



**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSO) SENSITIZATION
WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECPF IN
MEMBER STATES**

16 - 17 AUGUST, 2016

DAKAR, SENEGAL

FINAL REPORT

Dakar, Senegal

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Civil Society Organization (CSO) Sensitization Workshop on the implementation of the ECPF in Member States took place from 16 to 17 August, 2015 in Dakar, Senegal. The Workshop was convened as a follow-up to an introductory Workshop organized in 2015 where the Commission briefed the CSO participants about the ECPF, its 15 Components, 3 Year Plan of Action and reinforced regional and national collaborative efforts towards the operationalization of the ECPF. Following the success of the 2015 Workshop, the Commission decided to convene the Workshop annually in an effort to strengthen CSO-ECOWAS collaborative efforts towards the effective implementation of the ECPF.
2. The objectives of the Technical Meeting were: to introduce and adopt a Terms of Reference which will define the modalities and responsibilities of CSOs and the ECOWAS Commission in the Annual CSO Workshop; equip CSOs with a monitoring tool which can be used to track the progress of national conflict prevention programs; design strategies that will enhance effective implementation of conflict prevention interventions at local and national levels; consolidate the efficiency of CSOs through their collaboration with other national CSOs and discuss regional and national peace and security issues which are to be prioritized.
3. Prior to the Workshop and in order to meet the above-listed objectives, comprehensive presentations were developed by the facilitators of the meeting and the ECPF Secretariat.

II. PARTICIPANTS

4. The two-day Sensitization Workshop in Dakar, Senegal was attended by 33 CSO representatives, 3 consultants and 6 staff from the ECOWAS Commission. The Workshop was facilitated by Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director of West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Mrs. Emma Birikorang, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Mr. Arsene Comlan Aizan, Clinical psychologist-researcher.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

5. The opening session was facilitated by Mr. Constant C. Gnacadja, Program Officer, Conflict Prevention, ECOWAS Commission, who welcomed all of the participants to the Sensitization Workshop and facilitated the introduction of the participants by asking all participants to introduce themselves and list their expectations for the meeting.
6. Following the introduction of the participants, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. Aderemi Ajibewa, Director of Political Affairs, ECOWAS. Dr. Ajibewa noted that most of the

participants attended last year's CSO Workshop which served as a platform to launch the Commission's engagement with CSOs in Member States on the implementation of the ECPF at the national and communal levels. He recalled that this year's Workshop was conceptualized as a necessary exercise which should be conducted once a year in order to strengthen the partnership between the Commission and CSOs. Dr. Ajibewa also encouraged the participants to think creatively on how ECOWAS and CSOs can enhance their partnership and develop concrete strategies to prevent the occurrence and prevalence of conflicts in the region.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PRESENTATION OF OBJECTIVES

7. Ms. Sa'adatu Shuaibu, Program Officer, ECPF presented of the agenda of the meeting. After a slight modification, the agenda of the meeting was adopted.

SESSION I: PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE ECPF

V. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

8. Mr. Gnacadja offered a brief overview of the ECPF and described the recent developments in the operationalization of the ECPF at the Commission. He recalled that the ECPF articulates programmatic objectives, activities and identifies stakeholders for implementing the provisions of the 1999 Mechanism. He also recalled that the ECPF is the operational tool for the implementation of the provisions of extant ECOWAS Protocols on peace and security, particularly the 1999 Mechanism and covers Operational and Structural Prevention. He discussed the ECPF Secretariat's engagement with ECOWAS Focal Point Directorates and Partners on the development of a mapping tool to capture the pledged support of Partners to ECPF programs.

VI. ECPF WEB PORTAL

9. Ms. Shuaibu introduced the ECPF Web Portal as a website which was designed through the collaboration of the Political Affairs and Communication Directorates and the Community Computer Centre. She explained that the Web Portal includes sections on multimedia, the newsroom, events, key resources, All About ECPF, ECPF Components and Development Partners. She pointed out that the ECPF 3 Year Plan of Action can be located under the ECPF Components section.

