

Main Themes	Main Actor (Institution)			Organisation Contact Details	Background Information	Major Activities/ Areas of Engagement	Contact Person
	Global	Regional/Sub-Regional	National				
Armed Conflict Prevention, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Disarmament	United Nations Development Program Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) ¹			UNDP Regional Centre Dakar – 5, Boulevard de l’Est Point E – B.P. 5640 – Dakar Tel: +221 33 869 0620 Fax: +221 33 869 0681 Email : christianna.pangalos@undp.org	The Armed Violence Prevention Programme (AVPP) is a global inter-agency programme begun in 2006. It includes UNDP , UNICEF , UNHABITAT , UNODA , UNODC , and WHO . It primarily focuses on enhancing conflict prevention and disaster risk management capabilities, ensuring improved governance functions in post crisis, and restoring the foundations for local development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specialized policy support and technical expertise to country offices on Parliamentary and Political Party capacity development and support. ▪ Armed Violence Prevention 	Christianna Pangalos Parliamentary Strengthening Specialist
	AGORA (E-Platform)			Website: http://www.agora-parl.org/	AGORA, is the Portal for Parliamentary Development; a one-stop reference centre and hub for knowledge sharing on parliamentary development. The portal, which brings together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, donors, practitioners, as well as academics, civil society and the media, aims to be the world’s premier resource for information on parliamentary development. It seeks to consolidate knowledge, expertise and lessons learned, as well as facilitate active collaboration among the worldwide parliamentary development community of practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a hub of information and expertise on parliamentary management and parliamentary development programmes • Global streamlining of parliamentary development activities • Consolidate knowledge and expertise by creating an active online community for those working in parliaments and in the field of parliamentary development 	
	Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) (Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme)			Tel: +233 302718200 e-mail: John.pokoo@kaiptc.org	The KAIPTC was established to train personnel for peace missions. It seeks to provide a platform for learning and sharing experience in regional peace support operations and provide cutting-edge training and research in the areas of peace and security in Africa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peace and Security Training Programmes 	John Pokoo (Programmes Coordinator)
	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)			Tel: +233 (21) 221 318/388 2 Email: wanep@wanep.org; vkumbour@wanep.org; Website http://www.wanep.org	WANEP is an enabling and a facilitating mechanism for cooperation amongst peacebuilding practitioners in West Africa. The mission of the network is to facilitate cooperative responses in transforming violent conflicts, thereby creating a conducive environment for development in West Africa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active Nonviolence and Peace Education (ANVPE) ▪ Capacity Building Program (CBP) ▪ Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET) ▪ Early Warning and Early Response (WARN) ▪ West Africa Peacebuilding Institute 	

¹ Country Offices of The United Nations Development Program in West Africa provide various forms of assistance for crisis prevention, the promotion of democratic institutions and poverty reduction.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (WAPI) Natural Resource Conflict Management (NRCM) Intervention and Special Initiative Program (ISIP). 	
Good Governance, Security Sector Reform, Democracy and Development	The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces(DCAF)	Tel: +41 (0) 22 741 77 00 Website: http://www.dcaf.ch/	In October 2000, upon the initiative of the Swiss Confederation, a group of 23 governments established DCAF to fulfill the growing need for an organisation devoted to SSR/SSG. This organisation primarily seeks to provide support to States and international organizations to reinforce and strengthen their efforts to improve security and justice, primarily in conflict-affected and fragile states.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCAF provides project-specific SSR support in the areas of SSR/SSG assessment, programme design and monitoring and evaluation Policy-relevant research DCAF assists in the codification of emerging norms and standards by advising on the development of codes of conduct, domestic legislation and international agreements. 	Jean-Jacques Gacond
	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)	Tel: (+233) 30772471 30772687 Email: office@fesghana.org.gh	FES is a German political foundation founded in 1925 to contribute to international understanding and cooperation. It seeks to promote peace and understanding within and between states. It also aims at strengthening national capacities to address armed violence from a human security and development perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and Social Policy 	
	African Security Sector Network	Tel: +233 302510515 Email: paschal@africansecuritynetwork.org	It was established in 2004 to transform security governance in Africa, promote peace and security in Africa, and to build the institutional capacity of parliament and civil society groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security sector reforms and governance transformation 	Major Paschal Badong (RTD) Programmes Manager
Capacity building (Parliaments, Security Sector Personnel)	The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)	Tel: (228) 253 50 00 (228) 250-43-15 Website: http://www.unrec.org	It was established in 1985 as a regional office of the United Nations to promote peace, disarmament and development on the African continent. It seeks to provide requisite assistance to states in Africa towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitations and disarmament in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disarmament and arms control The promotion and protection of human Security Management of transnational crimes (illicit trafficking in human beings, drugs and small arms) The promotion and protection of human rights and governance 	Rodger Glokpor rglokpor@unrec.org Project Coordinator, Capacity Building Project in Africa Focal Point for West Africa
	ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP)	Website: http://www.ecosap.ecowas.int/	ECOSAP was established to build the capacity of ECOWAS member states in combating the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP) 	Adamu.sani@ecosap.org 0022320223748

