
PROJECT:	Civil-Military Dialogue in ECOWAS Member States: Democratic Governance of the Security Sector in West Africa
DISARMAMENT FOCUS:	Security Sector Reform
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS:	West Africa
PROPOSED PROJECT TIMEFRAME:	2010-2012 (24 months)
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BACKGROUND

In response to strained relations between civilian populations, and armed and security forces, UNREC implemented a pilot project in Togo aimed at realigning the state security apparatus with the principles of democratic governance. To achieve this, UNREC launched an awareness raising campaign, organised capacity-building workshops for the security and armed forces and the Security and Defence Commission of the Parliament, and designed and published a booklet on the role of law enforcement during electoral periods. UNREC proposes to emulate the success of this model in ECOWAS member states.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this project is to improve security in the West Africa sub-region through the democratic oversight of the security sector in each target country. More specifically, the project aims to:

- Assist the reform of defence and security institutions;
- Enhance the professionalism of the armed and security forces;
- Promote political and institutional stability and sustainable socio-economic development.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

The project will be implemented by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC). The following activities will be conducted:

- 1) Survey on the status of civil-military relations in the target member states;
- 2) Capacity-building seminar on the legal framework for the intervention of the armed and security forces in the democratic context;
- 3) Capacity-building workshop for the parliamentary defence committees;
- 4) Regional forum for CSOs and the armed and security forces on peace culture and non-violence in West Africa;
- 5) Publication and dissemination of the ECOWAS Code of conduct; and
- 6) Translation, publication and dissemination of the UNREC booklet on the role of law enforcement during an electoral period

The project will achieve the following major outputs:

- Enhanced capacities and skills of the members of the armed and security forces in matters related to the framework of their legal intervention in a democratic context;
- Enhanced capacities and skills of members of parliamentary defence committees in matters related to the democratic oversight of defence and security institution;
- Formulated strategies to improve the relationships between civilians and armed forces;
- Publication and dissemination of a standardised Code of conduct and guide booklet

IMPACT

The intended impact of the project is to strengthen the democratic governance of the security sector in West Africa sub-region through the improvement of civil-military relations in the 15 ECOWAS member states.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this project will be the armed and security forces, parliamentarians and civil society organisations in West Africa.

PARTNERS

UNREC will work in collaboration with relevant Government structures of the 15 target States; selected local CSOs with proven track records in security sector reform; ECOWAS, United Nations agencies and other entities working in the field of peace-building, democratic governance and human rights, OECD, ASSN, Oxfam GB.

BUDGET ITEMS	ESTIMATED COST IN US DOLLARS
Project Personnel	72,000
Operations and Implementation Costs	278,000
Total Budget Required	350,000
Total Secured Funding	0
Funding Gap	USD 350,000