VII. ECOWAS CONFLICT PREVENTION FRAMEWORK (ECPF): EVOLUTION, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

10. Dr. Babatunde Afolabi gave a presentation of the background of the ECPF which included the ECPF's evolution, challenges and perspectives. Dr. Afolabi's presentation was based on an article he wrote in a publication on the ECOWAS 40th Anniversary published by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD). He recalled that the aim of the ECPF is to strengthen human security. He discussed the achievements of the ECPF which include the establishment of the ECPF Internal Steering Committee to oversee the ECPF operationalization process and the fostering of intra-ECOWAS implementation collaboration. He noted that the ECPF also served as a medium for fostering improved ECOWAS-Development Partner coordination. Among the challenges of the ECPF, he mentioned, lack of a coordinated and coherent implementation approach between ECOWAS and key implementing Partners (Member States & Civil Society) and low-level awareness of the ECPF in Member States.

VIII. REPORT ON THE STUDY ON THE STATE-LEVEL AWARENESS OF ECPF AND PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION

11. Mrs. Emma Birikorang introduced a study which was conducted by a team of four researchers from the Kofi Anna International Peacekeeping Training Centre in 2010, two years after the adoption of the ECPF. She explained that the study was conducted in four (4) West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Ghana and its objective was to measure the state-level awareness of the ECPF and assess progress towards its implementation. She noted that one of the findings of the study was that there is a high level of interest in the ECPF, although there were no specific activities aimed directly at implementing the ECPF in the countries visited. She observed that there was also a lack of national ownership since it was viewed as an ECOWAS document. She concluded that the study recommended the need to embark on a state-level awareness campaign in all 15 member states and distribute the document in all three ECOWAS official languages, as well as other local languages.

IX. SHARING OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF A STUDY OF ECPF IN SOME COUNTRIES IN WEST AFRICA - GORÉE INSTITUTE

12. Ms. Wore Ndiaye, Program Coordinator, Gender, Peace and Security, Gorée Institute presented a study on the monitoring of institutional stability and human security in West Africa which was conducted by the Gorée Institute in 2015. She noted that the pilot phase of the study was conducted in six West African countries, these were Sénégal, Guinée, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Guinea Bissau. She acknowledged that due to a language barrier in

Guinea Bissau, the study could not be completed in the country. She stated that the study analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of 14 Components of the ECPF in 5 countries that will be used to calculate the Index ECOWAS Peace and Stability. She mentioned that a questionnaire with questions on 111 indicators was developed and formed the basis for the collection of information in 5 countries. Based on the study, she noted that most of the respondents indicated that there was low implementation of Natural Resource Governance and Youth Empowerment Components of the ECPF. She stated that by October 2016, the second phase of the study will be completed which will include four more countries. She mentioned that the Institute hopes to conduct the study in all the 15 West African countries.

X. THE URGENCY OF PREVENTING THE EFFECTS OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AMONG YOUTH IN WEST AFRICA

13. Mr. Gilles Aizan offered a presentation on the Urgency of Preventing the effects of Psychoactive Substances among Youth in West Africa. He pointed out that West Africa was identified as a hub for psychoactive drugs in 2015 and 70% of drug users are said to be youth ages 12 to 35. He explained that weed is the drug mostly consumed in the region. He also noted that most young drug users come from a background of poverty, limited supervision, and lack of authority. He concluded by stating there is a correlation between the increase in drug trafficking and the instability of the region, therefore there needs to be a strong effort to curb the trafficking of drugs.

XI. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSO ACTIVITIES (ACHIEVEMENTS, OBSTACLES, OPPORTUNITIES/NEW THINKING)

14. Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze facilitated the group exercise on the update of the implementation of CSO activities. Mr. Eze divided the participants into 3 groups and asked them to collate the conflict prevention activities being implemented in their respective countries. After the group presentations, the participants were asked to prepare for the next group exercise which will involve inserting their priority areas into an M&E matrix. Participants were also encouraged to reflect on how much funds are needed to implement conflict prevention programs and how can CSOs successfully request for funding from Partners.