			West Africa. It also seeks to build the capacity and training of National Commission members and CSOs to control SALW in West Africa.		
	Parliamentary Centre (Ghana)	Tel: +233 302 769387 Email: yakubun@palcent.ca	Established in 1968, its Africa program was established in 1992. It is an institution established to assist legislatures to build their capacity as effective democratic institution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for parliament Assisting legislators in realizing their potential for parliamentary leadership Strengthening committee oversight and lawmaking, notably in poverty reduction, gender equality and anti-corruption 	Nansata Yakubu Parliament and Conflict Expert
	DCAF's Parliamentary Programme in West Africa		This was set up to strengthen the role of parliaments in West Africa and help them build the capacity in order to improve their legislative oversight process in the areas of defense and security. It also seeks to provide research support for parliamentarians. It also aims to build a regional network of proactive and skilled West African parliamentarians and parliamentary staffers dealing with defense and security matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and Training: DCAF advocates with, and provides training to, headquarters and field staff in order to increase the capacity of governments, international organisations and civil society actors to conduct SSR/G activities. 	
Small Arms and Light Weapons control	International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)	Tel: + 44 207 065 0870 email: contact@iansa.org	IANSA is a network of civil society organisations that seek to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. The network campaigns for policies that will protect human security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace, security and awareness creation 	Joseph Dube joseph.dube@iansa.org
	West African Action Network (WAANSA)	+2330302542059 info@waansa.org www.waansa.org	WAANSA was founded on 20th May 2002 to draw attention to the impact of the use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the West Africa region and create space and opportunity for exchange of information, views and experiences; as well as to formulate and implement strategies to combat the proliferation of SALW in West Africa. WAANSA seeks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be a link between civil society and governments Advocate the development and implementation of legal frameworks for SALW control Develop Capacities in issued of SALW Control Serve as a source of solidarity particularly among civil society groups that work on issues of SALW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication, Facilitation and Co-ordination Building National Networks and Coalitions Research and information gathering and distribution Lobbying for support for SALW control initiatives in West Africa Financing of SALW related institutions The inclusion of CSOs in the SALW processes and institutions Advocacy and sensitization in various areas of peace, security, particularly as it relates to issues of armed violence and SALW control 	Baffour Amoah-Dotse (President)

	West African Action Network for Small Arms (Nigeria)	fiadebbc@yahoo.com		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness creation Capacity building 	Fiade Olugbenga
	Liberia Action Network on Small Arms(LANSA)	Tel: +231 6549369, +231 6560734 Lansa_2004@yahoo.com			
	Mouvement Contre les Armes Légères en Afrique de l'Ouest (MALAO)Senegal	Tel : (+221)33 864 65 48 malaosenegal@yahoo.fr			
	Sierra Leone Action Network on Small Arms	Tel: +232 – 76 – 730530 slansa2001@slansa.org			
	Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light weapons	Tel: +46 (0)8 653 2543 Website: http://www.parliamentaryforum.org/	This is a global organisation for parliamentarians, which seeks to enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to promote peace and development. It also works towards preventing armed violence and small arms proliferation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small arms control Armed violence prevention Awareness creation 	Teresa Dybeck dybeck@parlforum.org
Human Security, Women and Youth Empowerment, Protection of Vulnerable Groups	Foundation for Security and Development in Africa	Tel: + 233 302521914 Website: www.fosda.net	It was established in 2000 to promote human security and develop programmes that will ensure economic progress and reduce violent conflict in the West African sub-region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human security Disarmament Research on women and youth empowerment and good governance 	Theodora W. Anti, Research Officer
	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue	Tel: +41 (0)22 908 11 30 Email: info@hdcentre.org Website: http://www.hdcentre.org/	The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) is a conflict mediation organizations that was set up in 1999. Its aim is to help alleviate the suffering of individuals and populations caught up in both high profile and forgotten conflicts, by acting as mediators and by providing other mediators with the support they need to work effectively.		

The Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre's (KAIPTC) works in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution through various programs. Through its research and publications, the Centre creates awareness on different types of conflicts, their nature and proffer ways of preventing their escalation to violent conflict. KAIPTC's research influences its capacity building and training initiatives as well as its engagement with policy makers in the sub-region. The KAIPTC provides a menu of training activities with specific focus and targets but all aimed at the prevention of armed violence and armed conflict, the de-escalation of conflict and the resolution of conflicts where they have already occurred. Some of the programs at the KAIPTC include the Small Arms and Light Weapons Training Programme, the Rule of Law course and the course on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

The KAIPTC Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme is the ECOWAS' training programme on SALW and provides capacity training on the nature of SALW and their impact on the socio-economic development of states. The SALW programme, which provides capacity building for the national commissions of the various countries, provides awareness on the various international legal instruments for addressing the proliferation and control of small arms and the nexuses between SALW and human security as well as socio-economic development. The training program also provides a platform to discuss good practices for implementing the various instruments in the face of the challenges posed by the exploitation of the protocols for regional integration. Since the national commissions are the co-coordinating agencies in each member state, they are exposed to the challenges extant in the different components required to undertake particular functions and how those challenges hinder the overall fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. This also serves as advocacy for the national commissions who are also advisory bodies to provide knowledge based advice for actions needed in their individual countries. The training programme has contributed in advocating the ratification of the ECOWAS Convention on small arms and light weapons in many countries and the depositing of the instruments of ratification by those that had ratified but failed to deposit the instruments.

The SALW programme also provides specialized training for personnel of the various security agencies constitutionally mandated to deal directly with issues on SALW such as law enforcement agencies, border management personnel and stockpile managers. These specialized trainings includes acquainting personnel with the relevant aspects of the legal instruments which requires specific marking to facilitate tracing, record keeping, good practices on stock piling as well as the processes and procedures available for exemptions where applicable and for tracing. Since arms are a necessary requirement for armed violence, limiting its availability is useful in minimizing their occurrence. A well informed border management team will be better able to detect and detain illicit weapons; up to date records ensures that responsibility can be assigned to weapon (mis)use and appropriate sanctions applied for deterrence. Since some illicit weapons originate from licit stocks, efficient stockpile management and administration provides needed checks to ensure that licit weapons are not misused or fall into the hands of the wrong persons. KAIPTC has also organized seminars aimed at popularizing the legal instruments for addressing small arms and provide policy makers with an insight into the work of the ECOWAS Small Arms Unit and its Small Arms Program.

KAIPTC has also undertaken research and has facilitated baseline surveys in several countries in the sub-region. These baseline surveys which have been carried out by the national commissions, aims at providing empirical evidence on the nature and impact of SALW so as to evolve appropriate responses. The Small Arms program of the KAIPTC does not engage directly with Parliaments even though Parliamentarians may participate in their training programs if they are members of their national commissions. However, it provides technical assistance to the various national commissions who use it in engaging the relevant Parliamentary sub-committees (usually the Committees on Interior and Defence and Security). To assess the impact of its training on enhancing security in the member states, the programme has embarked on an impact assessment. It aims at ascertaining whether its activities have contributed in a reduction of the availability of arms, which undoubtedly will influence armed violence prevention.

Enhancing peace and security necessitates effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants into post conflict societies. West Africa's history poses two

main challenges to gun control in the sub-region. The revolutions that ushered in military dictatorships in some countries in the sub-region left arms in the hands of persons over whom the state lost control in the transition to democratic rule. Secondly, the influx of arms during the war years also means that there are arms outside the control of the state. This means that DDR is needed in several countries even if the scale on which it is conducted is not necessarily the same. KAIPTC's course equips DDR officials with guiding principles and lessons learnt to ensure that DDRs are successful, uncontrolled access to weapons minimized and human security enhanced.

