konan BANNY. Participants were brought together from 11 countries in the region (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone). Different types of actors were represented: State-run institutions, civil society organisations, research institutes, experts and other actors working on DDR, governance and conflict prevention and management, regional and international organisations. Different groups of actors involved in the DDR issue and crisis resolution in Côte d'Ivoire took part in the meeting: the office of the Prime Minister, the Interior Minister, the Communication Minister, the defence and security forces, the PNDDR, the New Forces, the Independent Election Commission, civil society, Ivorian chieftainships and traditional authorities, political parties represented at the Forum of political parties and civil society in West Africa, women's rights organisations, human rights organisations as well as many NGOs and civil society organisations. The United Nations (UNOCI), the African Union and ECOWAS took part in the proceedings.

At the start of proceedings, Mr Charles Konan Banny, who was unable to attend at the last minute, was represented by Mr Joseph Dja BLE, the Interior Minister. Other ministers and senior ivorian government officials also attended.

Mrs Salimata PORQUET, the president of the Organisation of Eburnean Women for Peace (OFEP), welcomed participants on behalf of her country's civil society, which was well represented at the workshop.

Mr Massaër DIALLO, Head of the Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit of the Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD, introduced his organisation and explained the nature of its action. He said it was a very fortunate coincidence that the DDR workshop, which has long been anticipated, was being held in Abidjan at the very same time that Côte d'Ivoire had managed to get its disarmament, demobilisation and reinsertion programme off the ground. He reviewed the historical background to this joint action between the SWAC and ECOWAS by indicating its place in the SWAC work plan as concerns the mechanisms of crisis and post-conflict resolution. He emphasised the regional character of the approach developed and his support for a system to overcome fragmentation, setting up a dialogue between actors to combine efforts and actions. This applies to DDR programmes whose implementation requires the assistance of actors from regional and international organisations responsible for peacekeeping, defence and security forces and combat forces that are non-affiliated or are independent of the State, members of civil society, agencies responsible for programme management and monitoring, State representatives and agencies.

This diversity faces the challenges of coherence, coordination and partnership. How does this relate to the different countries gathered here in Abidjan who have had experience with DDR?

The overview, dialogue and exchanges of ideas expected from all these actors can only provide valuable benefit for countries that are embarking on, have not yet completed or hope to implement DDR programmes. The regional approach advocated has national consequences both through the exchange of experiences and the lessons learned. How then do we organise and implement it? What are the different issues involved?

In his statement, **Colonel Yoro KONE, representative of ECOWAS** thanked the Sahel and West Africa Club on behalf of Dr CHAMBAS, ECOWAS Executive Secretary, and his Deputy responsible for Defence and Security Policy Affairs, Colonel TOURE for its constant support of ECOWAS in the implementation of the Protocol relating to the mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, Peace keeping and Security, as well as the Protocol relating to Democracy and Good Governance.

He stressed that this support was the proof of the vision shared by both organizations in the implementation of a strong and secure economic integration in West Africa. According to him, DDR is one of the pillars of Conflict Prevention or at least prevention of its recurrence, especially for countries in transition.

He insisted on the importance of taking part into this workshop, bringing together very diverse actors involved in these questions. It maps the way for fruitful partnership in the Practice of Peace.

He considered that for the workshop to be held in Abidjan is particularly important. It is a contribution to the ongoing peace process and its indispensable outcome, the DDR in Côte d'Ivoire, for which the entire sub-region is eagerly awaiting.

As a conclusion, he paid tribute to the Ivorian people for the fraternal and warm welcome.

After the intervention of the representative of ECOWAS, **Mr. Abou MOUSSA, first Deputy to the Representative of the General Secretary of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire** delivered his message and reflections to the participants. On behalf of Mr. Pierre SCHORI, he thanked the organizers of the present meeting, of all first for this good initiative and especially to have associated the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire.

Recalling that a number of States such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Mali have witnessed or are still witnessing various crises, he noted that their impact on development and notably on the living conditions of the populations, insecurity and political instability.

In view of their contagious nature, these crises constitute a serious threat to international peace and security in the region; as a result of this danger, the international community and the Governments of West African States have continued to take initiatives to resolve the crisis.

He encouraged participants to establish a Regional Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programme and Post-conflict Management in West Africa, and make concrete proposals to help the United Nations, ECOWAS and Governments of the sub-region to take up these challenges.

Since, according to him, beyond the resolution of the Ivorian crisis, this process is expected to have a far-reaching stabilizing impact on the West African sub-region, thanks to the mechanisms of close collaboration instituted between ONUCI and the United Nations Missions in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Liberia (UNMIL), and the control of cross-border movements of combatants by various United Nations Security Council resolutions

He expressed the wish that by the outcomes of the discussions will contribute to the final and synergic break from efforts towards crisis and efforts towards crisis resolution, which should both disappear, and make way for the only efforts that count, the efforts towards development in restored peace and security.

Following the intervention of the representative of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire, **Mr. Dja BLE, Minister of Interior** opened the workshop by reading a speech on behalf of Mr. Charles Konan BANNY, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, extracts of which are below:

“It was quite natural for the Prime Minister to accept to preside over the opening ceremony of the meeting you are holding in Abidjan today. Your meeting, which will install a Regional Working Group on the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Programme and Post-Conflict Management in West Africa, is of prime importance to Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, our country has, in the past few days, entered the active phase of its own DDR programme, which could draw on the life experiences of other West African countries that have witnessed conflicts, but have come out or are coming out of them.

This meeting is, for Côte d'Ivoire, an unexpected opportunity to benefit from your ideas and strategic thinking on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants on its territory.

We wish to thank the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Sahel and West Africa Club for showing confidence in Côte d'Ivoire and selecting it to host a meeting of this importance. I hope that this confidence is based on the joint work done by the Transition Government and the efforts made by active NGOs in Côte d'Ivoire.

We are happy that the action of everyone has produced this result.
To all of you, I say thank you very much.

The regional dimension of the crises that have affected or are still affecting African countries no longer needs to be demonstrated. The tragedy unfolding before our own eyes in West Côte d'Ivoire, and also in the Centre and North of our country, is, as conceded by many analysts, the continuation of the Liberian conflict. We are therefore faced with the case of a sad illustration of communicating vessels.