DAY 2

XII. RECAP OF DAY 1

15. Mr. Gnacadja welcomed the participants to Day 2 of the meeting. Ms. Shuaibu, gave a brief review of day 1 of the Workshop.

XIII. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES FOR NATIONAL CONFLICT PREVENTION PROGRAMS

16. Mr. Chukwuememeka Eze conducted a presentation on Resource Mobilization Strategies for National Conflict Prevention Programs. He recalled that CSOs will always need resources to assist them continuously to provide services to their communities. He also took note that CSOs have relied more on the generosity of donors to support their project activities through grants and donations and to this end, resource mobilization is a valuable component of strengthening CSOs. He offered some important recommendations on resource mobilization strategies for the CSOs which include: to understand and evaluate the external environment to unravel the factors affecting resource mobilization, appreciate and analyze competition, ensure transparency and accountability especially of financial management and accounting, ensure sustainability and relevance of the project to be supported and consider resource mobilization from private sector organizations and individuals.

XIV. ECPF MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGIES

17. Mr. Eze also proceeded to offer a presentation on ECPF Monitoring and Evaluation Strategies. He noted that monitoring and evaluation is a process of routinely gathering information on all aspects of the project. He acknowledged that there are mainly three types of monitoring that are utilized for project/program management: Management and administration, Finance and Program/Activities. Mr. Eze introduced the participants to the ECPF Monitoring Tool and encouraged them to use the tool to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the next 12 months.

XV. ESTABLISHMENT OF A THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON ECOWAS-CSO COLLABORATION

18. The participants were asked to review the Partnership Terms of Reference (ToR) between ECOWAS and Civil Society Organizations for the implementation of the ECPF in ECOWAS Member States. After a discussion on the ToR, the participants adopted it and promised to share it with their principals who may wish to endorse it.

XVI. FUTURE PROSPECTS

19. Mr. Gnacadja discussed the next steps for mutual collaboration and information sharing between the CSOs and ECOWAS. On the ECOWAS Web Portal, he noted that the ECOWAS Community Computer Centre can dedicate a section of the Website to CSO activities in Member States. He suggested that links to CSO websites and CSO profiles can be hosted on the ECPF Web Portal. Furthermore, he mentioned that pre and post CSO Sensitization Workshop information may be uploaded onto the Website. He proposed that the ECOWAS Commission send newsletters to the CSOs to update them on recent developments on the operationalization of the ECPF. He also proposed that a mailing list for CSOs be created in order to ease the flow of information between the Commission and the CSOs. Furthermore, he informed the participants that although there have been discussions on translating the ECPF into local languages, the Commission will prioritize translating the ECPF into Portuguese since it is one of the three official languages of ECOWAS.

20. Mr. Gnacadja informed the participants about the forthcoming Member States Sensitization Workshop on the ECPF and requested for their assistance in delivering and following-up on the letters to the invited Ministries.

21. On the way forward in 2017, Mr. Gnacadja noted the importance of creating greater awareness of the ECPF in Member States. He touched on the importance of enriching the understanding of stakeholders on each component of the ECPF. He suggested that the next CSO Workshop should concentrate on one specific ECPF component which deals with one of the prominent issues in the region. By a vote of majority, the meeting decided to make "Youth" the thematic focus of the CSO Workshop in 2017.

XVII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

22. On behalf of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Ajibewa, Director of Political Affairs, thanked the participants for honouring the Commission's invitation to attend the meeting. He reminded

the participants that not only does the meeting serve as an opportunity to enhance their roles in conflict prevention, but it also allows them to network with other organizations which they may collaborate with in future. Lastly, he wished the participants a safe journey back to their respective destinations.

23. Ms. Ngozi Amu, representing the United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), also offered a vote of thanks to the participants for their participation in the Sensitization Workshop. With specific reference to the presentation on resource mobilization strategies, she acknowledged that the Workshop was an initiative which empowers CSOs to be diligent and thoughtful when applying for grants to Partners. She applauded the Commission for its commitment to strengthening the capacity of CSOs and welcomed the prospect of further collaboration with the CSOs on conflict prevention programs and activities.