The lack of a rule of law predisposes a state to different forms of insecurity. Thus, in promoting peace and security in the sub-region, the KAIPTC developed a course for the establishment of rule of law in fragile and crisis countries. It aims at enhancing the capacity of personnel working in institutions, which promotes and protects the rule of law. The training programme is also opened to persons working in civil society who can play watchdog roles over rule of law institutions. The training programme provides a platform for participants to discuss how the absence of the rule of law affects peace and security. It also deepens their knowledge on the linkages between rule of law and security sector reform and governance, the gendered challenges in establishing the rule of law, as well as enhances their capacities to identify and undertake capacity development for the establishment of the rule of law in their specific institutions. Participants are exposed to several lessons learnt and good practices as well as resource mobilization for establishing and sustaining the rule of law.

One of the challenges with armed violence prevention in West Africa is the absence of strong frameworks for the rule of law. Where laws exist, their implementation and adjudication have been weak. The lack of faith in rule of law institutions has contributed in reprisals among communities, the commission of armed violence with impunity and the utilization of armed violence to facilitate the commission of other crimes. The challenge is heightened in post conflict societies where the continuum of violence means that there are high levels of armed violence and crime on one hand and weak law enforcement and security institutions on the other. Since insecurity and armed violence can also result from the activities of unprofessional security services, the training program also addresses the rationale for the democratic control of security forces. It presents different scenarios and cases of security sector reform and encourages participants to adapt context specific approaches in dealing with the complexities it presents. KAIPTC is able to provide tailor made programs and activities and works in collaboration with other civil society actors to maximize the impact of their work. As one of the training centres of excellence for ECOWAS, its facilities are available for facilitating ECOWAS' agenda on peace and security.

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) works at creating a sub region "characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction." To this end, it strives to work with all segments of society – from the governed to the governors. Working through its twelve networks (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Gambia), it articulates its vision through the implementation of its programs on crisis prevention, management and rebuilding. Through its Early Warning and Early Response Programme (WARN), WANEP focuses on violence prevention be it in armed conflict or crisis. Working with the communities in the various countries, WANEP is able to gather first hand information on potential crises. This helps it to engage in conflict prevention activities to avert an escalation of the issues into armed violence. Due to the presence of its network members on the ground, WANEP is able to engage on context specific issues with potentially devastating consequences. For instance, WANEP Cote D'Ivoire was instrumental in advocating peaceful election in Ivory Coast and mobilizing women to go out and vote. The networks provide readily available resource for community entry and facilitation of engagements with various segments of the societies. Its advocacy, sensitization and awareness creation draws attention to pertinent issues of peace and security needing attention and response. Through its Early Warning Bulletin, WANEP also provides a valuable literary tool for action. The bulletin utilizes trend analysis to make projections on possible crisis for the future.

WANEP also engages in capacity building for peace building practitioners. For instance, through its West African Peace Building Institute (WAPI), WANEP provides capacity building training on various aspects of human security, Youth and Security and Gender. The capacity building programme generates awareness on the threats and vulnerabilities in the sub region as well as possible drivers of peacebuilding and security. Although WANEP does not have a program which deals directly with Parliamentarians, its press releases and analysis inform policy makers in the various countries and in the sub-region.

The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) provides assistance in Security Sector Reform and Governance through a number of activities. In West Africa, the DCAF works with the ECOWAS Parliament with which it has a Memorandum of Understanding that provides a thematic focus for engagement. Its Parliamentary Program in West Africa aims at equipping parliamentarians with the requisite information, tools and skills to effectively exercise oversight over the security sector. This program aims at strengthening the role of Parliaments and developing their capacities to enhance their legislative oversight process in the areas of defence and security. One way they do this is through the dissemination of practical research and training materials on parliaments' contribution to security sector governance and reform in West Africa. It also seeks to build a regional network of proactive and skilled West African parliamentarians and parliamentary staffers dealing with defence and security matters.

Working in cooperation with the ECOWAS Parliament, there has been a development of a West African specific of principles, Mechanisms and Good Practices for the exercise of security sector oversight. It is commendable that West African parliamentarians contributed to the chapters of the guide as this undoubtedly means that their specific experiences including lessons learnt and challenges were brought to bear. The provision of literary material generally and hand books in particular is useful as they provide Parliamentarians with case studies, lessons learnt and good practices from which to tap and adapt.

Although DCAF's MoU is with the ECOWAS Parliament, it involves other stakeholders such as security sector actors, civil society organizations working in the areas of parliamentary capacity building as well as security sector reform and governance. This provides useful insights from varied standpoints thereby enriching the conversations and perhaps more importantly ensuring that there is a common understanding between legislators, implementers and partners from the very beginning. DCAF, working in partnership with other civil society organizations have organized regional capacity building workshops for Parliamentarians and civil society organizations on various aspects of security sector oversight in West Africa. DCAF's work with the ECOWAS Parliament makes it possible for them to build consensus on sub-regional issues much quicker. However, it would be much more useful if they developed direct channels for the dissemination of their outputs to popularize the results of their engagements and make it easier to access by Parliamentarians at the national level.