Indeed, when the arsenals in Sierra Leone or Liberia are emptied, the arms proliferate in Côte d'Ivoire, waiting to go and sow death and desolation in other countries. Consequently, it serves no purpose to combat the evil in one place or only one aspect of it, since it will surely reappear in another place.

By reflecting on the DDR and post-conflict management, your organization is looking at all aspects of the problem, and is trying to find global solutions to the crises which destabilize the sub-region. The world is witness to the fresh upsurge of some conflicts because disarmed combatants could not find a place in the society or have not been assisted in the creation of income-generating activities. Sometimes even, since the psychological aspects of the shocks suffered by some of our citizens have not been taken into account, we have witnessed fresh violence which could have been at least mitigated, if not avoided.

The creation of a regional working group helps us to avoid these many pitfalls, since the sub-region will henceforth have a surveillance unit that can anticipate the problems that have made implementation of solutions proposed to States with armed conflicts so difficult.

For its part, Côte d'Ivoire expects that you contribute to its efforts to find the most effective ways of moving from distrust to trust, from confrontation to harmony, and from the attempt to separate to the desire to live together. Because the hardest thing is not to stop a war, but to reconcile and rebuild new determination to live together..."

The opening ceremony was followed by a brief break before the Head of Unit, Governance, Conflicts Dynamic, Peace and Security of the Sahel and West Africa Club introduced the proceedings. He began by thanking the authorities and the representatives of the regional and international organisations who were invited to make a statement during the meeting.

2.2 Introduction to the regional approach

After the opening ceremony, the proceedings were started with the speech below, on the “**Issues Involved in a Regional Approach to DDR in West Africa**” by Mr Massaër Diallo: He recalled that DDR is a vital element in the transition from war to peace in a time of armed conflicts affecting countries and their States and destroying their societies. A United Nations peacekeeping tool, DDR is universal in its principle, method and objectives.

In West Africa, its implementation and the assessment that can be made of it lead to three key challenges being taken into consideration:

- 1) Contextualisation;
- 2) The regional approach;
- 3) Greater coherence in the involvement of development partners and regional institutions in post-conflict management.

2.2.1 The Contextualisation of DDR in West Africa

The general nature of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes under the aegis of the UN was devised to take into consideration the necessary adaptations that would need to be made to adjust to and take into account regional, national and local realities. In this context, two aspects need be considered: the involvement of local actors and sociocultural norms and constraints.

a) The necessary involvement of local actors

- Are local actors (local groups, sociocultural elements, civil society organisations and local authorities) involved in DDR (and, if so, to what extent)?

b) Are sociocultural facts and peculiarities concerning demobilisation, reintegration and reconciliation effectively taken into consideration?

Implementing a reintegration and reconciliation programme presupposes knowledge and the use of protocols, rules and approaches that are recognised and used in the societies and communities affected by the conflict.

- How should the demands of a national crisis resolution strategy be expressed, given the role of local norms, constraints and capabilities in the crisis resolution process?

Experience on the ground in Casamance in Senegal and in Guinea-Bissau, and reports about Liberia and Sierra Leone have demonstrated the importance of this question.

The reinsertion and reconciliation aimed for at the national, public and possibly economic levels require the different social and local components in the areas affected by the conflicts to work together. Different traditional and non-traditional civil society organisations can play a part in this.

2.2.2 The need for and challenges to a regional approach to DDR in West Africa

Among the 15 West African countries that are members of ECOWAS, more than half have been or are currently confronted with the need to disarm their societies: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea (with incursions by Liberian combatants in particular), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria (facing many armed groups), Sierra Leone, and Senegal (with a rebellion in Casamance).

With the number of States facing rebellions, dissidence, or other forms of armed conflict, it is clear that disarmament is required and needed throughout the region given the number of countries directly affected (9 out of 15). Seven (7) of them have already completed or are starting DDR programmes. Of these, five (5) have completed their programme: Guinea-Bissau is the latest country to complete its programme. The others are Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali and Niger. Côte d'Ivoire is currently starting up its programme and the programme in Casamance, Senegal, will be implemented once the conditions prior to its implementation have stabilised.

- How can we learn from one another, draw lessons from past experiences, and build capacities through exchanges and sharing?
- How can we all work on the problems that we appear to share, particularly, for example, as concerns the spread of weapons and combatants from one country and conflict into another?
- How can we use ECOWAS's support in situations when, for example, a weak State finds it hard to meet its obligations to disarm, reintegrate ex-combatants and handle the post-conflict situation?

These are some questions that demonstrate the reasons for and the opportunities provided by a regional DDR approach. This approach has been recommended by the ECOWAS Defence and Security Commission, part of the Mediation and Security Council. It is also mentioned in the recommendations of a workshop held in Guinea-Bissau in November 2005 in which the question of DDR in the region was considered. The coming together of these two recommendations has resulted in a project to set up a regional working group into the post-conflict situation in West Africa and DDR. The meeting which is starting here today has the important task of realising this project.

There are several aspects to the regional approach:

a) Consideration of the regional dimension and the regional spread of conflicts.

An exhaustive review of the dynamics in our region shows the links between the situations in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali and Niger.

b) The existence of cross-border dynamics with aspects of sociocultural and economic continuity and exchanges, as well as others arising from the banditry and crime linked to the conflicts and/or aggravated by the resulting insecurity.

c) The sub-regional circulation of arms and mercenaries.

These pose a double challenge: It is a factor and an indicator of the growing number of devastating and destabilising long-term armed conflicts. The regional proliferation of arms fuel and make conflicts possible; it promotes the escalation of political crises into armed conflicts. This proliferation affects all the States in the region beyond those directly experiencing open armed conflicts.

Through various initiatives between 1998 and 2004, ECOWAS and the States have succeeded in gathering and confiscating more than 200,000 light weapons, of which “at least 70,000 were destroyed”.¹ Nonetheless, the challenge ahead remains immense but not insurmountable if we develop a strong and lasting consensus and a coalition of the different types of actors in the region to implement the moratorium and the 2006 ECOWAS Convention.

It depends on a massive enlistment of child soldiers, victims of extreme violence, who have become vital actors. This phenomenon is all the more serious as the majority of the population is very young (more than 56% of the population is under 20 in West Africa) in a region where poverty affects 50% of the population.

