REPORT OF THE PLANNING MEETING
ON
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL RESILIENCE AGAINST EMERGING SECURITY THREATS IN WEST AFRICA

DATE: 23RD & 24TH JUNE 2017

TOMREIK HOTEL, EAST-LEGON, GHANA
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACP : ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
APN : AFRICAN PEACEBUILDING NETWORK
AU : AFRICAN UNION
CDD : CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT
CFT : COUNTER FINANCING ON TERRORISM
CPAPS : COMMISSIONER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PEACE AND SECURITY
CSO : CIVIL SERVICE ORGANISATION
ECOWAS : ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
ECOWARN : ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE NETWORK
ID : IDENTIFICATION CARD
IGO : INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION
INTERPOL : INTERNATIONAL POLICE ORGANISATION
LECIAD : LEGON CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY
LEJIAD : LEGON JOURNAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY
MFARI : MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION
SSRC : SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
UN : UNITED NATIONS
WANEP : WEST AFRICAN PEACEBUILDING NETWORK
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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 An analysis of West Africa’s security narrative presents a mixed picture of successes and challenges. Despite the success stories of effective de-escalation of conflicts in some member states, transformation of war-affected countries into functioning states and the development of normative frameworks for enhancing peace and security in the sub-region, West Africa is still confronted with a myriad of security threats. Although some of the issues confronting the region are manifestations of old threats in new forms, others are relatively new. A combination of factors including access to accelerated information and communication technologies that facilitate networking; the ineffective management of diversity; inequalities in opportunities for upward mobility, marginalisation, the youth bulge and rising unemployment, and the upsurge in terrorism and violent extremism, creates a cocktail of security threats to the security of West African states and the entire sub-region. In addition to these numerous challenges, most states do not have adequate capabilities to effectively address the threats they are confronted with.

1.2 A lack of effective coordination among relevant stakeholders within ECOWAS member states and the limited collaboration between countries in the sub-region on matters of security, have contributed to the development of a rather general narrative, devoid of the nuances in the security threats confronting the region.

1.3 Of particular concern is the lack of attention to existing threats that have been identified as root causes of existing and/or previous conflicts. Coupled with this are latent vulnerabilities developing in the security landscape, such as corruption in governance, increasing marginalisation, terrorism, etc. which appear to provide legitimacy for the narratives that drive most of the contemporary security threats confronting the sub-region. A related concern is the consequent erosion of civil liberties and human rights in the name of countering terrorism.

1.4 The two-day workshop jointly organised by the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD) and the African Peace Building Network of the Social Science Research Council (APN-SSRC) provided an opportunity for experts to deliberate on ways to enhance the resilience of the sub-region against emerging security threats. Using a mix of presentations, discussants and themed discussions, there was a general agreement that the sub-region was well engaged on addressing the emerging security challenges confronting it. This notwithstanding, there were a number of areas in need of critical attention.

1.5 At the end of the workshop, there was consensus that the efforts at building resilience in the sub-region had to be a collaborative venture between relevant stakeholders at the regional, national and community levels. In addition, it was agreed that effective resilience building had to be guided by empirical evidence.
generated from contextual realities. To this end, there was a call for enhanced collaboration, including joint research, involving the research, policymaking and practitioner communities in the West African sub-region.

1.6 The Meeting further noted that in seeking to build resilience in a sub-region with strong traditional and cultural values, it was important to provide a platform or other avenues for the systematic engagement of traditional authorities.

1.7 The Meeting also suggested that a more proactive approach was required to address the emerging security threats confronting the region. It called on the Partners and ECOWAS to work with the AfDB to synchronise existing fragility measuring systems and develop resilience modelling systems to project and better plan to prevent or at least, mitigate the effects of emerging threats in the region.

1.8 Concluding, the meeting recommended that the two organising institutions of the workshop and the ECOWAS should build upon the platform created through the workshop to create an annual high-level forum of academics, practitioners and policy makers to deliberate on the state of security in the sub-region and map out ways of engagement.

1.9 It also recommended that LEClAD and the APN-SSRC should develop publication platforms for collaborative and comparative research on resilience building particularly focusing on the West African region. As a first step, the meeting called for the publication of a special edition of the LEJIAD that focuses on the themes of the workshop.

1.10 Similarly, there were calls for the design and development of structured platforms to sensitize traditional rulers on their roles in building resilience against contemporary security threats.
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Over the past decade and half, the peace and security scene of West Africa has been characterised by exacerbated old challenges as well as relatively new ones that include political instability, civil strife, transnational organised crimes that comprise drug, human and arms trafficking, cyber security threats, piracy, violent extremism and terrorism among others. These occurrences undoubtedly deepen old threats and also produce new threats and vulnerabilities that impact on stability and development in the region. Although West African countries have been confronted with some relatively complex transnational security challenges, the dynamics underpinning the way in which the threats manifest are distinct; and produce undercurrents, some of which though affecting the region, do not always elicit global responses. Again, while the traditional security threats confronting the region remain palpable, mechanisms designed to address the transnational threats tend to be leveraged over some local, intra and trans-state security threats within the region.

1.2 Further, the trend towards prioritising threats to global security seems, unintentionally, to overshadow ‘internal’ security threats confronting the region, which may not necessarily have direct impact on global security threats although they may have global ramifications in the long term. For instance, most of the states in the region have prioritised counter-terrorism efforts above other security threats, yet these may not be any less emergent. In some instances, counter-terrorism efforts have become the tool for manipulating the legal and security system to inhibit certain democratic freedoms such as freedom of speech and privacy rights among other endangered rights. Although the gradual erosion of democratic rights portends serious ramifications on the security of individual countries and the sub-region as a whole, discussions about these issues are muted because they have been framed within the acceptable rhetoric of countering terrorism. Furthermore, West Africa’s traditional artificial porous borders, weak cohesion as a result of poor governance, exclusion, marginalisation and corruption, etc., constitute structural drivers of violent conflicts that threaten regional peace and security.

1.3 Notwithstanding the concerns highlighted above, the region has developed mechanisms to confront some of the traditional security threats while also developing additional capacity to prevent and respond to emerging ones. The transnational nature of these threats and unintended consequences of addressing security challenges in the region have necessitated a collective approach to building and strengthening resilience against emerging security threats in the sub-region.
1.4 It has become increasingly apparent that to better understand the nature, scope and dynamics of contemporary threats confronting the region, there is a need to interrogate the challenges bedeviling current efforts, identify the nature and scope of the current threats as well as engage and better understand the nexus between traditional threats and contemporary ones confronting the sub-region. This, it is believed, would ensure that initiatives developed to address the contemporary security threats work in tandem with old systems to guarantee complementarity rather than competition.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

2.1 The primary objective of the meeting was to identify measures to build and strengthen resilience against emerging security threats in the sub-region.

2.2 The specific objectives of the meeting were:

- To create a platform for carefully selected experts on peace and security in West Africa to provide technical, logistical and financial assistance for designing a comprehensive sub-regional project with the theme of building regional resilience against emerging threats to security in West Africa.
- To identify, assess and analyse the nature and scope of contemporary threats and existing vulnerabilities in the sub-region.
- To identify, discuss and analyse the knowledge gaps and opportunities for policy engagement in West Africa’s Peace and Security.
- To identify pragmatic measures for enhancing resilience building efforts in the sub-region.

3.0 JUSTIFICATION

3.1 The interdependence that exists between countries in West Africa has been widely acknowledged by academics and practitioners as being of critical importance to security in the region. For this reason, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had initiated a number of common mechanisms to manage the region’s security concerns. Notable among these security mechanisms is the Early Warning System, which is used to collate and analyse information received from member-states. This notwithstanding, there is an urgent
need to strengthen existing support mechanisms to map out vulnerabilities in the region and draw attention to emerging areas that require the re-calibration of existing mechanisms and actions to enhance the resilience of the region against existing and new threats.

3.2 An assessment of the current state of affairs shows a dependence on external systems for measuring vulnerabilities and resilience in the region. While these systems are useful, their focus suggests that indicators used for assessment may not prioritise certain factors that are important for developing regional resilience. As a result, it has not always been possible to generate early well-coordinated responses to emerging security threats in the region. For instance, although Mali was not identified as one of the fragile countries in West Africa in 2012, despite acknowledged sources of stress and tension, violent armed conflicts that consequently erupted in the country are yet to be put under control. This implies that for the region to consolidate the gains made in the areas of democratic governance and political stability, it is imperative to develop a more robust system that engenders the identification of nascent threats and effective communication of such threats at the highest levels of decision-making in the region.

3.3 This process of developing more robust systems must involve the critical engagement of relevant policy makers, academic practitioners and other stakeholders in the identification of emerging security threats so as to develop effective response mechanisms for building resilience against any unexpected escalation of threats at the regional and national levels. In addition, there is the need to prioritise action for building and sustaining strategic partnerships in order to enhance security in the sub-region.

3.4 In view of the foregoing, it is important to foster a region-wide conversation over the nature, scope and dynamics of contemporary threats confronting the region. It is also imperative to provide a platform for a project that fully interrogates the factors engendering vulnerabilities and identifies the measures required to build and consolidate regional resilience against emerging threats.