The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) works through regional networks. IANSA works at ending gun violence by advocating stronger regulatory frameworks for gun control in society and the arms trade. Working through its member networks, IANSA raised awareness among policy makers on the global threats posed by arms and gun violence. IANSA operates mainly on the international stage providing invaluable technical expertise to the United Nations on issues relating to arms and has worked with like-minded organizations to advocate international arms treaties. Its work at the global level provides its regional networks with a supporting external environment.

West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA) is the sub-regional branch of the IANSA. Through its vision of creating a secure environment for the development of the sub-region, it works with like-minded civil society organizations working on different aspects of human and state security geared towards the realization of the vision. Currently, it is composed of about three hundred civil society organizations and sub regional networks of coalitions of civil society organizations in the sub-region. WAANSA also works with the National Commissions in the

various countries. WAANSA works in the areas of sensitization, awareness creation, education and capacity development and targets a multiplicity of actors and stakeholders to influence policy in the various member states of ECOWAS. Through its networks, WAANSA sensitized and lobbied governments in the sub region to ratify the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons and deposit their instruments of ratification to enable the Convention come into force. The record time within which the Convention entered into force is testament to the success of WAANSA's efforts.

Working with and through several like-minded organizations, WAANSA has been able to raise a movement, which has successfully advocated member states to place the arms issue at the forefront of their security agendas. In line with the vision of the IAANSA, WAANSA sensitized West African governments on the advantages of a global Arms Trade Treaty. In the end, of the overwhelming majority that voted for an Arms Treaty, eleven were from West Africa.

WAANSA has a visit- to countries programme, which requires the members of the Executive Committee who are designated as zonal co-coordinators to visit the countries within which their networks operate. This was useful as it helped to mount diplomatic pressure, which was useful in lobbying governments and advocating key officials whose personal perceptions on the Convention had derailed the countries' ratification, on the benefits of ratification of the ECOWAS Convention and other international provisions useful for the control of arms. The visit to countries have also helped resolve conflicts borne out of mistrust between some local network members and government officials which had derailed the ratification of the Convention.

In 2009, WAANSA received a mandate from the Parliamentary Forum to set up Parliamentary Networks on Small Arms within the Parliaments of the various countries. Two countries, Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone have set up the Parliamentary Forums. Apart from the quest to set up these Forums, WAANSA works extensively with the Parliamentary Committees on Security and Defence in the various member countries and draws attention to the linkages between small arms and armed violence as well as small arms and other crimes.

WAANSA's collaborative method of working is significant for armed violence prevention because whilst its focus is on arms control and reduction, its networks are able to apply the need for arms control to other aspects of their work to present a clearer picture of the havoc arms can cause in our immediate environment and to the people we care about even outside of an armed conflict situation. Through its collaborations, it is able to obtain multiplier effects as its capacity building activities benefit the fight against small arms as well as other issues, which border on peace and security. WAANSA also benefits from training programs to which it has allocated slots and can send people to for capacity development.

The Parliamentary Centre (PC) assists legislatures build their capacity as effective democratic institutions and legislators in realizing their potential for parliamentary leadership. The Parliamentary Centre works with the ECOWAS Parliaments as well as national parliaments. At the sub-regional level, the Parliamentary Centre works with the ECOWAS Parliament in the development of non-military capacity for conflict prevention and resolution. The PC has undertaken training seminars to develop the understanding of the West African parliamentarians on the causes of conflicts and the tools available for their resolution. It has through its training, enhanced the skills of the Parliamentarians for conflict resolution. The PC has developed a training manual, which covers four broad areas namely (Overview of Conflict, Gender Dimensions of Conflict, Causes of Conflicts in West Africa and Conflict Prevention) for use by the ECOWAS Parliament on conflict prevention and management.

At the national level, the PC works with various parliamentary sub-committees to strengthen accountability, transparency and participation in Parliamentary governance with particular attention to achieving more effective poverty-reduction efforts by strengthening key committees related to poverty reduction efforts in the various countries. The Centre works in close cooperation with the various Parliaments to identify areas of need, agree on agenda and methodology for engagement (training/seminar/expert facilitation). This methodology has

proved useful in several ways: first, the Centre's consultative approach has endeared it to the parliaments it works with as it is perceived as a partner rather than an intrusive civil society organization, secondly, its intervention has been customized to fit the identified needs of the specific parliaments, and thirdly, the PC has been able to build consensus and promote bipartisanship on the issues it engages parliamentarians.