The large number of enlisted children is often associated with the civil wars in Liberia but in actual fact, it is a regional phenomenon that affects countries torn apart by armed conflict as well as those facing the repercussions: welcoming refugees and/or seeing the entrance or withdrawal of combat forces.

d) ECOWAS involvement in DDR and post-conflict management

National disarmament and demobilisation (Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau), in spite of their usefulness, often come up against their limitations: the circulation of arms, combatants and the regional dynamic of conflicts mean that even countries that are not directly involved are affected by the crises. The lack of linkage between programmes works against their optimum efficiency and promotes the movement of arms and combatants towards countries and programmes “that pay better”.

ECOWAS’s role is essential for at least three reasons:

- It provides a framework within which member states that are affected and are carrying out a DDR programme can coordinate, combine their resources and experiences and synchronise their efforts to implement joint solutions. It provides a space to harmonise and combine actions.
- It includes three instruments that could contribute to preventing and resolving crises, reforming the security sector and the rebuilding of States governed by the rule of law: these are the 1999 and 2001 Protocols and the 2006 Convention.

¹ Source: E. Berman and Florquin (GRIP:2006).

- ECOWAS is a link between the countries in the region and the United Nations, the main disarmament organisation; at a regional level, ECOWAS works with its regional antennas such as UNOWA and also its specialist organisations working with groups on peacekeeping operations

e) The need to create consistency in the approach of donors as part of a regional approach to a concerted support strategy for permanent crisis resolution

The regional approach does not only concern actors in the region (States, regional institutions, civil society, private sector, political organisations). There are also actors outside the region (countries, international bodies, agencies) who are involved in cooperation policies with these countries and support them in crisis resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development processes. Some questions could help to organise our thoughts and ideas on this point:

- ▼ How can we guarantee the lasting effectiveness of DDRPs?
- ▼ In this context, how can we avoid a shortfall in funding in the last stage of the DDRP as happened in Guinea-Bissau?
- ▼ How, and to what extent, can donor countries be a part of the regional approach, in order to be more effective?

To develop its idea and its programme, the Working Group could benefit from the reports and publications mentioned below, among others”. ²

² 1- Report and documents from the Guinea-Bissau Workshop on *The Dynamics of Crisis Resolution in West Africa* organised by SWAC in partnership with ECOWAS (November 2005).
 2- Final report of the workshop: *Identifying lessons from DDR experiences in Africa*, Accra, Ghana (10 to 12 August 2004). Institute for Security Studies (South Africa) and Kofi Annan International Peace keeping Training Centre. Ghana.
 3- ECOWAS-EU-UNOWA Framework of Action for Peace and Security.
 4- Report from the Experts Meeting organised by the AU in Addis Ababa on 6-7 February on the issue of *Post- conflict Reconstruction and development in Africa*.
 5- African Post-conflict Reconstruction Policy Framework : NEPAD Secretariat, Governance, Peace and Security Programme (June 2005).
 6- Works collected Nicolas Florquin and Eric G. Berman, *Armés mais désœuvrés*, edited by GRIP and Small Arms Survey (Brussels: March 2006).

2.3 Overview of DDR in West Africa

After Mr Diallo's introduction, various experiences of DDR in Sahel and West African countries were presented. **The purpose of each country's overview** was to identify the objectives of DDR programmes and their achievements as well as the difficulties encountered. It appears that certain problems are common to the region, whereas others are country-specific and their solution can be found locally and nationally. Three sessions were respectively dedicated to DDR programmes that have been completed, are being completed and which are starting up.

2.3.1 Completed DDR Programmes

The session on completed DDR programmes included contributions about Niger, Mali, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.³

A number of conflicts have broken out following disrupted elections and/or due to the demands of a large part of the population, particularly concerning the distribution of resources, being ignored. Consequently, while the entire population of the conflict zone does not actively support the armed groups and may even be victims of their violence, they may also face non-cooperation from the government by being marginalised in its development plan. This significant worsening of the situation can lead to a split between the warring factions and the people in the conflict zone, without making it any easier to identify the combatants among the people and to access their arms supply.

When starting up DDR programmes, the aid given to armed persons in return for them disarming is often considered to be a reward for them taking up arms, further complicating the return of these people to their original communities, especially if no programme is set up for the communities affected by the conflict.

Thus, the justice aspect, which is necessary for lasting reconciliation, is not an element that will bring the different parties to the negotiating table. If justice is to be done, it cannot be served correctly in the presence of armed forces.

There is a quiet period between the end of conflicts and the start of DDR programmes which is a "hazy" period leading to a lack of monitoring of combatants who leave their original cantonment areas. While the war in Guinea-Bissau ended in 1999, the DDR programme only started in 2002. Among the many problems encountered were:

- The permeability of borders and the existence of cross-border areas where combatants can withdraw to, the circulation of weapons and crime prolonging and reigniting conflicts (Senegambia, Guinée Forestière and the countries of the Mano River).

³ All speeches presented in text format and using PowerPoint presentations have been attached to the workshop documents in Word format. Please see the appendices containing Volume II to this report.

- The involvement of the same combatants and arms in different conflicts often leads to the creation of different fronts in the same conflict. In such cases, State-run armed forces often face a lack of resources. The training and recruitment methods for these official armed forces can also be a source of division. In Guinea-Bissau, the increasing politicisation of the army has added to the number of problems specifically relating to it.

In the reintegration stage of DDR programmes, the training demobilised combatants receive should allow them to find an outlet quickly within a community that has been made aware of the DDR programmes, as was the case in Sierra Leone. It is thus better to opt for collective projects that allow local communities to play a role in guiding ex-combatants.

Finally, because as far as peace is concerned, nothing is gained, crisis resolution programmes must be in for the long haul and make as much use of the people's support as of the good will of the political class. In the same way, endogenous and traditional appeasement methods are an important part of reconstructing social capital through their ability to unite and the faith placed in the peace process.

2.3.2 DDR programmes coming to an end

Liberia was the case dealt with here. The talk about Liberia was an opportunity to share experiences about difficulties and good practice as concerns DDR programmes in the region.

- **The successes are:** taking past DDR experiences in the sub-region into consideration; the care taken in clarifying the definition of DDRPs; the programme's flexibility without losing sight of the main objective of gathering weapons; and finally, the attention given to the regional and local context by taking the diversity of the actors involved into consideration. The good preparation of the combatants taking part in the DDRP must be added to this.
- **The difficulties were as follows:** the main one was the issue of the political class which led to these conflicts. Politicians were held to be ultimately behind the bloodbaths. When the DDRP started, the lack of a register and accountability led to underestimation of the budget needed for the programme. From 30,000 combatants, the number went up to 103,000. However, only 28,000 weapons were recovered because many combatants without weapons were included in the disarmament programme. Furthermore, because of the financing problem, the camps were faced with waiting lists of up to two and a half years and the 8-month long training scheme was too short to develop usable skills. These problems led some ex-combatants to become mercenaries. The lack of official psychological support was compensated by the unprecedented development of very active religious institutions. The youth were also ostracised by the DDR programmes even though they had played an active part in the conflict.