In response to the foregoing, the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana and Social Science Research Council’s Africa Network for Peacebuilding (APN) proposed to hold this Planning Meeting in Accra, Ghana, from the 23rd to 24th of June 2017 to provide a platform to bring together a group of subject matter experts, practitioners and partners to brainstorm contemporary security threats confronting the region.
and discuss the development of a comprehensive sub-regional project for building regional resilience against emerging threats.

4.0 WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

4.1 The planning meeting of carefully selected experts was held at the Tomreik Hotel at East-Legon over a two-day period, 23rd and 24th June, 2017.

4.2 The two-day meeting which brought together 23 participants employed a mix of plenary and syndicate sessions. Discussion Papers were presented during the plenary sessions, followed by themed syndicate sessions where the participants undertook in-depth discussions. Subsequently, reports from the syndicate sessions were presented in the plenary for discussion, during which salient points were captured.

4.3 The workshop was conducted under Chatham House rules and as a result, the segments on the deliberations do not contain attributions.

5.0 OPENING CEREMONY

5.1 The meeting commenced at 9:00 am on 23rd June 2017 with three distinguished experts on the high table, Professor Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu (Chairperson of the Meeting) and partners, Dr. Remi Ajibewa (ECOWAS) and Dr. Cyril Obi (SSRC, APN). The welcome remarks and the opening statements delivered by Professor H. Mensa-Bonsu and partners respectively set the context of the meeting, which was to highlight the emerging threats to peace and security in West Africa and how to build resilience against these emerging threats in the sub-region whilst respecting the rule of law.

5.2 The Chairperson, Professor Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu, Director of the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy and other Special Guests were introduced by Dr. Linda Darkwa, Senior Research Fellow- LEClAD, after which a warm welcome was extended by the Chairperson to all present.

5.3 In her welcome address, Professor Mensa-Bonsu stated that the focus of the meeting was to expound on the nature of threats faced by the sub-region and to examine factors that promoted resilience in individual countries and the sub-region as a whole. According to the
Chairperson, the need for a collective approach to enhancing security in the region was critical because, the borders of West African countries which were created by an accident of history meant that the security of states were interdependent. Buttressing the need for collective action to prevent and respond to the region’s security threats, Professor Mensa-Bonsu cited the sixteenth century English poet John Donne who wrote:

“No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, (Europe) (West Africa) is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.

John Donne (English Clergyman and Poet, 1572-1631)

5.4 For the Chairperson, even though Donne’s poem was in the context of Europe, the context could be substituted for West Africa. She highlighted the fact that whenever the bell of conflict and destruction tolled, it tolled for the sub-region, in the sense that security threats that occur in a particular country, inevitably have the tendency of spilling over into other countries. She further illustrated that the fact of destinies of countries in the region being tied together as a sub-region was that at a minimum, neighbouring countries would have to receive and care for refugees, and even contribute troops in the event that a peacekeeping mission was required. Consequently, it was incumbent on the countries to collectively rally to avert the challenges of security threats and other vulnerabilities, and to sustain that effort by constantly seeking avenues for confronting threats together.

5.5 Presenting an overview of LECIAD’s collaboration with the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), which commenced in 2015, Professor Mensa-Bonsu stated that it was a partnership born of shared interests between the two organisations. LECIAD was committed to producing high standard, cutting edge and Africa-centred research, which was geared towards serving both academic and policy makers/shapers for transformational change, as well as to promote policy formulation and implementation, whilst on its part, the APN was committed to supporting the production of cutting edge and policy-oriented research from Africa and for Africa by working through African based institutions.

5.6 In pursuit of the common agenda of the two institutions LECIAD proposed to APN, the need to draw the sub-region’s attention to the fact that the emerging threats that made the
headlines were beginning to distract the sub-region’s attention from existing vulnerabilities, and in some cases even compromised on democratic gains. Consequently, while all countries were focusing on addressing counter-terrorism and re-directing scarce resources, the old root causes that fuelled civil wars in the past remained largely unaddressed; again, that measures being adopted to counter threats of terrorism have, on occasion, posed an existential challenge to newly-won democratic rights and freedoms in the sub-region.

5.7 Professor Mensa-Bonsu stated that, it was also needful to identify and subject to in-depth study, factors of resilience in the sub-region which may require attention in order to strengthen their capacity to withstand emerging threats and thereby protect them from relapsing into the kind of destructive wars that have bedevilled the sub-region these past two decades.

5.8 She emphasised that, although countries had devised means to formulate intelligence on Counter Terrorism, this should not shift attention from the need to continuously address the root causes of old conflicts and civil wars in the sub-region. She stated that the objectives of the Planning Meeting were to provide a platform for some carefully selected experts on peace and security to dialogue on i) the nature and scope of contemporary threats; ii) the nature of existing vulnerabilities of the sub-region; and iii) to expound on factors of resilience. She indicated that the efforts would also include an assessment of some of the existing mechanisms developed to manage the traditional security threats; while improving on existing capacities to anticipate and pre-empt threats from escalating into violent conflicts. Further, she highlighted that; the dialogue would entail analyses of the effectiveness of the current approaches adopted to address emerging threats in the sub-region. The hope, according to the Chairperson, was that the Planning Meeting would lead to a lowering of the threshold of the sub-region’s vulnerabilities, while at the same time ensuring the continued protection of democratic rights of the citizenry.

5.9 The Director of Political Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Remi Ajibewa representing the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (CPAPS) Hajia Alima Ahmed, began his speech with solidarity messages from the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Marcel Alain de Souza and Commissioner Hajia Alima Ahmed to the meeting.

5.10 Dr. Ajibewa commended the initiative for such a meeting and stated that the holding of such a planning meeting was long overdue, since the sub-region had gone through several political crisis and conflicts which have had dire repercussions and negative consequences on
human lives as well as the economic and social development of the sub-region. According to him, the threats were not merely emerging, but also emergent in nature. In recognition of the evolving nature of the security challenges confronting the region, the ECOWAS Commission had developed additional response mechanisms to enhance the robustness of the already developed ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN). Dr. Ajibewa explained that ECOWARN and its Response Mechanisms were developed to strengthen and build the capacity of member states to identify and quickly respond to threats and crises. He informed the Meeting that the pilot phase of establishing national ECOWARN and response mechanisms have begun with its establishment in five countries - Mali, Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Liberia.

5.11 Recounting the emergent threats confronting the region such as terrorism, maritime piracy, transnational crimes and cyber security threats, Dr. Ajibewa affirmed ECOWAS’ commitment to collaboratively fight against these emerging threats with like-minded actors such as the African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) as well as multinational companies in the region.

5.12 In concluding, Dr. Ajibewa, on behalf of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, commended LECIAD and APN for the initiative to bring experts together to deliberate on issues of peace and security in the sub-region, and assured the participants that ECOWAS looked forward to receiving the report of the deliberations as it was certain to be invaluable support to its own efforts to strengthen its capacity for building resilience in the region.

5.13 Dr. Cyril Obi, the Director of APN of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), delivering his remarks, provided a brief overview of the APN, explaining that it is an initiative of the SSRC, an independent non-governmental organization established in the United States of America (USA) in 1923 to promote social science research. He stated that the SSRC was unique in its ability to connect Social Science research activities to public policy and to this end was committed to providing support to the production of new knowledge, which could be used to formulate or animate policy making and enlighten policy practice.

5.14 Dr. Obi emphasised that the partnership between APN and LECIAD was mutually beneficial as it reinforced the mandates and vision of the two organisations. He stated that although APN has the financial muscle to support research, it was also reliant on the intellectual muscle of institutions like LECIAD to implement its mandate. Praising the mutually beneficial
relationship between the two institutions, he announced that LECIAD was considered one of the very credible partners within the APN-SSRC family.

5.15 Commenting on the theme of the workshop, Dr. Obi reiterated the need for a collective approach to addressing the sub-region’s security challenges as the unattended security challenges of a single country could easily develop into huge challenges for the entire sub-region and eventually become a challenge for the world. He called for enhanced alertness to the threats and vulnerabilities within countries and charged member states in the sub-region to think outside the box and prioritize resilience. For him, there was a need for the sub-region through its collective economic and security platform – the ECOWAS- to develop proactive responses to the threats and risks that confront it by developing resilience that minimizes its vulnerabilities. Dr. Obi expatiated on the need to develop projects that inform, educate and sensitize states on threats, risks and response options. He called on the sub-regional organisation; ECOWAS to assist member states in identifying their strengths and weaknesses to enable them leverage their strengths in times of challenges.

5.16 Dr. Obi assured the meeting of the APN’s willingness to work with Partners and relevant stakeholders such as LECIAD, to mobilize the needed resources to support academic initiatives that seek to provide the requisite support to policy makers and practitioners in strengthening security on the continent and globally.

5.17 Closing the opening ceremony, Professor Mensa-Bonsu thanked the partners for their reassuring words to continue their existing relationship with LECIAD. She also thanked all expert participants for taking time off their busy schedules to participate in the workshop and called for open and honest deliberations that would lead to the development of pragmatic responses to contribute to effectively addressing the security challenges confronting the sub-region. Such interrogation of the factors that deepen vulnerabilities and to identify initiatives necessary to enhance and build resilience across the sub-region would be the only way to guarantee the protection of the peace of the sub-region.