The Centre has organized post budget review workshops for the leadership of Ghana's parliament and chairpersons of various sub-committees. These workshops aim at increasing the capacity of committee members and staff of Parliament to participate effectively in national government decision making concerning economic policy development, resource allocation, gender equality and poverty reduction. It also hopes to facilitate genuine strengthening of democratic governance in Ghana through the opportunity for positive engagement and increase accountability of central government to the parliament and people of Ghana. The post budget hearings have been highly commended by parliamentarians and parliamentary development practitioners as they have fostered cordiality between the Executive and the Legislature and enhanced the quality of the engagements on budgets.

A major lesson learnt from the activities of the PC is that whilst the post budget workshops provide invaluable assistance to reviewing the budget, there is a lacuna as parliaments are better placed to make significant inputs into the budget process prior to the presentation of the budget before the house. It would therefore be useful to have pre-budget workshops where significant changes could be made to the budgets. It was noted that although a few committees currently have pre-budget hearings, this is limited because of the lack of resources.

The Parliamentary Centre also undertakes research and develops literature, which captures good practices and lessons learnt to enhance the work of parliamentarians. It has also used technology to facilitate meetings and engaged parliamentarians through video conferences, to strengthen the capacities of select committees in some countries to help them discuss strategies for poverty reduction – undoubtedly one of the predisposing factors for armed violence. Apart from networking being one of the by-products of the meetings and conferences undertaken by the PC, it has also consciously developed international parliamentary networks on thematic areas such as Poverty Reduction, Gender, HIV/AIDS and corruption to create space for dialogue, peer support, and sharing of tools, best practices and lessons learnt. Although the PC has not engaged parliaments directly on armed violence prevention, its activities supports parliaments to work through a conflict sensitive lens, develops their capacities for peace building and the promotion of co-existence.

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) is a democracy-promotion political organization, which works in seven countries in the sub-region. It works on governance related issues and capacity building for Parliamentarians. The three national offices work together on three major issues in West Africa namely: Economic and Social Policy, Security Policy and Electoral Processes. Although the national offices engage parliaments in their countries of operation, little was found on the specific issue of engaging parliaments for armed violence prevention. It was noted that Parliamentary engagement on security issues which impact on armed violence was undertaken through the Regional Security Policy forum. The FES engaged parliamentarians through regional dialogues and parliamentary workshops on various aspects of security, which included discussions on the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and tasks for parliamentarians in its implementation as well as innovative ways for parliaments to contribute to addressing trans border crimes. The mix of participants to the regional dialogues is a rich blend of parliamentarians, academics and practitioners therefore providing participants with a cocktail of lessons learnt and good practices in the areas of arms control and addressing trans border crimes. Small arms facilitate armed violence whilst armed violence is utilized for trans border crimes – thus, whilst the FES does not have a dedicated program on parliaments and armed violence prevention, it engages on pertinent issues, which relates to armed violence prevention nonetheless.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) was established by the United Nations for the promotion of peace, disarmament and development

on the continent. It has undertaken work to enhance the regulation of small arms in Africa, assisted in the development of legal frameworks for the control of small arms and light weapons including facilitating dialogue on the harmonization of those laws. UNREC works with other civil society organizations in addressing issues of security in the sub region. UNREC organizes seminars, expert meetings and meetings of Parliamentarians to discuss the modalities for the implementation of existing laws as well as the development of relevant platforms to facilitate the control of arms and addressing related security issues. Through the international parliamentary workshop on SALW, UNREC worked with defense and security parliamentary committees of ECOWAS Member states on small arms and light weapons to generate options for consideration. The UNREC also works with Parliaments to develop capacities for security sector oversight in the sub-region. UNREC's work is relevant to addressing the challenges of armed violence and insecurity in the sub region. However, it does not have sufficient visibility in many countries, perhaps because it works mainly with the relevant select committees rather than Parliament as a whole. This lack of visibility has meant that many governments are unaware of the nature of their work and therefore fail to request technical assistance even when it is needed.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) works to promote democratic governance, poverty reduction, environmental protection and sustainable management of energy resources, the prevention of HIV/AIDS and crisis prevention and recovery. Through its country offices, UNDP works with legislative institutions and other branches of government, civil society organizations and academic institutions to promote peace, security and development. It has worked extensively with governments on arms control and provided technical and financial resources for the development of policies and legislative instruments for arms control.