2.3.3 DDR programmes starting up

Senegal, due to the conflict in Casamance, and Côte d'Ivoire are the two countries which provided food for thought in the exchanges about DDR programmes that are starting up.

The two crises examined are linked by the growing frustrations due, among other factors, to the isolation of Casamance and the marginalisation of the people living in northern Côte d'Ivoire. The weakness of State-run institutions in these areas has helped these uprisings to succeed. Moreover, actual cultural differences, sometimes deliberately exploited, help these crises to persist.

In order to work their way back to national cohesion and to find a lasting solution to the conflict, *ad hoc* structures were created: ANRAC (National Agency for the Reconstruction of Casamance – Agence Nationale pour la Relance des Activités économiques et sociales en Casamance) in Senegal and the PNDDR/CR (National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilisation and the Reintegration of ex-combatants/ Community rehabilitation) in Côte d'Ivoire.

The first difficulty concerns the situation of “neither war nor peace”. Although the length of the crises is disproportionate (from 24 years in Senegal to 4 years in Côte d'Ivoire), a common thread is that direct hostilities are dying down even though the forces are still deployed and negotiations are stalling. While certain actors hope that the conflict will eventually die down by sticking to their positions, facilitators, supported by the international community, are trying to reach a dynamic compromise with concessions offered mutually by the parties to the conflict.

Civil society and economic operators were among the first to be affected by the crises; they are thus demanding the international community's support to revive economic and social activities as well as to facilitate negotiations. Civil society is concerned about how its most vulnerable components will be dealt with in the DDR programmes and the opportunities for youth. It is also concerned about protecting the environment, an integral part of its surroundings which is essential to its activities. These are some of the elements of the sociocultural reality that need to be incorporated into DDR programmes, as well as the alliances between different ethnic groups, all of which are factors contributing to social cohesion.

Technical files in Casamance and questionnaires in Côte d'Ivoire are currently being drawn up to identify the needs of combatants and to develop training schemes that are appropriate to their abilities and the opportunities available to them in their place of reintegration. To this end, a national map of the opportunities available to ex-combatants is being put together in Côte d'Ivoire.

As concerns implementation, pockets of resistance and distrust are hindering the start up of the DDR programmes. The main reservations concern the collection and storage of weapons. The media could play a privileged role in bringing the conflicting parties together and restoring confidence.

Concerning the financing of the DDR programmes, the international community and its institutions have shown their generosity in helping countries implement their crisis resolution programmes. The countries facing crises also pledge to use their own funds or take out loans.

Countries setting up their DDR programmes are eager to learn about other experiences in this field as there is no point reinventing the wheel, given the wide-ranging problems DDRPs have faced. Furthermore, these countries, aware of regional dynamics, are open to a regional approach. Thus, the International Working Group is monitoring the smooth course of the National DDR Programme in Côte d'Ivoire.

Once the disarmament and demobilisation parts are complete, the State administration needs to be restructured and transparent elections need to be held regionally and nationally. In Côte d'Ivoire, identifying these elements through *audiences foraines* (field court sessions) and listening to participants are a prior step to the election process itself. The debate seems to have developed into a proposition on the accordance of these two aspects.

2.4 Lessons learned and the regional approach to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programmes

The SWAC's introductory talk, like the various presentations made by ECOWAS and the experts involved in the implementation of DDRPs and security issues, have all considered the need to adopt a regional approach to DDRPs based on a series of factors:

1. In some national contexts, the crisis and/or the weakness of the sovereignty of the State over the whole country and the consequent permeability of borders make it possible for arms to circulate and combatants to thus avoid being completely and effectively disarmed.
2. This situation is aggravated by the fact that some warring forces and warmongers living in cross-border areas escape legally and/or actually the areas and countries involved in the national DDRPs.
3. There is a regional expansion of conflicts, which is also linked to the transnational nature of the groups involved.
4. African and West African experience and instruments to manage and resolve conflicts exist at the levels of the African Union and ECOWAS which can help to valorise DDRPs effectively.
5. The African Union and ECOWAS are already considerably involved in DDR and post-conflict management. This involvement must be improved and strengthened.
6. There needs to be:
 - An integrated and coordinated approach to resolving cross-border factors and aspects of conflicts; UNOWA has developed initiatives for this.
 - A better involvement of "border country" communities in the peace process, bringing together regional, national and local authorities to prevent and fight the cross-border crime which feeds and is fed by conflict.
7. The cross-border nature of the circulation of weapons and combatants and the regional proliferation of light and small calibre weapons call for regional programmes.

The proceedings also emphasised the need for the approach to DDRPs to be integrated and combined, in particular by:

1. Involving civil society, in which various NGOs and associations participate effectively in dealing with the psychosocial problems faced by individuals (combatants and victims) while often remaining excluded, such as women, from the mechanisms used to implement DDR programmes.
2. Involving local communities and groups. In this context, ECOWAS has taken their involvement into consideration in designing the programmes and considers their involvement to be imperative in implementing DDRPs. Colonel Koné, for his part, spoke in favour of "the involvement of all actors in a complete DDR solution".

3. Involving the media and opinion leaders.
4. Overcoming the challenges of:
 - The proliferation of light weapons across the region.
 - Cross-border crime, arms trafficking and dealing with ex-combatants and mercenaries who threaten the lasting efficiency of DDRPs.
 - Environmental security: in the conflict areas, environmental resources, access to water, animals and protected areas are subject to destruction and pollution. In spite of the existence of international agreements to protect the environment during conflicts, governments do not have the authority to enforce these standards. As soon as peace is restored, environmental ministries are able to set up rehabilitation programmes.

Justice can sometimes appear to be so long in coming that it becomes synonymous with impunity; however, the recent arrest of Charles Taylor should help. Community legal instruments exist, texts are published and circulated, however it would be better to develop treaties to deal more effectively with internal conflicts and adopt a regional approach to the principles of peace and security. ECOWAS Conflict Resolution, Prevention and Management Mechanism has been set up for this purpose.