6.0 THEMATIC SESSION I- OVERVIEW OF EMERGING THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

MODERATOR: PROFESSOR THOMAS TIEKU
6.1 Dr. Linda Darkwa, Senior Research Fellow of LECIAD set the stage for the deliberations in a discussion paper titled “Overview of Emerging Security Threats in West Africa.” Her presentation which was in two parts, first discussed the security threats in the region, and then, outlined some areas of vulnerabilities in the region that affected its resilience. She began by noting that the end of armed conflict in Sierra Leone in 2002 and the resignation of Liberian President Charles Taylor in 2003 ushered in a new era of peace and security in West Africa. According to her, the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, in particular, led to an expansion in the focus of the regional inter-governmental body ECOWAS, to include issues relating to peace and security. Until that time, the focus of ECOWAS was primarily on the economic development of the region,

6.2 She noted that even though the region’s legal frameworks were not adequate enough to address the peace and security challenges of the region, some progress had been made as ECOWAS had, indeed, enacted a number of legal and normative frameworks and also designed mechanisms to prevent, respond to and promote peace in the region. Some of these frameworks, included frameworks for the promotion and protection of good governance and constitutionalism; the collection of early warning information to engender effective response(s) to looming crisis situations; the establishment of structured mechanisms for the full spectrum of response from preventive diplomacy through to enforcement action; prohibition of uncontrolled access to small arms; and an enhanced focus on human security in the region.

6.3 Providing an operational definition for security threats, Dr. Darkwa stated that security threats referred to hostile/potential action or inaction that was likely to harm, damage, and lead to a loss of something of value because the entity against which the attack is launched does not have the capability to prevent or effectively respond. According to her, terrorism, piracy, transnational organised crimes including cybercrimes, health pandemics and climate change were among the preeminent threats to peace and security in the region. 

6.4 She expressed the view that not all the threats confronting the sub-region were new. However, the exploitation of enhanced technologies by aggrieved parties and criminal elements have led to an exponential increase in what were otherwise obscure threats. In addition, a combination of factors including the establishment of networks of criminals with common purposes as well as the challenges created by some of the security threats confronting the region had provided new dimensions of security threats in the region. She admitted that some threats
were relatively new to the region and as such there was a need to muster the collective efforts employed to address the traditional threats to also address the relatively new threats confronting the region.

6.5 With regard to terrorism, she noted that the presence and manifestations of notorious terrorist groups such as Al-qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar al dine, Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), Al Ansaru and Azawad in West Africa posed security threats to the sub-region. Citing the activities of Boko Haram, the ongoing terrorists’ attacks in Mali, the 2016 attacks in Burkina Faso and Grand Bassam in La Cote d’Ivoire, Dr. Darkwa concluded that there was sufficient evidence of the fact that terrorism is a threat in the region.

6.6 As regards piracy, she observed that there is empirical evidence that piracy attacks in West Africa nearly doubled in 2016. Beside piracy, she noted illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing mainly by foreigners as threats to maritime, economic and food security in the sub-region. According to her, IUU does not only deprive governments in the region of much needed revenue for development, but also depletes fish stocks and negatively affects the livelihoods of fishing communities in the sub-region. Without necessarily stating a causal relationship, Dr. Darkwa drew attention to the fact that the depletion of fish stocks also encourages bad fishing practices by artisanal fishermen.

6.7 Commenting on a relatively new threat – the threat of health pandemics, Dr. Darkwa stated that the sub-region’s inability to effectively address the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which led to the death of thousands of people within the affected countries, showed that the sub-region’s resilience to health pandemics was quite low. According to her, even though the Ebola Virus disease was new in the sub-region, the inability of the region to effectively address it in a timely manner was an indictment on the sub-region’s ability to guarantee health security.

6.8 Touching on the issue of climate change, Dr Darkwa posited that rapid desertification, unpredictable and extreme weather conditions including changing rainfall patterns, flooding, shrinking water bodies and droughts were no longer potential threats, but realities with serious ramifications for all regions of the world. The challenge facing West Africa, she observed, is its limited capabilities for mitigation and adaptation. Yet, there is undoubtedly a correlation between the negative effects of climate change and the increase in communal violence in several parts of the region especially between agriculturalists and transhumant herders.
6.9 Presenting the second part of the paper, which focused on how West Africa’s vulnerabilities could be exploited to heighten its security threats, she pointed out that despite the fact that there is an improvement in the overall governance score of the sub-region, the governance landscape of West Africa is still vulnerable. She explained that an examination of the scores of individual countries against indicators of good governance revealed serious declines. As a result, she warned that there was a risk of retrogression if effective interventions were not developed to reduce the risk of vulnerabilities and enhance the region’s resilience to the identified threats. She highlighted corruption, exclusion and alienation as grievance-enabling factors that could be exploited to increase insecurity in the region.

6.10 Regarding the building of resilience against regional security threats, she argued that there is the need for the development of systems and mechanisms at the regional and member-state levels to respond robustly to the identified threats. This, according to her, has to be done in three ways: first, is through the development of requisite legal and normative frameworks for engagement at the regional level (where they do not exist); second, is the need to enhance the domestication and implementation of the various frameworks for enhancing resilience at member states’ levels; and third, is the need to support the development of relevant capabilities for the operationalisation of the frameworks in times of need.

6.11 Dr. Darkwa provided four main recommendations for consideration. These were:

- The reduction of states’ vulnerabilities through the systematic generation of empirical evidence of deepening vulnerabilities and the development of targeted interventions at country level.
- The provision of support for the development of resilience at all levels of states – not just in the centre but also in the periphery.
- The provision of support for state building and strengthening especially through effective systems of tax collection, the broadening of the revenue systems of the states and the development of effective accountability mechanisms.
- The development of an effective system of collaboration that fosters cooperation between academics, policy makers and practitioners to provide independent analysis to the policy agencies of states and the region (and also make inputs into policies at the national and regional levels).
7.0 PLENARY PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM THE THEMED GROUP DISCUSSIONS

7.1 Following the presentation and a brief summary by the Moderator of the session, Professor Thomas Tieku, the participants of the workshop, met in four groups with each assigned a theme to deliberate on and identify specific security threats and policy options for consideration. The themes discussed were: maritime security; cyber security and organised crime; democratic governance; and violent extremism. The findings of the syndicate groups were subsequently presented in the plenary:

8.0 GROUP ONE – MARITIME SECURITY

8.1 This group was tasked with deliberating on the nature and drivers of maritime security threats and to identify measures for building regional resilience against the identified threats. In their report, the group identified piracy along the Atlantic coast, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, human and small arms trafficking, sex trafficking and commercial sex work at sea, as well as (illegal) oil bunkering, as some of the maritime related security threats to the region.

8.2 According to the group, weak laws, including weak regulatory frameworks at both regional and national levels as well as weak institutional structures hindered states’ abilities to enforce the rule of law in the maritime domain. In addition, the group noted that challenges with managing extra-regional interests facilitated maritime insecurity in the region. On building remedial measures and resilience against maritime insecurity, the group highlighted the need to strengthen regional and national mechanisms to effectively combat maritime insecurity.

8.3 To this end, Group One called for the strengthening of groups such as the Inter-Governmental Group, Action Group against Money Laundering and the development of capacity at regional and member states level for the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Maritime Strategy and Anti-Money Laundering frameworks. Bemoaning the lack of a comprehensive regional maritime policy framework, the group recommended the initiation of such a framework that situates maritime security within the mainstream security and governance sector. This, the group averred, would bridge the dichotomy between maritime security and the other aspects of security.
9.0 GROUP TWO – CYBER SECURITY AND ORGANISED CRIME

Group Two was tasked with examining the nature and scope of threats to cyber security and the drivers of organised crime(s) in the sub-region; and to identify ways to build resilience for cyber security and against organised crimes within the region. The group split the task into two and considered first, cyber security and then organised crime.

9.1 PART A- CYBER SECURITY

9.1.1 The group began by explaining that, cyber security is situated in the context of virtual world perspectives in which transactions are made online. The group established that despite the utility of cyber-space in facilitating socio-economic governance through transnational cash-flow and general economic activities, and the provision of platforms for the promotion of good governance, its exploitation for crime, creates global concerns. For Group Two, cyber security is threatened by the possible attacks on network and computer related infrastructure that may be targeted by criminals in the pursuit of an agenda including terrorism, bank and credit card fraud. Referring to the allegations of interference in the electoral processes in the United States of America and France, the group highlighted the ramifications of cyber security-related threats on governance processes. Drawing attention to the fragile and weak infrastructure of many states in West Africa, the group expressed concern over the fact that installations in most parts of West Africa were weak and fragile and as such, susceptible to penetration by cyber criminals. Of particular concern to the group were vulnerabilities in electricity and water installations.

