



**Inter-parliamentary Conference
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“Parliamentary Action on Small Arms in West Africa”

Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE CONTROL OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN THE ECOWAS REGION

1. Promote the ratification of international and subregional instruments on small arms such as the UNODC Firearms Protocol and the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms,
2. Drafting national legislations
 - propose legislation or encourage the governments to draft legislation to integrate and domesticate international and sub-regional instruments on small arms in national legislation,
 - harmonize legislations on small arms,
 - encourage the governments to put forward legislation on small arms,
3. Development of an administrative framework
 - bureaus of the respective parliaments to strengthen the capacities and means of the Defence and Security Committees and their members,
 - make recommendations to the governments for the strengthening of the National Commission on Small Arms to allow them to function effectively, notably by creating a specific budget line for the NatComs,

- make recommendations to the government for the definition of the respective attributions of different government offices in the fight against illicit SALW,
4. Oversight of the government and of armed and security forces
- increase the oversight of government action in the area of defence and security by requesting periodic reports on the implementation of the national legislation on small arms and the National Plan of Action on small arms,
 - be associated as an observer with all the activities of the National Commission on Small Arms,
5. Participation in the dialogue on SALW control
- encourage dialogue and synergies with civil society,
 - work in parliamentary constituencies to raise awareness on the dangers posed by small arms,
 - highlight specific small arms problems encountered in parliamentary constituencies to the governments and the National Commission on Small Arms,
 - create national networks of parliamentarians working on small arms issues within each parliament and with an umbrella network for the ECOWAS region, ECOWAS and WAANSA to assist in the creation of these national parliamentarians' networks,
 - participate in national delegations to international or subregional negotiating conferences on SALW, such as the Biennial Meeting of States or ECOWAS meetings,
 - national parliaments to call on ECOWAS to host a yearly meeting of representatives of parliamentary defence and security committees of all the parliaments of the sub-region, to coincide with a meeting of the ECOWAS Parliament and to discuss small arms issues.