The responses ECOWAS is hoping to get aim to take into consideration the changes in the West African political and social environment. The support of member states is essential, so that this thirty-year old institution can be strengthened through its transformation and is able to develop its policy. Financial resources in addition to the 0.5% community payment are being considered and, in particular, a tax on airline tickets or exports to meet the various contributions of the countries to regional organisations and forces.

Furthermore, ECOWAS has developed several programmes in order to become a benchmark for crisis resolution programmes. After-action reviews allow lessons to be learned from the actions taken which are then put into a single document for a think-tank to work on. Furthermore, an early warning system is being set up to reduce intervention times which currently stand at 30 days (time needed for the national units participating in this regional force to meet).

ECOWAS cooperates with the African Union, UNOWA and the SWAC on these various programmes. In spite of these efforts, the participants would like to have an accessible tool to review the analyses of the DDR experiences in Africa, to be able to overcome problems linked to reintegration, awareness-raising and finance more effectively.

Thus the issue of financial resources affects both the sources of conflict and their resolution. A poor division of resources and the weak position of the State are often at the root of the decision to resort to arms. In any case, these arms come at a cost, being taken from funds that ought to be spent on development, or are financed by unofficial and sometimes illegal activities.

Some countries contravening the embargos take part of the arms money from warring factions even though a large part of the international community is involved in financing disarmament and reconstruction programmes. Fighting against arms trafficking thus concerns the international community.

Participants, including civil society, expect a lot from DDRPs. In any case, this is only one step towards reforming the security sector. Moreover, DDRPs in themselves are not a part of the development programme. DDRPs are abstract whereas SSR and development programmes are structured. They prolong the crisis resolution action in DDRPs.

- Security Sector Reform must allow for the creation of a stable national army that is disciplined, accessible to all the components of society and subject to a civilian power chosen through regular elections. This reform must meet the challenge of setting up a democratic legal system and a judicial apparatus that is able to administer justice effectively, equitably and efficiently. This will protect against the discontentment and injustice that arise out of conflicts often frustrating the reconciliation process and perpetuating the rifts in society.

- DDRPs -after disarming, demobilising and training ex-combatants- must prevent ex-combatants from returning to rebellion. In any case, this success depends on them finding their place in society once more.

Consequently, civil society is a determining factor in the quest for peace. Although apolitical, it is often implicated in politics, which damages its credibility and might turn it into an endogenous source of conflict.

Moreover, the role of the media and religious figures has been mentioned as channels for raising awareness among ex-combatants and communities; they can be either an impetus for unity or the greatest common divisor.

Attention has also been paid to the role of youth as a potential breeding ground for combatants. The youth suffer from a lack of opportunities. Some deal with this by being idle, others through forced emigration and others still by taking part in the conflict, which sometimes starts as a self-defence mechanism facilitated by the circulation of arms.

The protection of the most vulnerable people, women and children, the first casualties in the conflicts, has not yet reached a satisfactory level in spite of the preponderance of the law regionally and internationally. Political will is an indispensable element for legal mechanisms to be effective, regional organisations responsible for their application to be run well and the success of the DDRPs. It is with this political will that ECOWAS can carry out its mandate and “create the conditions that promote peace”, Art 44, working with the UN which is responsible for “guaranteeing peace and security in the world”, in accordance with Chapter 8 of its Charter.

Each conflict has its own peculiarities, which DDRPs must take into account. Nonetheless, harmonisation is possible through the permanent features which emerge from them such as child soldiers, militias, the role of women, foreign combatants and the regional spread of conflicts. This is UNOWA's mission, which has a mandate from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work with governments, regional institutions, NGOs and civil society, to construct a regional approach to the challenges in West Africa.

Thus, if a country in crisis needs a DDRP, its neighbours will certainly need to have programmes for refugees and against the proliferation of light weapons. This is why, in its own words, ECOWAS has moved on from peacekeeping to peace building by adopting a holistic view of peace.

DDRPS alone do not solve all the problems; they contribute to the solution in conjunction with the justice system, IGAs and SSR, because whereas conflicts escalate rapidly, resolving them is a long process.

Poverty is mentioned as often as the lack of good governance to explain the existence of conflicts. Nonetheless, it is not the poor who start wars. Political and economic interests are better triggering factors for war. Conversely, the reality of regional integration is created by the people who give it a framework and not by governments and regional organisations.

There is also a clear complementarity between the people and the ruling class that good governance could use carefully to create a lasting peace that promotes a prosperity that is shared fairly.

III – Conclusions and opportunities for action

3.1 Synthesis of the works

By presenting the synthesis of the works, Mr Massaër Diallo summed up the conclusions at the end of this workshop which offers hope for a regional approach to DDRPs.

Two challenges need to be overcome in the DDRPs: the lack of a regional dimension and the need to reinforce how the local context is integrated.

The first conclusion supports the regionalisation of DDRPs based on the reality of the dynamics of conflicts that spill over borders while insisting on their local aspects being taken into consideration.

Secondly, the risk of the DDRPs being reversed, by the lack of support by the people marginalised by these programmes, has been integrated into the latest wave of DDRPs such as the Ivorian PNDDR/CR. This is part of its Community Rehabilitation (RC) aspect, which aims to provide people with aid to revive income generating activities with a view to stabilising and pacifying all of society.

These observations having been made, it appears that the direction taken by the region in its crisis resolution programmes provides hope in the short term and success in the medium term. The interest shown in the people by the community rehabilitation programmes as part of the PNDDR/RC and ANRAC is to be praised.

Future meetings of the Regional Working Group will provide opportunities to assess the development of the DDRPs and to consider the dynamics of crisis resolution more extensively.

Finally, thanks were expressed to all those who had assisted in the smooth running of this workshop through their talks, assistance and support.

The conclusions were listed as opportunities for action supported by recommendations that reflected the experience and expertise of the participants as well as their joint commitment to work with ECOWAS and the SWAC/OECD to resolve the crises permanently in all the countries in West Africa that have faced armed conflicts.