9.1.2 The group identified unemployment as a major contributing factor to cybercrimes, particularly cyber fraud. Additionally, states’ lack of surveillance capabilities to identify, track and enforce the arrests of indulgers (perpetrators/cyber-criminals), contributes to increased cybercrimes in the sub-region. According to the group, the emergence, availability of, and easy access to new technologies make it easier to commit cybercrimes especially in the face of weak state institutions and other governance challenges. Finally, the group posited that inadequate parental supervision over the activities of their wards in cyber space also contributed to cybercrimes as well as opened up spaces for the commission of cybercrimes as unsuspecting young children can be manipulated into committing crimes in the cyber world.
9.1.3 To mitigate the threat of cybercrimes, the group posited that it was essential for states to have a shared sense of responsibility in combating cybercrimes. They highlighted the need for a holistic effort that involved effective collaboration between governments and other stakeholders in countering cyber-crimes and information-sharing between security agencies. Furthermore, there was the need to strengthen state capacity to be better placed to prevent and respond to the different manifestations of cyber threats. On policy recommendations, the group suggested the need to strengthen the capacity of states’ security apparatus to be able to project and respond to virtual-related security threats. Also, it was emphasised that asserting the independence of state security institutions and the professionalization of states’ security institutions were critical in addressing cyber security threats.

9.2 PART B- ORGANISED CRIMES

9.2.1 In defining organised crimes, Group Two indicated that a crime is an illegality that violates the laws of the land. By its very nature, organised crimes involve people who express commonality or a shared interest to perpetrate crime and benefit from material or ideological gain. The people involved in such crimes have specific roles assigned to them which are harmonised to achieve the purpose of the crime. The group noted that organised crimes occur in an internal or external setting and in some cases occur transnationally.

9.2.2 According to the group, Africa’s youth bulge without a commensurate plan to harness the potential of this group, along with weak national criminal justice systems, a lack of common sub-regional approaches to addressing transnational crimes and the porous borders in the sub-region are the main causes, and drivers of organised crimes. The group submitted that the modus operandi of ‘mafia’ groups and criminal networks in the sub-region was to leverage their resources to directly perpetrate crimes or support other groups in the perpetration of crimes.

9.3.3 To effectively address the threat of organised crime in the sub-region, the group recommended enhanced collaboration among stakeholders and the strengthening of intelligence sharing among relevant institutions within as well as between states. Group Two also advocated a reformation of the criminal justice systems in all member-states to ensure that they possess among other things, necessary legal frameworks, robust and synergised policies and cutting edge technology to curb and deal with organised crimes appropriately. The group stressed that given the nature of contemporary security threats, it was imperative for states
within the region to also focus on the development of capabilities for effective community policing.

10.0 GROUP THREE – DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

10.1 The third group was tasked with the identification of the threats to democratic governance and propose ways of enhancing resilience against the drivers of such threats. The group began by identifying the pillars of democratic governance that could undermine democracy. These included constitutional rule, consensus building, respect for the rule of law and human rights, accountability and transparency. In addition, the group listed inclusiveness, citizens’ participation in governance, governments’ responsiveness, strong institutions, credible, free and fair elections and the perception of legitimacy as part of the pillars of democratic governance. These pillars, the group observed, were under threat from corruption, the monetization of political processes and the poor management of transitional processes. According to Group Three, democratic governance in West Africa was vulnerable because of marginalisation and inequality, a systematic disconnect between national and local institutions and the poor management of security for the protection of citizens.

10.2 Elaborating on how the vulnerabilities to democratic governance may be exploited, the group surmised that the high unemployment especially among the youth in member-states, the poor management of diversities, the absence of state authority in the periphery and in large swathes of ungoverned spaces, the negative effects of climate change and the inability of states to manage their attendant social challenges, rise in intra-state migration and the poor and inequitable distribution of national resources (including water and land) provide a cocktail of grievances that can easily be exploited to generate disaffection within states and undermine democratic governance. According the group, the situation was further worsened by the easy availability of small arms and light weapons in almost all parts of the sub-region.

10.3 The group suggested the following as measures for building resilience against the identified threats. 1. There is the need for closer collaboration between practitioners, policy makers and academics in the identification of areas in need of intervention and the type of intervention required, based on empirically generated evidence so as to nip nascent challenges in the bud. 2. There is the need for the equitable distribution of natural resources and the creation of alternative resources (such as grazing land and water) in light of the contemporary threats to communities arising from conflicts between agriculturalists and pastoralists. 3. There
is a need for effective citizen participation in the democratic process. The group highlighted the fact that participation is often limited to voting and called for the strengthening of local structures of governance to provide a platform for better citizen participation. Closely linked to this, the group also observed that empowering civil society organisations to promote citizens’ participation in governance as well as engaging states in the discharge of their duties towards the citizenry was important to building resilience against the threats to democratic governance. 4. There is the need for states to develop effective state and sub-state structures for the management of diversity, strengthening processes for electoral processes and transitions. 5. That the ECOWAS Commission should be strengthened to play its role of promoting good governance and democracy in the sub-region.

11.0 GROUP FOUR – VIOLENT EXTREMISM

11.1 The fourth group recognized the lack of a universally accepted definition for violent extremism or terrorism and submitted that the definitions provided in the 1999 Organisation of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism would guide the discussion. Attention was drawn to the fact that the two words – terrorism and violent extremism- were often used interchangeably although there were differences between the two. According to the group, terrorism was one of the manifestations of violent extremism as violent extremism encompassed other forms of violence such as abduction, kidnapping, torture, religious jihads and the clash of Fulani herdsmen with (farmers) indigenes.

11.2 Marginalisation, horizontal inequalities, lack of equitable distribution of resources and opportunities and the absence of state representation/presence in certain parts of countries in the sub-region are vulnerabilities that are often exploited in the narratives for violent extremism. Added to this most of the intelligence and law enforcement agencies of member states in the sub-region lacked the capabilities (human resource and logistics) required for the timely collection of information required to develop and deploy robust responses to prevent and counter violent extremism in member states.

11.3 The group acknowledged that even though there are legal frameworks for addressing terrorism, there is the need for additional measures to address the causes of violent extremism. According to the group, most countries in the sub-region were more focused on countering terrorism, rather than preventing violent extremism and terrorism. It was also noted that the lack of effective coordination between entities responsible for preventing and countering
violent extremism and terrorism within and among states posed formidable challenges against efforts at preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism in the sub-region.

11.4 On mitigation of violent extremism, group members acknowledged the existing legal frameworks for countering terrorism. However, they noted the lack of coordination at all levels, which appeared to be hampering domestication at the national and community levels. According to Group Four, the lack of effective domestication and implementation of international legal frameworks for the prevention and countering of violent extremism and terrorism were major challenges to the prevention of violent extremism and terrorism.

11.5 The group recommended that the sub-region should have a clear policy towards the domestication of counter-terrorism strategies especially in local laws. In addition, it was recommended that particular attention be paid to the implementation of the various instruments for the promotion of good governance in the sub-region, which includes inclusiveness and a focus on human security. Cooperation with non-state actors such as educational institutions, faith based organisations, civil society and community based organisations was deemed particularly important in the efforts at building resilience against violent extremism in the region. Finally, the group called for the strengthening of collaboration between states’ security institutions and international security and international agencies to facilitate intelligence sharing against violent extremism.

12.0 PLENARY DISCUSSION AND MAIN OBSERVATIONS

MODERATOR: DR. CYRIL OBI
(PROGRAM DIRECTOR, APN-SSRC)

12.1 The moderator of the group presentations and the plenary discussions, Dr. Cyril Obi observed that four common areas run through the threads of the presentations. These, according to him were: causes or drivers of the security threats, their manifestations or nature, responses or mitigation, and recommendations to enhance the responses. He also noted that a key theme in all the reports was the need to enhance governance to minimize vulnerabilities and threats.
He encouraged participants to frame the discussions around three main issues namely: how identities connect to vulnerabilities; what the key features of groups involved in threats are; and in what ways regional resilience could be strengthened. In discussing the issues, he requested participants to ensure that the agency of youth and women are mainstreamed into the recommendations for enhancing resilience in the sub-region.

12.2 The discussions highlighted efforts by ECOWAS to address emergent security threats especially in the domains of maritime insecurity and transnational crimes. It was noted that even though ECOWAS has a number of frameworks in place for addressing contemporary security threats, it still needed to develop mechanisms for dealing constructively with non-state actors whose actions exacerbate vulnerabilities in member states. It was also noted that there was a need to develop a comprehensive maritime policy that addresses the various dimensions of maritime insecurity as current efforts had a narrow focus.

12.3 The experts advocated better publicisation and utilization of the various frameworks for conflict prevention and the prevention and countering of terrorism, such as the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework and the United Nations Counterterrorism Strategy respectively. The Meeting emphasised the need for states to contextualize, domesticate, and implement the frameworks at various levels. Again, the experts, reflecting on the nature of contemporary security threats, stressed the need for national security planning to incorporate human security because of the gradual shift of threats from the traditional military and state-centric to issues hinged on human security.