The UNDP has led and produced international instruments for combating the illicit proliferation of small arms, the weapons used in the commission of armed violence. It also monitors the implementation of these instruments and provides support where needed. To this end, UNDP country offices in West Africa have supported the national commissions of small arms and have provided technical and financial resources for their activities such as sensitization, advocacy and lobbying. Through its Bureau for Crisis Prevention, the UNDP undertakes focused activities aimed at developing capacities for armed violence prevention. UNDP provides an electronic learning platform through its Agora Portal. This Portal provides Parliamentarians with a virtual platform upon which they can engage in dialogue, share experiences and lessons learnt and have access to relevant literature on different issues relating to crisis prevention and peacebuilding. This platform is particularly useful as many Parliaments in the sub region lack libraries and access to pertinent literature. However, more needs to be done to promote the portal, as it is largely unknown to many parliamentarians. The BCPR has also engaged parliaments through workshops during which commissioned research papers have been discussed, brainstorming sessions have highlighted areas of challenge and the presentations of country specific activities have provided good practices and lessons learnt.

UNDP's approach of engagement on armed violence has been systematic and therefore afforded parliamentarians the opportunity to build on previous engagements. For instance whilst its regional seminar held in Accra in July 2010, brought various stakeholders together for an expose and showcasing of the available programmes and activities in the sub-region for crisis prevention, its Barcelona meeting held in December 2010, was relatively smaller and much more focused on parliaments and parliamentarians. Again, although the Barcelona meeting had some parliamentarians who were absent from the Accra meeting, a good number of those present had also been in Accra. Therefore, it allowed for continuity and provided an assurance that the capacity of a critical core of legislators is being developed for armed violence prevention. A challenge which must be acknowledged however is the fact that Parliamentarians are elected representatives and this means that when they lose elections, their work in Parliament comes to an end. However, even then, they can be roped into the community of parliamentary development practitioners, which means that the expertise gained remains useful. Focusing on a critical core is useful as it allows sufficient momentum to be built for utilization in the near future.

Although as earlier mentioned, crisis prevention is implicit in almost all the activities of the UNDP country offices; it would be useful to engage parliaments at the national levels on crisis prevention to generate a better understanding of crisis prevention by a critical mass of parliamentarians. Whilst the expert workshops are useful for consensus building and developing a critical core of parliamentarians aware of and ready to lead crisis prevention, it is equally important to court a critical mass of parliamentarians sensitized to the challenges of armed violence and sufficiently aware to want to make a difference.

Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms (PSFA) provides Parliamentarians with an interest in small arms control and armed violence prevention with the platform for dialogue and the learning and sharing of lessons learnt and best practices. The Parliamentary Forum undertakes Parliamentary Capacity development, supports legislative reforms, undertakes awareness raising campaigns facilitates inter-parliamentary dialogues and provides an international presence at global forums.

The Parliamentary Forum provides thematic capacity building for its members through seminars and workshops. Members decide upon the themes for the capacity building workshops. This ensures that the capacity building efforts are targeted to meet an identified need, making it easy to assess impact subsequently. Working to identify areas of need for capacity development provides parliamentarians with the opportunity to undertake a function analysis through which strategies for implementation are also necessarily considered. Through its Assemblies and Regional Meetings, the Forum also facilitates inter-parliamentary dialogues, which facilitate experience sharing. The Forum also offers members the opportunities to become aware of good practices in small arms legislation, which may be considered by those whose parliaments are considering legislating on small arms. A concrete output of this activity by the Parliamentary Forum is the Model Law on Firearms, Ammunition and Related Material that establishes armed violence prevention as its fundamental aim. Parliaments are expected to use the tool to measure the strength of their national laws in addressing armed violence prevention. Undoubtedly, the Model Law encourages the setting of common standards for small arms and armed violence legislations by members of the Forum. Although membership of the Forum is opened to only parliamentarians, it engages with civil society organizations and other parliamentary development practitioners to promote arms control.