3.2 Opportunities for action: decisions and recommendations

Supported by the participation of representatives from

- Countries in the subregion which have had DDRPs,
- The Côte d'Ivoire DDRP,
- ECOWAS, AU, UNOCI and the SWAC/OCED,

Having benefited mutually from experiences and taking into consideration all the diverse contributions, the Abidjan workshop has passed the following suggestions and recommendations and has incorporated them into its opportunities for action:

3.2.1 The Regional Working Group on DDR Programmes and Post-conflict Management in West Africa set up.

a) Coordination

It is coordinated by the SWAC in cooperation with ECOWAS. West Africa has experience with DDRPs and post-conflict management; the group must contribute to setting up a regional strategy in these fields.

b) Composition

The group is made up of:

- Coordinating institutions (SWAC/OECD and ECOWAS);
- Representatives of DDRPs that have been completed or are underway in the region;
- Experts, institutions and agencies involved in implementing DDR and post-conflict programmes in West Africa; (whether or not from the civil society took part in the workshop,
- WANSED and other organisations and networks working in the regional security sector.
- UN representatives (UNOWA and others), the AU and donor countries involved in post-conflict management.

c) The immediate work of the Group

The next meeting must carefully review three points:

- The mission, objectives and agenda of the Regional Working Group on DDR Programmes and Post-conflict Management in West Africa
- Terms of operation
- Financing its activities.

3.2.2 Setting up a database

Setting up a regional database about the DDRPs simplifying good practice techniques, taking into consideration endogenous crisis resolution mechanisms, spreading a culture of peace and compiling a list of the actors involved in the conflicts.

3.2.3 Legal issues: Promoting the rule of law, justice and equity

- Countries in the region must respect good governance, the rule of law, international organisations and conventions (ratifying the convention on the circulation of light weapons) in order to reduce the number of crises and to facilitate their resolution. Promoting justice and guaranteeing the effectiveness of sanctions.
- DDR, a key method of resolving the armed conflicts affecting West African States, must not overshadow the reality faced by the victims of war; it must take their possible views of programmes supporting demobilisation into consideration, such as the “rebellion premiums” that are only given to combatants. The views and frustrations of victims need to be taken into account in the reconciliation process.

3.2.4 Structural issues

- Setting up a regional early warning monitoring system in Africa working closely with national bodies responsible for DDR: ECOWAS, UN offices and actors.
- ECOWAS to set up an alert and monitoring body or an observatory to monitor the agreements made between the warring parties in the different countries where conflicts are being resolved to avoid shortcomings that could reignite armed violence;
- Such a structure could be a component of a system aimed at stopping demobilised combatants leaving by making a list to that effect.

3.2.5 Operational issues

The involvement of non-combatants as well as of the communities affected in high labour-intensive activities in national post-conflict reconstruction programmes; these should be more open than DDRPs and should be part of the fight against poverty.

3.2.6 Finance issues

- The availability of all the finance necessary for the smooth running of all the stages of the DDRP, to avoid any breaks between the stages which could adversely affect the entire crisis resolution process.
- The progress of the DDRP should not suffer from a lack of resources or lethargy once started. From that point onwards, the State concerned and the donor community must help to overcome the obstacles to the project to strengthen the peace restoration process. The DDRP must be completely financed to prevent resurgence in the disturbances that could affect stabilisation.

- The need to contribute to creating the conditions of eligibility to the Peace Facility through a regional mechanism integrating support for the DDRP, taking local, national and regional dimensions into consideration and involving ECOWAS in its implementation.

3.2.7 Supporting a regional approach

The Regional Working Group on DDRPs and post-conflict management could, in its mandate and by supporting ECOWAS:

- Start documenting core issues (e.g. respecting the free circulation of people and goods, fighting against the circulation of light weapons, practical methods of financing PNDDR, role and position of civil society, etc.) to assist policy decision-making and setting up national strategies for the running of the DDRPs that reflect the regional approach.
- Create and lead forums on consultation, dialogue and the interaction between DDRPs, specific State-sponsored actions and those of civil society and ECOWAS.
- Involve countries, institutions and agencies financing and cooperating in post-conflict management.

3.2.8 Creating an alliance between actors and surrounding countries

- In this context, linking politicians, civil society organisations and the media to activities aimed at reconciliation.
- To this end, making use of endogenous reconciliation and reintegration strategies and mechanisms.

3.3 The Youth Coordination Recommendations



The Youth Coordination for Peace, Security and Good Governance in the ECOWAS area formed by the Forum of Political Parties, Media and Civil Society in West Africa:

- Invites ECOWAS to:

- Become further involved in harmonising, implementing and monitoring DDRPs regionally;
- Suggest a mechanism to monitor and manage the permeability of borders and a strategy to identify and tag light weapons with the aim of eliminating, or at least reducing the circulation of light weapons in the ECOWAS area;
- Suggest restrictive sanctions for ECOWAS countries whose governments compromise the climate of stability, other countries that destabilise the area and individuals (bandits, mercenaries, armed rebels, etc.) who ignite tension hotspots.

- Recommends that States:

- Show solidarity, openness, communication and dynamic interaction in handling cross-border issues and the circulation of light weapons, drugs and money laundering;
- Strive to word DDRPs and government development policies concretely and harmoniously with a view to preventing and removing any possible obstructions to the progress of the DDRPs;
- Offer to provide wide and comprehensive on-site training for young people enrolled in awareness-raising programmes by their peers and communities;

- Invites young people who are enrolled to:

- Think about their future and boost their self-esteem;
- Contribute to the spirit of citizenship by assuming the role of actors who respect the values of peace, democracy and good governance, as Autonomous and Supportive, Involved and Responsible Citizens (Citoyens Autonomes et Solidaires, Responsables et Engagés: CASER);

- Asks the international community to:

- Contribute actively to raising the funds needed to set up DDRPs by making sure that their design is appropriate and guaranteeing their success;

- Encourages the SWAC in its integrated and generous efforts, its inclusive approach to peace, conflict management and good governance in West Africa.

3.4 Other recommendations as made by country⁴

Côte d'Ivoire

- In all countries, simplify and apply the resolutions, conventions and pacts concerning the security of people and goods on the one hand and preventing and managing conflicts on the other.
- Create and run national supervision and monitoring structures that are representative of civil and political society.
- Involve border countries in the crisis resolution process of the country concerned.

⁴ All the participants from the different countries have contributed represented took part in formulating the recommendations. Those that are not mentioned above under the specific headings are listed under the country the author of the recommendation comes from. In any case, these recommendations are not officially endorsed by the countries named.