12.4 It was noted that the notion of building resilience required a common perception of threats and resilience by states and communities. This is because resilience building is a collective effort that transcends state institutions yet includes local communities. As a result, if a community does not share in the threat perception of a state, their willingness to cooperate in building resilience may not be guaranteed. Security, according to the experts, was context specific and so, resilience building also required contextualisation. Even though resilience-building strategies may be similar, their implementation may differ because of contextual realities. Understanding the frameworks for conflict prevention and enhancing security were therefore critical for adapting them to various contexts.

12.5 Touching on the porosity of West Africa’s borders, attention was drawn to the need for vigilance not only on the land borders but also on the water bodies. Recounting instances when drugs were allegedly washed ashore beachfronts, the Meeting called for attention to be paid to
West Africa’s water bodies. It was suggested that although the Police are responsible for states’ internal waters, most police services in the sub-region do not possess the capabilities to effectively patrol and protect the water bodies. Fostering closer collaboration between Marine police and Navies in the sub-region was critical because the Navies tend to have better capabilities which can be used to support the Police in their water related activities.

12.6 Summary of Discussions:

- ECOWAS’ repertoire of documents for conflict prevention and enhancing security should be publicised for effective utilization, not just for the benefit of state actors but also for non-state actors whose efforts contribute to peace and security in member states.

- Member-states should be supported to contextualize the security threats confronting the region especially by identifying how vulnerabilities within their territories contribute to the overall threats in the region so as to ensure that each state makes the effort to enhance its resilience as well as guarantee that efforts at addressing vulnerabilities within member states do not create unintended consequences.

- There is a critical need for states to develop stronger structures of engagement with non-state actors, especially community, youth and faith-based organisations in the identification of threats and the development of resilience.

- Inter-agency collaboration within and among states is critical in addressing some of the security threats such as drugs, arms and human trafficking and the smuggling of goods across borders.

- There is a need to develop a platform for information sharing between policy makers, academics and practitioners to provide pathways for the identification of emergent and nascent security threats and discussions on security sensitive options for enhancing resilience.

- Resilience building must be a collective effort – from communities, through countries, to regions. Efforts must therefore be made to provide structures for engagement at the various levels.

- Efforts must be made (including through the use of technology) to develop methods for obtaining information from areas with little or no government presence (especially the so-called ungoverned spaces in West Africa).
13.0 DAY TWO

13.1 The second day began with a recap of the recommendations of the first day by Dr. Linda Darkwa. According to Dr. Darkwa, the reiteration by the Participating Experts of the changed nature of security from a militaristic, state-centric perspective to a human security perspective affirmed the need for such a meeting, as it is imperative to foster a shared approach to the identification of vulnerabilities and ways to enhance resilience. She noted that the deliberations of the previous day highlighted the need to popularise existing instruments on conflict prevention, peace and security as well as provide the requisite training for the effective implementation of those instruments at state and sub-state levels. In addition, the deliberations of the first day confirmed the need for a comprehensive multi-level approach of communication between all actors and stakeholders in the development of robust, inclusive and participatory measures for the collection and analysis of information for enhancing resilience at the community, state and regional levels. Finally, Dr. Darkwa stated that the deliberations of Day One had also drawn attention to the need to rope in countries with some “ungoverned spaces” within their territories in discussions on the development of robust measures to build resilience and prevent the exploitation of extant vulnerabilities in those areas to undermine the security of the sub-region.

13.2 Dr. Darkwa noted that the discussions of the first day revealed that a lot has been done on the part of ECOWAS and states in terms of policy frameworks and mechanisms to address emerging threats to peace and security in the sub-region. She however pointed out succinctly that in spite of the efforts being made to curtail emerging threats to peace and security in the region, knowledge on what is being done is not enough. According to her, this has created an erroneous impression that nothing is being done to prevent the emerging threats to peace and security in the region. In her view, this gap bespeaks the need to identify how to make what is being done known to the public an integral aspect of the discussion. Addressing this issue, she pointed out that while ECOWAS has made provisions to involve civil society organisations (CSOs) in its proceedings in order to help in implementing its policy frameworks and disseminating them at the grassroots, the capacity of CSOs to pursue these policy frameworks needed to be strengthened. In addition, academia can be engaged to support national and regional governments to bridge the knowledge gaps and policy engagement.

13.3 Following the recap of the first day, the Moderator for the second day’s thematic session, Dr. Remi Ajibewa was invited to steer the affairs of the meeting. Introducing the session, Dr.
Ajibewa called on participants to consider the topic for the day within the larger theme of the workshop. According to him, since ECOWAS has developed several mechanisms and member-states are working tirelessly to address emerging threats to peace and security in the sub-region, identifying the knowledge gaps was important so provide cues on opportunities for policy and practitioner engagements.

14.0 THEMATIC SESSION II- IDENTIFICATION OF KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLICY ENGAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA’S PEACE AND SECURITY.

MODERATOR: DR. REMI AJIBEWA
(DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PEACE AND SECURITY, ECOWAS COMMISSION)

14.1 Mrs. Levinia Addae Mensah, Program Director of the West African Network for Peacebuilding, presented the background paper on “Knowledge Gaps and Opportunities for Policy Engagement in West Africa’s Peace and Security Environment.” In her introduction, Mrs. Addae-Mensah observed that notwithstanding the successful resolution of the armed conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, West Africa’s security environment has over the last two decades, been in a state of flux. According to her, the sub-region’s security landscape is littered with the predatory activities of criminal elements including terrorist groups and violent extremists; as well as political instability arising from alteration of power, communal violence and to a limited extent, civil rebellion among others. The security jumble in the sub-region, she contended, has resulted in the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, increase in mercenaries and refugee inflows, and among others in the sub-region.

14.2 Mrs. Addae-Mensah stated that ECOWAS has promulgated an array of peace and security instruments, frameworks and policies to enhance peace and security in the communities and states in the region. This notwithstanding, she averred that the narratives surrounding threats and security in West Africa appear to be generalised, often disregarding pockets of resilience in the sub-region. The tendency to generalise West Africa’s vulnerabilities without due attention to its areas of resilience for Mrs. Addae-Mensah, is the result of a number of reasons that includes a disconnect between practitioners, researchers and policy makers. Explaining the disconnect, Mrs. Addae-Mensah pointed out that the three communities – practitioners, researchers and policy makers – tend to have different accesses to information on
vulnerabilities and resilience. Moreover, there is no common platform on which information available to each community is made available to the others. Furthermore, Mrs. Addae-Mensah submitted that the information available almost always tended to be one piece of the puzzle. The knowledge gaps, she argued, is counterproductive to the quest for regional peace and security because in some cases, it leads to complete reinvention of the wheels as well as the insufficient use of resources to explore alternative resilience frameworks.

14.3 Reviewing the knowledge gaps in peace and security in West Africa, Mrs. Addae-Mensah noted the lack of understanding of specific nuances underlying the security context in respective countries in the region; perennial elitism associated with the security sector in various countries; politics of legitimacy within the ranks of CSOs engaged within the peace and security community; misconceptions on the definition of actors; lack of common understanding of key ECOWAS protocols, conventions and decisions relating to peace and security; and a perennial focus on orthodox security.

14.4 On the issue of lack of understanding of specific nuances underlying security context of respective countries, she explained that this often leads to the tendency of generalising security assessments within the region and disregard the varying socio-political and economic context of each individual state.

14.5 In the case of perennial elitism, she was of the view that the security space has been captured and dominated by elite security actors. Owing to this, she observed that there was the need for the expansion of the security space in order to make it more relevant within the context of human security.

14.6 Expatiating on the politics of legitimacy within the ranks of CSOs, she noted that CSOs in peace and security also have the tendency to portray themselves as the legitimate actors formed to handle peace and security issues, ignoring other social movements with no institutional structures who could also act and complement that effort.

14.7 With regard to misconceptions on the definition of actors, she argued that actors have been constantly defined from a generalized perspective. She cited the long standing perception that perpetrators of violent extremism were male thus, the development of responses that targeted men and mainly left out women. Until a better understanding of the radicalisation processes was gained, preventive and counter violent extremism efforts will be largely flawed.
14.8 Touching on the lack of common understanding of key ECOWAS Protocols, Mrs Addae-Mensah noted that the lack of knowledge on ECOWAS’ instruments among the community of policy makers and the main security actors has reduced these instruments to "decorated white elephants.” This means that even in situations where sufficiently robust instruments exist, there are significant implementation challenges.

14.9 The last knowledge gap identified in the presentation was the issue of perennial focus on orthodox security. Here, she stated that in spite of the policy relevance of human security, the orthodoxy of the state-centric security concept continues to thwart efforts to co-opt human security into the mainstream of security policy-making in the region.

14.10 To address the gaps identified above, Mrs. Addae-Mensah suggested the following as some of the opportunities for engagement:

- The existing frameworks and policies must be strengthened through reviews in order to serve as a foundation for engagement.
- A huge body of knowledge exists within academia and civil society which must be harnessed.
- There is a need for a robust partnership between IGOs and CSOs in order to integrate and include policy development and implementation of processes at both regional and national levels. An example of such partnership is the ECOWAS-WANEPE partnership.
- There is the need to seize the opportunities of goodwill for increased sponsorship for policy oriented research in the security milieu.
- There is also the need for capacity building strategies for effective and efficient policy development.

