

**Final Communiqué**  
**of the International Parliamentary Workshop on Small**  
**Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in West Africa**  
**13-14 May 2010 Accra, Ghana**

At the end of a two-day workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Accra organized by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) and the ECOWAS Small Arms Division, we members of Defense and Security Parliamentary Committees of ECOWAS member states present at the workshop, hereby make the following recommendations that:

**A) Control of Transfer of Small Arms and Light weapons**

**Modalities for databases on national and regional level**

1. Standards for collecting data at national and regional levels should be established.
2. Parliaments should encourage countries to computerize their SALW databases and share best practices from other countries where computerization is taking place.
3. Parliaments should encourage the accessibility of database to national actors.

**Legislative and political provisions**

4. Parliaments should encourage domestication of the ECOWAS Convention on SALW within the Member States.

**Institutional provisions**

5. Parliaments should establish national parliamentary networks on small arms control and a regional inter-parliamentary network for consultation and evaluation of the status quo on SALW.
6. Parliaments should maintain working relations with the National Commissions on SALW.
7. Parliaments should facilitate the work of the National Commission on SALW through advocacy and lobbying and among other things, ensuring that there is sufficient budget line for National Commissions.
8. The ECOWAS Small Arms Division should be institutionally strengthened.
9. The mandate of the ECOWAS Parliament should be strengthened.

**Control of governmental action by parliaments**

10. The oversight role of parliaments on issues related to SALW needs to be strengthened.

## **B) Interregional relations**

11. Parliaments should encourage dialogue on SALW amongst themselves within the region, between the regions and internationally.
12. ECOWAS should establish relationships with exporting states and export control organizations to make them aware of the provisions of the ECOWAS Convention on SALW.
13. Parliaments should encourage ECOWAS to share best practices on SALW control with other regional and international organizations.
14. The African Union should encourage the networking of regional bodies on SALW.
15. The African Union should ensure SALW control in all its aspects during peacekeeping operations.

## **C) Arms Trade Treaty, UN Program of Action**

16. Parliaments should ensure that accurate and timely national reports on the implementation of UN PoA are submitted biennially to the United Nations.
17. National Commissions should send a copy of the national report submitted to the ECOWAS and the UN to their National Parliaments.
18. Parliaments should encourage a common position on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) for the ECOWAS region.
19. Member States and ECOWAS should be encouraged to actively participate in Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) preparatory committees.
20. Member States and ECOWAS should brief Parliamentarians regularly on the outcomes of these preparatory committees and UN PoA.
21. ECOWAS should, if possible consult with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Preparatory Committee Chairman.