- Strengthen the system monitoring transnational mercenaries at the borders and by Interpol and fight against the proliferation of light weapons.
- Emphasise awareness raising with a view to publicising the DDRP to the whole of the population and target actors.
- Set up a sub regional programme to fight the circulation of arms.
- Set up a multiparty sub regional committee to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

Guinea

- Create a database of the different DDRPs that have already been completed or are being completed in the West African sub region and elsewhere. The ECOWAS or SWAC website could house this database.
- Implement research programmes into:
 - The problem of the acquisition and circulation of weapons in West Africa;
 - The history of conflicts that have brought bloodshed to the West African countries that have suffered civil wars.

Guinea-Bissau

- In the DDRPs, the reintegration of ex-combatants must be viewed as a stage of financial, technical and institutional assistance aimed at making the insertion of vulnerable ex-combatants into the community of their choice easier, providing them with the same conditions and opportunities as the other members of the community, thus not creating any privileges for this group so that this process is not considered by the other members of their community to be a reward for those who participated in the conflict. During this stage, the ex-combatant must make sure that they are becoming increasingly economically self-sufficient or that they are becoming less socially vulnerable.
- DDRPs must be part of a larger governmental post-conflict reconstruction strategy which aims to create the conditions for security, peace and a political and social climate that encourages the revival of economic activity and national reconciliation. Without this, democracy and development cannot assume their normal course.
- Setting up transnational research projects for a lasting solution to the crises in the West African sub region.
- Working to raise the awareness of the political classes in our countries of their roles/responsibilities in creating political stability and their importance in overall stability, lasting peace and development in each country considered individually and the West African sub region as a whole.

Liberia

- Mercenaries is a troubling phenomenon that continues to rob our sub-region and continent of scarce material and human resources : The Sierra Leone civil conflict, Liberian civil war just ended and the Ivorian situation are clear examples : Realizing this, we were able to combine our effort to achieving an unprecedented event in DDRR History. We successfully repatriated 435 Liberian ex-combatants or internees who fled into Sierra Leone during the heat of our civil conflict. This event culminated in the signing of a joint communiqué and a memorandum of understanding between the Republic of Sierra Leone and Liberia for a sustained regime to curb cross border Mercenaries.
- We recommend that ECOWAS extends this to all members states, establishing a sub-regional framework to deal with the issue of roving non-state-actors.
- Realizing civil conflicts are driven by poverty, post-conflict countries must prioritize the implementation of poverty reduction strategy programs to address the socio-economic needs of their respective war-affected populations. Such initiatives should be supported fully by ECOWAS, AU, and the rest of the international community.
- ECOWAS must establish a databank for DDRR professionals across the sub-region to do networking and support other member states. Focus of such initiative should be geared towards conflict prevention rather than conflict resolution.

Mali

- The implementation of large-scale education programmes to establish a culture of peace and human rights to influence thinking and steer ideas away permanently from impulses of violence, strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights, democracy, good governance as well as economic and social development.
- Strengthening regional integration through massive community investments in the huge building sites of regional construction requiring high intensity labour (dams, canals, transport infrastructure, agro-pastoral developments, mining, fishing, crafts, tourism, etc.).

Nigeria

- Establish a regional DDR framework patterned on the multi-country demobilisation and reintegration programme (MDRP) in the Great Lakes Region.
- Establish national commissions on DDR in all countries in West Africa as part of peace building efforts.

Senegal

- The DDRP in Casamance is being developed. At the current stage, peace needs to take hold to move forward.
- The speedy signing of lasting peace agreements between the State of Senegal and the MFDC, is an indispensable prior step to carrying out and implementing the DDRP effectively.
- The reality of these cross-border dynamics and the increasing recurrent risks of destabilisation in the Southern Senegambia sub region call for the involvement of the States neighbouring Casamance (Guinea-Bissau and Gambia in particular) in creating a stable peace on the initiative of the State of Senegal and respecting its sovereignty. This sub regional approach to crisis resolution must and can be carried out with full respect for the options of mediation and diplomacy in the country concerned.

Sierra Leone

- In place robust identification of arms as armed groups as well as their manufacturing
- To reinforce the role of ECOWAS and the African Union, the meeting strongly recommends that the member states fully respect AU decisions that are taken by those institutions as regards the implementation of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes in their countries.

3.5 Closing Ceremony

At the close of three days of proceedings and the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations, the closing ceremony was chaired by Professor Jacqueline Oble, a special advisor to the Prime Minister, in charge of the Côte d'Ivoire crisis resolution programme.

She conveyed the thanks of the Prime Minister to the organisers and the participants for having held this workshop in Côte d'Ivoire. She emphasised the Prime Minister's will and desire to extend the cooperative development relationship with the OECD beyond issues concerning crisis management. She stressed: "We need to stop the conflicts and give our youth a future. I think that this Regional Working Group is an important tool. We can trust the SWAC, the OECD and civil society organisations."

After reminding participants of the Ivorian government's commitment in this decisive stage of the crisis resolution policy, Mrs Oble declared, on behalf of Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, the close of the proceedings of the Abidjan workshop to set up a Regional Working Group on DDR programmes and post-conflict management.

APPENDICES

- Motion of thanks
 - Agenda
- List of participants

Motion of thanks

Thanks to the Ivorian authorities

The SWAC, ECOWAS and all the participants at the workshop to set up the “Regional Working Group on DDR programmes and Post-conflict management in West Africa” conveyed their profound gratitude to the people and the government of Côte d’Ivoire for:

- The warm welcome they received,
- The kind hospitality they enjoyed and,
- The meticulous care they were shown during their stay in Côte d’Ivoire.

The workshop participants particularly enjoyed the audience they had with Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, which showed that authorities of the highest level in the country take an interest in the subject matter dealt with at this workshop.

Abidjan, 1 June 2006

The participants of the workshop

Thanks to the civil society

At the end of the workshop on “Setting up a Regional Working Group on DDR programmes and post-conflict management in West Africa”,

The SWAC, ECOWAS and the other participants conveyed their sincere thanks to:

- OFEP - Organisation of Eburnean Women for Peace (Organisation des Femmes d’Eburnie pour la Paix), Mrs Salimata Porquet, as well as the other Ivorian civil society organisations of different kinds, for their activity and participation in the proceedings, their valuable logistical help and their welcome.

Abidjan, 1 June 2006

The participants of the workshop

Agenda – Schedule of Sessions

Tuesday 30 May

Opening ceremony and introduction of the workshop under the presidency of Mr. Charles Konan BANNY, Prime Minister, represented by Mr. Joseph Dja BLE, Minister of the Interior.