**15.0 DISCUSSION OF BACKGROUND PAPER: “KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLICY ENGAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA’S PEACE AND SECURITY ENVIRONMENT”**

15.1 Summarising the background paper, the Moderator of the session, Dr. Ajibewa noted the lack of a critical and nuanced review of critical drivers of insecurity in West Africa, the failure of some states to engage in certain aspects of their security despite the existence of legal frameworks hinged on the notion of collective security and the duplication of efforts as some of the challenges that foster knowledge gaps in West Africa. According to Dr. Ajibewa, the mitigation of these challenges is dependent on an examination of the specificities of each
country through critical and regular vulnerability-risk assessments. Additionally, against the background of contemporary security threats, he drew attention to the need to develop strategies that allowed some engagement with armed non-state actors (without legitimizing them) in the quest to build resilience. Again, the Moderator recapped the call for the engagement of both institutionalised and non-institutionalised civil society groups in peacebuilding efforts.

15.2 Following the summary, the Moderator invited Dr. Ed Stoddard, ACP Alhaji Mohammed Suraji, Director of Operations of the Ghana Police Service and Mr. Emile Kemayou, Political Economist, West Africa Region of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to discuss the paper, provide lessons from Ghana and give an overview of the Bank’s efforts in building resilience respectively. This was to provide an opportunity to identify additional challenges that create knowledge gaps and existing measures to help bridge those gaps.

15.3 Throwing light on the knowledge gaps and opportunities for engagement identified in the paper, Dr. Ed Stoddard defined resilience as the capacity to withstand and recover from shocks. Congratulating ECOWAS for the space created for engagement with non-state actors, he called for the broadening of the remit of stakeholder institutions that required capacity building in order to enhance their resilience against shocks when they occur. According to Dr. Stoddard, despite the mixed bag of success and challenges in their security efforts, ECOWAS member states have chalked some notable successes from which useful lessons could be learned to better address their current security challenges. He therefore encouraged ECOWAS and its member states to learn from their previous experiences and the experiences of others in building resilience.

15.4 Touching on the issue of human security, Dr. Stoddard drew attention to the erroneous interpretation often assigned to the concept and called for attention to be paid in ensuring that the security of the population and that of the state are well aligned. In this regard, he called for the need to focus on societal security which is wider than human security. Dr. Stoddard observed that even though the media is awash with the challenges of terrorism in the sub-region, it was equally important to pay attention to the success stories of preventing and countering radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorist attacks in the region. The successes, he stressed, could provide useful lessons, which can be adapted for other situations in the sub-region.
15.6 Discussing the way forward, Dr. Stoddard called for enhanced efforts to prevent attempts by extremists to build alliances, not only with fellow extremists but also with criminal networks within the region. He emphasised the need for contextualization in the efforts at building resilience against regional threats. To address the knowledge gaps, he suggested the need for stronger collaboration between academics and policy makers to engender enlightened policy formulation. He also suggested the need for comparative research within West Africa and between the region and other regions in order to generate knowledge and learn from experiences within and beyond.

15.7 ACP Alhaji Mohammed Suraji (Director of Operations, Ghana Police Service) structured his delivery in three parts: the nature of crimes in Ghana; strategies to combat crimes and the way forward. ACP Suraji cited armed robbery, illegal mining (referred to in the local parlance as “galamsey”), trafficking of small arms, illegal trafficking of females, illegal drug trafficking, mob violence, highway robbery and target killing as being among the most common crimes in Ghana. According to the Director of Operations, the Ghana Police Service has a two-pronged strategy to combating crime – reactive and proactive. ACP Suraji explained that the reactive measures include routine patrols, immediate response to calls and follow-up investigations whilst the proactive measures are designed to deter the commission of crime through police visibility, educating and sensitizing the public to become security conscious and work with the Police to prevent or reduce crime. ACP Suraji stated that the police-citizen ratio showed that without working with communities, the police would not be able to build resilience against the threats confronting the state and its people. For him, working with various stakeholders, including the private sector, community and faith based organisations have been useful in enhancing the resilience of the country.

15.8 With regard to violent extremism, the Director of Operations pointed out that the Ghana Police Service has been working with a number of stakeholders including religious leaders, particularly, Imams and Madrasa teachers as well as Zongo chiefs to sensitise the youth to prevent and counter violent extremism in the country. He informed the meeting that although the Police Service has a robust reactive and proactive strategy, the Service was confronted with certain challenges, which include lack of requisite legal frameworks in addressing certain crimes. This, he lamented, made it challenging for the Police to perform optimally in its resilience building efforts.
15.9 Taking his turn, Mr. Emile Kemayou of the African Development Bank (AfDB) began with a brief overview of the African Development Bank and stated that the primary focus of the Bank is accelerating development in Africa. Mr. Kemayou submitted that despite the gains made over the last two decades, the economic fragility of the sub-region makes it vulnerable to threats. In its bid to build resilience, the Bank has initiated five priority areas, namely: energy, agriculture, industrialisation, integration and quality life. This, he explained, was to improve access to electricity and other sources of energy in order to enhance growth; facilitate the improvement of farming methods in order to improve results to support Africa’s economies as well as support African economies to add value to their raw products by increasing the processing of raw materials respectively. On integration, Mr. Kemayou stated that the Bank has prioritised integration as a tool to create a larger market and boost trade among African countries. He drew attention to the fact that the rapid population growth in Africa places significant pressures on social amenities. The fifth priority area of the Bank, “quality of life” is therefore focused on putting in place measures to increase access to facilities and improve the living conditions of people on the continent.

15.10 To ensure that it is able to proactively address security threats to countries on the continent, the Bank has initiated a Fragility Assessment system that provides it with empirically generated evidence on areas within states that may be in need of targeted assistance. In addition, the Bank has established a fund to improve infrastructure in fragile states. Mr. Kemayou was however quick to point out that the Meeting must be mindful of placing countries in categories as fragility is a continuum and all states have areas in need of resilience building.

16.0 PLENARY DISCUSSIONS AND MAIN OBSERVATIONS

16.1 Following the Discussants’ panel session, the Moderator of the session invited participants to discuss the background paper and the remarks by the three discussants.

16.2 It was observed that one of the reasons for the knowledge gaps is the failure to effectively involve traditional authorities in a systematic way, in efforts at building resilience within member-states and in the region as a whole. Yet, it was identified that these rulers hold sway in many West African societies and tend to have their own systems of intelligence gathering that could be useful for security institutions. After informing ECOWAS about a pending proposal submitted by LECIAD on providing a platform to engage traditional rulers,
participants encouraged the ECOWAS to give the proposal the required attention especially as it was evident that resources for such a meeting could be sourced from the African Development Bank.

16.3 Another challenge that creates a knowledge gap on the security threats to the sub-region is the lack of reliable and networked databases that allows the different security institutions to access information on persons of interest within the sub-region. Such databases, it was argued, would provide information, including the biometric information of all persons, thereby making it easy for persons of interest to be apprehended at border posts of member states. Again, the lack of such a system, contributed to the situation that made it possible for a notorious kidnapper wanted in Nigeria to have a safe haven in Ghana. Passport racketeering in member-states was also another challenge identified by the experts as contributing to the gaps in knowledge since criminal elements in one country are able to procure passports in countries other than their own, to facilitate their mobility in the sub-region. Given the easy mobility facilitated by the ECOWAS protocols on free movement, the Meeting recommended the harmonization of databases and the establishment of a common database for use by the security agencies of member states. To this end, the Meeting encouraged the sub-region to engage with INTERPOL on how best to utilise its systems to create a sub-regional database to aid in the identification, tracking and arrest of criminals.

16.4 The Meeting noted that community policing was a more proactive method of policing as it allows the police service to work collaboratively with communities in enhancing their security. Participants drew attention to the need for community policing to adhere to the principles of community policing, which includes recruitment from the community, screening within the community, training and deployment back into the community. There was consensus that focusing on non-elite communities that could become hubs for criminals was essential in bridging the knowledge gaps as these communities tend to be closely knit and have structures for communal safety and security.

16.5 To ensure the judicious use of resources, the meeting called for the inclusion of preventive and countering radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism in the training of all security personnel, including private security personnel. Acknowledging the need for specialised teams, the group was emphatic that every security personnel needed to have adequate knowledge and skills to identify and where necessary, respond to all forms of security threats including from radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism.
16.6 It was observed that although efforts are being made to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers to address emerging security threats, more attention needed to be paid to the cyber-world. In the current state of affairs, member states know very little of what happens in cyber-space and a considerable number of countries do not have the requisite legal frameworks to allow law enforcement officers to obtain information within that domain. Yet while cyber-crimes may have increased exponentially in the last few years, it is not a new threat.

16.7 Another cause of the knowledge gaps identified is the limited collaboration between security agencies and research institutions. Most countries limit the discourse on security to security institutions and a select few of individuals generally classified as “experts”. On the other hand, academic publications do not always meet the needs of policy makers and practitioners. In fact, there tends to be a schism between the research, policy and practitioner communities as researchers do not always get access to the information they require; practitioner experiences do not always feed into policy making and policy makers do not always get the combination of historical, theoretical and practical information required to guide policy making. This creates gaps that undermine efforts to enhance resilience against security threats.

