

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

Inter-parliamentary Conference - 25-26 February 2010 - Bamako, Mali

Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms - ECOSAP - UNREC

“Parliamentary Action on Small Arms in West Africa”

Parliamentarians should:

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 their respective 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 their respective 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 their respective 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 their respective governments for the definition of the respective attributions of different government offices in the fight against illicit small arms,
4. Oversight of the government and of armed and security forces
 - increase the oversight of their respective governments' actions 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 small arms control
 - encourage dialogue and synergies with civil society,
 - work in parliamentary constituencies to raise awareness of the population on the dangers posed by small arms,
 - highlight specific small arms problems encountered in parliamentary constituencies to the government 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 small arms, 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.