08.00 – 10.00	Welcoming of participants
10.00 – 10.10	Welcoming words of Mrs Salimata PORQUET, President of the OFEP
10.10 – 10.20	Presentation of the Sahel and West Africa Club by Mr. Massaër DIALLO, Head of the SWAC's Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security Unit/OECD
10.20 – 10.30	Intervention by Colonel Yoro KONE, ECOWAS Representative
10.30 – 10.40	Intervention by M. Abou MOUSSA, ONUCI Representative
10.40 – 10.50	Opening by Mr. Joseph Dja BLE, representative of Mr. Prime Minister, Charles KONAN BANNY
10.50 – 11.00	<i>Pause café</i>
11.00 – 14.00	INTRODUCTION
11.00 – 11.30	Presentation of the workshop and the expected results by Mr. Massaër DIALLO, SWAC/OCDE "The necessity for and stakes of a DDR regional approach in West Africa"
11.30 – 11.50	Intervention by General OUASSANAN, President of the PNDDR in Côte d'Ivoire "A DDR Regional approach: The Ivorian outlook"
11.50 – 13.00	Questions/Answers between the participants and the speakers
13.00 – 14.00	FIRST SESSION ASSESSMENT OF THE DDR PROGRAMMES IN WEST AFRICA
	MODERATOR: Colonel Yoro KONE, ECOWAS DISCUSSANT: Mr. Jean Luc STALON, ONUCI
13.00 – 13.15	DDR's constraints and perspectives in Côte d'Ivoire: M. Brahim Sangare
13.15 – 13.40	Assessment of Liberia: Mr. Jarbo MOSES

13.40 – 14.00 Assessment of Sierra Leone: Mr. Osman GBLA

Discussions

14.00 – 15.00 *Lunch*

**15.00 – 18.00 ASSESSMENT OF THE DDR PROGRAMMES IN WEST AFRICA
(CONTINUATION)**

MODERATOR: General OUSSANAN (PNDDR)

DISCUSSANT: Dr. Istifanus ZABADI (WANSED)

15.00 – 15.20 Assessment of Casamance, Senegal: Mrs Fatou CISSE (RADDHO)

15.20 – 16.40 **Discussions**

16.40 – 17.00 Assessment of Guinea Bissau: Mr. Pedro CORREIA

17.00 – 17.30 Assessment of Mali: Mr. Zeini MOULAYE

17.30 – 18.00 Overview of the case of Niger: Mrs. Ben WAHAB

18.00 – 19.00 Discussions on the interventions

∞ End of working day ∞

Wednesday 31 May

SECOND SESSION

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED NATIONALLY AND LESSONS LEARNED

Moderator: Dr Sedat JOB, Special representative of the African Union to Haiti
Discussant: Mrs Sar Daraba KABA

09.00 – 13.00 **Completed DDR Programmes**

09.00 – 09.20 *Niger*, Mrs Ben WAHAB

09.20 – 09.40 *Mali*, M. Zeini MOULAYE

09.40 – 10.00 *Guinea-Bissau*, Mr. Pedro CORREIA

10.00 – 10.20 *Sierra Leone*, Mr. Osman GBLA

10.20 – 10.40 **DDR programmes coming to an end**
Case of Liberia, Mr. Jarbo MOSES

10.40 – 11.00 **DDR in Guinea**, Mrs Susan Daraba KABA

11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30 – 13.00 **Discussions**

13.00 – 13.30 **Presentation of participants**

13.30 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 16.30 **DDR and the dynamics of exit from crisis underway in West Africa**

MODERATOR: Mrs Salimata PORQUET
DISCUSSANT: Mr. Mamadu JAO

14.30 – 14.50 *Dynamics of exit from crisis in West Africa: place and perspectives of the Ivorian exit from crisis programme*, Mrs. J. OBLE

14.50 – 15.30 *Casamance (Senegal) and the perspectives underway*
Mr. Nouha CISSE and Mrs Fatou CISSE

15.30 – 17.30 **Discussions**

∞ End of working day ∞

Thursday 1 June

09.30 – 11.30	<u>THIRD SESSION</u> HARMONISATION AND REGIONAL APPROACH
	MODERATOR: Mr. Masser DIALLO DISCUSSANT: Mr. Antoine SAWADOGO
09.30 – 10.00	Colonel KONE: ECOWAS and the DDR's regional approach
10.00 – 10.30	Dr. Istifanus ZABADI: UNOWA and the DDR's regional approach in West Africa
10.30 – 11.00	ONUCI viewpoint on the regional approach, Mr. Jean-Luc STALON
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 12.40	Discussions
12.40 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30–15.30	Suspension of session and meeting of the participants with the Prime Minister Charles KONAN BANNY
15.30 – 18.00	<u>FOURTH SESSION</u> CHALLENGES AND SYNERGIES OF A REGIONAL APPROACH
15.30 – 16.00	Panel 1: Problems related to arms circulation and combatants
	MODERATOR: Representative of the African Union in Abidjan DISCUSSANT: Mr. Moses JARBO
15.30 – 16.30	Circulation of light arms: 1. Intervention by the ECOWAS Light Arms Unit, Colonel Yoro KONE 2. Intervention by Mr. Jean-Luc STALON, ONUCI
	Circulation of people and combatants as regards trans-nationality of socio-cultural groups Mrs Sara Daraba KABA, Example of the Mano River Region
	Regional spreading of conflicts and ECOWAS' regional expertise as regards security: Representative of the ECOWAS Department of Defence and Security, Colonel Adama MBAYE

16.30 – 17.15 **Panel 2: What are the prospects for synergies and action for the development of a regional approach for sustainable exit from crisis?**

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs Jacqueline OBLE

MODERATOR: Mr. Massaër DIALLO

DISCUSSANT: Mr. Ousmane GBLA

Key questions for the panel to debate:

- Problem of the impact of withdrawing financially from the completed DDR programmes on the sustainable stabilisation of the reinserted and post-conflict management.
- How to coordinate the regional with that of the national and local?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the various actors?
- Through what actions can this synergy be built?

17.15 – 18.00 **CLOSING SESSION**

Reading of motions

Reading and adoption of the draft final report

Closing speeches of Ivorian authorities

18.00 **Cocktail**

∞ END ∞

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