16.8 Summary of Discussions

The discussions led to an agreement of the need to prioritize the following:

- A regional platform to engage policy makers, practitioners, traditional rulers and academics on building resilience against contemporary security threats in the sub-region must be provided.
- A common identification system (beyond the sub-regional passport) that contains the bio-data of holders to facilitate crime prevention, including transnational crimes needs to be developed.
- There is a need for ECOWAS, member-states and West Africa’s research Institutions/Centres of excellence) to pay greater attention to cyber-governance through empirical research, the promulgation of relevant legislative and policy frameworks and the development of technological, management and security capabilities.
- Building capacities on the prevention and countering of radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism must be included in the training of security personnel, policy
makers and practitioners in institutions/centre of excellence in the region (including in the training of private security personnel).

- The collaboration between policy makers, researchers and practitioners to facilitate joint research and the development/production of knowledge and actionable programmes that are useful to the policy and practitioner communities needs to be enhanced.

17.0 THEMATIC SESSION III- BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST REGIONAL SECURITY THREATS: CONSIDERATIONS

MODERATOR: MR. EBENEZER ASIEDU
(HEAD, MEDIATION FACILITATION UNIT, ECOWAS)

17.1 Mr. Ebenezer Asiedu, Head of the Mediation Facilitation Division of the ECOWAS Commission moderated the third session of the meeting, which focused on “Building Resilience Against Regional Security Threats.” In his introductory remarks, Mr. Asiedu outlined a number of factors that need to be considered in order to build robust resilience against threats to peace and security in the sub-region. Prominent among these factors, he noted, were the need to address the structural or root causes of conflicts in West Africa, identify indicators of structural stability (resilience), identify countries’ structural vulnerabilities, undertake analyses of the levels of conflict intensity, and the need to identify peace drivers among others.

17.2 Mr. Asiedu noted that although identification was part of the conflict analysis, it was important to have a more structured and systematic approach to the identification of the root causes of conflicts in the sub-region. He admonished that structural stability indicators be indicative - works in progress that are reviewed and strengthened over time. This, he stated, would allow the relevant adjustments to be made to address any nascent challenges that could negatively affect the stability of states in the region. Closely related to the need for structural stability indicators is the need for structural vulnerabilities’ indicators, which according to the Moderator, had to be established at their very early stages with special attention paid to areas with the potential of generating drivers of conflicts. Mr. Asiedu drew attention to the fact that many countries in the sub-region suffer from latent conflicts that are often kept under the radar because of their low intensity. Yet, those conflicts could escalate by themselves or provide the
narrative exploited for other threats in those countries and the sub-region as a whole. Therefore, the sub-region, working with member-states and other stakeholders, also needed to analyse conflict intensity levels so as to identify the degree of such conflicts, their levels of threat and interventions needed to mitigate or address them.

17.3 Touching on the identification of peace drivers, Mr. Asiedu called for the promotion of civil liberties, political participation, government legitimacy and effectiveness, accountability and equity in the allocation of natural resource rents, gender equality and employment opportunities among others. These, according to him, will act as catalysts in enhancing peace and security in the region.

17.4 Following the introductory remarks, participants were assigned to syndicate groups to deliberate on given topics, after which group reports were presented in the plenary.

18.0 PLENARY PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM THE THEMED GROUP DISCUSSIONS

18.1 GROUP ONE – WHAT FRAMEWORKS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE EXIST AND WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WITH THEIR UTILIZATION?

MODERATOR: MRS LEVINIA ADDAE-MENSAH
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, WANEP

18.1.1 In their presentation, Group One defined resilience as the capacity to absorb shocks and recover from them and identified five levels of resilience-building frameworks: global, regional, sub-regional, national and community. The group pointed out that a number of frameworks for building resilience have been promulgated by ECOWAS and its member-states to address the peace and security challenges confronting countries within the sub-region.

18.1.2 However, while appreciating the fact that frameworks to counter threats to peace and security in the region exist; the group identified a number of challenges confronting the effectiveness of the frameworks, which include:

- Inadequate capacity building at the community, national and regional levels to ensure effective operationalisation of the frameworks;
• Lack of effective integration of the existing frameworks into national laws for effective operationalization. Given that most states in the ECOWAS are dualist regarding the signing and ratification of laws and protocols, the non-domestication of the frameworks makes their operationalization challenging;

• The ineffective dissemination of information at the community levels on the frameworks.

18.1.3 To enhance the effectiveness of the frameworks to counter threats to peace and security in the region, the first group recommended that the relevant ECOWAS frameworks for building resilience be disseminated at national and community levels to the citizenry. It was suggested that the dissemination be accompanied by education on the ways through which sub-national structures could utilise the frameworks to help build resilience at community levels and through that, support resilience building at the national and sub-regional levels.

18.1.4 Secondly, it was recommended that the collaboration between ECOWAS, state institutions, civil society and citizens’ organisations responsible for building resilience in the region be enhanced and the needed capacity development provided to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to ensure smooth operationalisation.

18.2 GROUP TWO – HOW CAN GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS BE ENCOURAGED TO UTILISE EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE?

18.2.1 The second group recognised two main forms of empirical materials: consultancy and policy based research, and scholarly-based research materials. The group noted that policy makers tend to have a preference for consultancy and policy-based research materials because they are mostly simplified and quantitative in nature and are mostly commissioned to address identified needs. Also, the group pointed out that policy makers favoured research findings generated using social science methodologies to findings arrived at through the research methodologies of the humanities mainly because social science research tends to utilize mixed methods rather than purely qualitative approaches and are thus viewed as being more factually grounded.

18.2.2 The group further observed that policy-makers were often very interested in research findings that had implications for their peace and security such as finance, gender, governance, youth, and employment among others. In their discussion of the challenges hampering the
utilisation of empirically generated materials by governments and regional organisations, it was noted that the political colourisation of empirical evidence, difficulty in accessing empirical materials, ineffective dissemination and distribution of empirically generated research publications and the voluminous nature of academic research among others inhibit patronage of policy makers.

18.2.3 As part of their recommendations to mitigate the challenges enumerated, Group Two suggested the need for frequent interactions and collaboration between academia and policy makers to bridge the gap between them. Closely related to this was the need to build a systematic relationship between academics and policy makers. Again, the group noted the need for trust building and networking between researchers, practitioners and policy makers to encourage the information sharing among the three. Finally, the group suggested that academics must also endeavour to generate knowledge products that also suit the needs of policy-makers.

18.3 GROUP THREE – HOW CAN THE GAP BETWEEN POLICY AND RESEARCH BE BRIDGED?

18.3.1 The group began their presentation with an exposé of the types of research and the relationship that has to exist between them. They stated that applied and basic research were the two major forms of research. Basic research, the group argued, was usually undertaken to advance knowledge whilst applied research was action-driven. However, the group cautioned against the prioritization of one above the other, stating that useful applied research needs information generated from basic research. Thus, even though not every research necessarily has immediate applicability, all research is useful for informed decision making.

18.3.2 Discussing the gaps between policy and research, Group Three observed that even though a great deal of knowledge, information and quality research exist, a lack of knowledge about their existence and a lack of accessibility has hindered their utilisation. The group bemoaned policy makers’ tendency to rely on foreign or imported research rather than locally-generated research. It was also noted that the lack of credible think-tanks to serve as the interface between academia and policy makers also contributed to the sub-optimal utilisation of research by the policy and practitioner communities.

18.3.3 Proffering recommendations for bridging the policy gaps, the group called on member-states in the sub-region to invest in both basic and applied research as that would help to provide
useful information for enhancing resilience. The group also strongly recommended the development of strong collaboration between researchers and practitioners. The group suggested that as part of the follow-up of the Meeting, LEClAD should be made a convening platform to hold fora for the engagement of the communities of research, policy makers and practitioners. The group also suggested that the three communities should harness opportunities provided by social media and new media to promote new research as well as obtain information on the types of research available for building resilience.

18.3.4 Finally, it was recommended that the report of the Planning Meeting be used as a basis for engaging policy-makers and practitioners.

18.4 GROUP FOUR – HOW CAN THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY BE ENHANCED TO SUPPORT STATES IN BUILDING RESILIENCE?

18.4.1 The group pointed out three areas that capacity development was required to enhance the capacity of civil society organisations in their quest to support states in building resilience. These are: skills enhancement, technical and financial resources and the creation of the space for engagement with the state.

18.4.2 The group submitted that the design and implementation of resilience building are both a science and an art and as such, those who support resilience building must possess the necessary knowledge and skills. This notwithstanding, while a considerable number of civil society organisations have the intention to support resilience building, they do not have the knowledge and skills to do so. Developing the knowledge and skills of civil society organisations on resilience building is therefore critical.

18.4.3 Another observation made by the group was the need to provide civil society organisations with the requisite resources for resilience building. The fourth group further stated that most of the civil society organisations that operate at the grassroots do not have adequate resources. This lack of resources create geographical and thematic constraints as the organisations are limited to certain parts of the countries where they work and have to focus on a few select themes because of the lack of resources.