The ECOWAS Small Arms Program (ECOSAP) works on building the capacities of the national commissions through the provision of technical and financial assistance to the various national commissions in the sub region. Aware of the complexity of small arms control, ECOSAP works closely with other civil society organisations in the sub region to fight the proliferation of weapons, address issues of armed violence and promote peace and security for the development of the sub region. Through cluster meetings with its partners, ECOSAP shares its work plans and invites its partners to do likewise. This is to allow for a scheduling of the activities to which the presence and/technical support of the ECOSAP would be required. For example, ECOSAP attends the validation meetings for the National Action Plans of the National Commissions. This is very useful as it provides the opportunity for ECOSAP to make direct inputs into the action plans. The cluster meetings also provide an opportunity for the partners to discuss ways of implementing their activities. This is of particular essence because activities aimed at small arms control must be conflict sensitive and conscious of the overarching need to 'do-no-harm'.

The cluster meeting is a useful platform for learning and sharing experiences and provides ECOSAP with the opportunity to roll out new programmes, which are related to the issue(s) of small arms. For instance, ECOSAP introduced the arms violence prevention programme to partners during the cluster meetings of Clusters A and C in 2009.

Arms control can be capital intensive and is often cited as one of the challenges derailing the control efforts. To address this, the ECOSAP provides funds for Quick Impact projects to the countries in the sub region to mitigate some of the challenges encountered in the control efforts. In line with this, ECOSAP has provided funds for the procurement of arms detection machines for the Ghana Immigration Service, the design of a website for the National Commission and the collation of obsolete weapons in the Ghana Police for central destruction.

In Cape Verde, the ECOSAP provided an arms/explosives scanner for the seaport of Praia. The equipments for Ghana and Cape Verde will go a long way to assist in the fight against illicit proliferation of arms. Most post conflict countries are severely constrained financially and are unable to provide the requisite infrastructure and logistical support to their national commissions. Yet, in those countries, addressing issues of small arms and armed violence is critical to sustainable development and peace. The ECOSAP has provided funds to the government of Sierra Leone for the renovation of a building to house the national commission.

ECOSAP's work seeks to address the various segments needed for effective control of small arms – supporting legislative processes, supporting training, sensitization and awareness creation and finally, providing the infrastructure and equipment needed by those implementing the programs and activities, to facilitate their work. By collaborating with like-minded organisations, ECOSAP maximizes the capacities available in the sub region to optimize the opportunities to effectively control small arms proliferation.

The Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA) undertakes several activities aimed at non-violent resolution of conflicts and armed violence prevention. It undertakes research, awareness creation, sensitization and advocacy for violence free societies. Most of its active engagement occurs among areas with manifest conflict issues where it works with grassroots organisations to foster peaceful resolution and co-existence. Its *'Ballots not Bullet Campaign'* undertaken in the Northern region of Ghana, a region considered heavily volatile, contributed significantly to the violence free election of 2008. FOSDA's work extends to Sierra Leone and Liberia where in collaboration with other civil society organisations, the Foundation has undertaken successful non-violence campaigns.

As part of its contribution to the fight against the proliferation of weapons that contribute to armed violence, FOSDA donated metal detectors to the Ghana Police Service in the Northern Region where there has been several armed conflicts and attendant armed violence. The equipment, which is to assist the police in the detection of weapons, is particularly useful to those in the Northern region because of the mode of concealment of weapons that have been found in the past. The hands-on training provided to the police after the donation is to ensure that the equipment is put to use to serve the purpose for which they were acquired.

FOSDA organises workshops for Parliamentarians on peace, security and governance, which are aimed at consolidating parliamentary democracy and enhancing inter-party dialogue. It also invites Parliamentarians to its peace building activities. Parliamentarians are also recipients of its research findings and publications on small arms – production, trafficking and impact on socio-economic development. It engages Parliaments on

By working directly in the communities, FOSDA has been able to gain the confidence of the communities with whom it works, which has undoubtedly contributed to the success of its activities. FOSDA also collaborates with other civil society organisations and therefore benefits from the experience and expertise of partners, which enables it to undertake comprehensive engagements in its armed violence prevention activities.

Conclusion

There are several actors working on various aspects of reducing armed violence and armed conflicts and promoting peaceful societies, which facilitate growth. However, it is useful to note that these organisations, each with its specific mandate and focus, come together in alliances and networks, to hone in their strengths for the fight against armed violence and its related security issues. The activities carried out by the actors have implicitly involved Parliamentarians but the engagement of Parliamentarians on the specific issue of armed violence prevention is relatively new. It may therefore be useful to draw the linkages between the various aspects of (in)security and armed violence.