18.4.4 The group also noted the need for states to provide the space for engagement with civil society. Although the ECOWAS has created a platform for engaging with civil society organisations, not all ECOWAS member states have adopted this approach. In some countries, the relationship between the state and civil society organisations is antagonistic. In other
instances, only select civil society organisations have been allowed into the space for discourse and engagement. Facilitating the space for civil society engagements, including engagements with small, rural based organisations is critical in forging state-civil society relations that is important for resilience building.

18.4.5 In proposing the way forward for enhancing the capacity of civil society organisations to support resilience building, the fourth group called for the de-politicisation of civil society organisations, effective governance of the civil society space especially towards the reduction of role duplication, unhealthy competition and the development of standards. The group also called for measures to facilitate and enhance effective partnerships between civil society organisations, the media and governments. Again, efforts to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations should begin with existing networks of civil society organisations. This, it was suggested, would assist in the identification of civil society organisations that focus on resilience building at various levels and allow for the determination of the kinds of capacity assistance required by the different organisations. Enhancing the capacity of states according to the group, should also include efforts to encourage the various organisations to access and utilise the extensive body of knowledge on building resilience so as to ensure that their efforts are grounded in sound empirical and theoretical realities.

18.4.6 Finally, the group called on ECOWAS to help create space for civil society organisations in countries where there is very little room for engagement between the state and civil society organisations to allow civil society organisations support the resilience building agenda.

18.5 PLENARY DISCUSSION AND MAIN OBSERVATIONS

18.5.1 Setting the tone for the discussion, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, the Moderator of the plenary discussion, urged participants to reflect on the topics discussed and come out with concrete recommendations that will contribute to bridging the knowledge gaps in building resilience and shaping the outcomes of the meeting.

18.5.2 The Meeting emphasised the need for a structured engagement between researchers, policy makers and practitioners in a systematic manner to promote dialogue on emerging security threats, take stock of resilience building efforts and provide a framework for reflection on how to enhance successful efforts in resilience building within the sub-region.
18.5.3 In calling for capacity development, the experts suggested that there was an equal need for capacity development for the academic community, on how to support the resilience building efforts of states with action research. While cautioning against a tendency to assume that every researcher had to conduct action research, there was agreement that with the right support systems in place, researchers from various research disciplines could be supported to participate and contribute in diverse ways to the resilience building efforts of the region.

18.5.4 A third discussion point raised was the need for credible and efficient policy think-tanks in the region. Although researchers and academic institutions have valuable expertise to contribute to policy making, the workshop participants acknowledged that the presence of policy think-tanks that are able to translate academic research into policy options would undoubtedly enhance the contributions of the research and academic communities to policy making and implementation.

18.5.5 Finally, the participants were in agreement that, to engineer change in the relationship between the communities of research, policy making and practice, it would be useful to equip emerging academics with additional skills for policy-oriented research and publications. To this end, it was suggested that internships with policy-making institutions should be considered as part of certain academic programs in order to equip young academics with knowledge on policy making and expose them to the skills of engaging with various stakeholders in the policy making domain.

19.0 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN BUILDING RESILIENCE

19.1 Subsequent to the presentations by the groups, the Moderator of the session called on Dr. Linda Darkwa to provide the strategic priorities identified from the deliberations of the workshop, for consideration and adoption.

19.2 Ten main points, outlined below were presented to the meeting for consideration.

1. Encourage coordination and collaboration between relevant actors: There is a need for a systematic and coordinated engagement between security agencies on one hand and researchers, civil society organisations, communities and civil society organisations on the other to be able to collect information, analyse such information and establish trends that would help in the identification of emergent and emerging trends within states, and ways to enhance resilience.
2. Encourage inter-state collaboration between the identification of emerging trends and resilience building efforts so as to adapt and/or harmonise strategies to promote efficiency.

3. Develop, publicise and domesticate appropriate frameworks for addressing contemporary security threats: There is a need to develop (where they do not exist) appropriate legal frameworks to address contemporary security threats for which there are no legal provisions. In addition, there is a need to publicise and encourage the domestication of existing frameworks for addressing contemporary security threats. In certain circumstances, relevant frameworks should be translated and disseminated in the language understood by communities to promote understanding and better appreciation.

4. Encourage the study of sub-regional legal frameworks: In-service training on the legal frameworks for addressing security threats and building resilience should be undertaken for serving personnel of the security institutions. In addition, the relevant legal and policy frameworks should be included in the curricula of security institutions for new recruits.

5. Civil Society organisations should be included in states’ implementation of resilience building efforts. Particular attention must be paid to civil society organisations working at the community level.

6. Actively involve communities in resilience building efforts: To facilitate ownership of efforts, it is imperative for communities to understand the essence of resilience building and be made a part of the design and implementation of such efforts.

7. Shift from the generalised security narratives to a more nuanced narrative that reflects the realities of member-states and the sub-region: Facilitate joint research between researchers and practitioners as well as comparative research to unearth the similarities and differences in the manifestation of contemporary security threats and resilience building approaches in order to obtain the true state of affairs with regards to the security threats confronting states and the region.

8. Develop/adopt scientific approaches, including the use of modelling systems to project security threats and response measures so as to better prepare stakeholders to prevent and/or effectively respond to such threats.

9. Develop a more proactive approach to preventing and countering violent extremism in the region: The nature of responses could legitimize the narrative of extremists. Proactive measures such as community engagement and dialogue, as well as the
integration of peace education in school curricula would be instrumental in building resilience. In addition, adopting human rights-based approach to preventing and countering violent extremism is essential in building confidence and obtaining buy-in from communities.

10. The outcome of the workshop should be made accessible to a wider audience: A special edition of the Legon Journal for International Affairs on “Building Resilience to address Contemporary Sub-Regional Security Threats should” be published.

20.0 DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

20.1 Following the presentation, the Moderator invited comments, contributions and validation of the strategic priorities presented. The following additions were made to the strategic priorities.

i. Efforts should be made to involve parents in building resilience by educating them on the nature and consequences of religious indoctrination, radicalisation and violent extremism. Through collaboration with various media houses, security agencies and academic practitioners could develop targeted programs for broadcasting. Similarly, such messages can be communicated through community and religious based platforms. In particular, parents should be educated and sensitized on the signs of radicalisation and what kinds of assistance are available to guide them in raising their children.

ii. Security and intelligence agencies must pay more attention to the flow of funds/finances from countries outside Africa to fund missionaries/individuals/groups who engage in the spread of radical ideas in Africa and monitor the provision of religious oriented scholarships.

iii. Financial regulatory bodies in member-states and the sub-region should provide better oversight for non-banking financial transactions as these can be exploited by criminals.

iv. Member-states and relevant civil society organisations should play a role in the processes being undertaken by the African Union to address/counter the financing and
spread of radicalism in Africa to ensure that a wide range of experiences is made available to the process.

v. Utilize lessons learned within the sub-region to facilitate robust collaboration between traditional leaders and Muslim leaders in the resilience building efforts.

vi. Utilize existing fragility assessment systems such as the AfDB’s Fragility Assessment systems, the AU’s fragility modelling system and its newly launched country structural vulnerability system for measuring fragility in order to be able to categorise the fragility levels of countries and determine what is needed to facilitate resilience building.

vii. States should develop the requisite capacities, including the promulgation of relevant laws, to be able to address cyber security crimes.

viii. ECOWAS should adapt and contextualize the AU’s vulnerability modelling system to its conflict risk modelling system for utilization in the sub-region.

ix. ECOWAS member-states need to contextualize security governance by shifting from the traditional state-centric security to a human security approach that emphasises individual and community security.

x. Civil Society Organisations should advocate the ratification of relevant AU and ECOWAS instruments by member states for enhancing resilience.

21.0 WAY FORWARD

21.1 REVIEW OF ACTION STEPS/CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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<th>Issues</th>
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<td>Radicalisation of the youth in the region, terrorism and violent extremism.</td>
<td>• Collaborate with local, national and international security networks to combat it.</td>
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<td>• Engage local leaders, religious leaders, the media, security agencies and youth organisations to sensitise the youth.</td>
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<td>• Promulgate legal frameworks to counter extremism, cybercrimes etc.</td>
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| Enhancing cooperation and collaboration. | • Develop the capacity of civil society organisations in preventing radicalisation.  
• Education is key in countering radicalisation.  
• Strengthen existing frameworks to enhance their effectiveness.  
• Facilitate the rapid development of common passports and ID Cards with bio-data of citizens in the region.  
• Enhance and encourage the sharing of knowledge, information and experience in countering extremism.  
• Create economic and employment opportunities for the masses of unemployed youth in the sub-region. |
| Development of legal frameworks and implementation of the frameworks. | • Create platforms for policy makers, academics and CSOs to dialogue on issues of peace and security in the region. LEClAD and APN-SSRC to maintain and broaden the platform created through this workshop to engage academics, practitioners and policy makers.  
• Enhance the capacity of actors through trainings.  
• Strengthen existing frameworks to engender cooperation and collaboration among actors.  
• Engage states, regional organisations, CSOs, academics and policy makers in formulating legal |
| Frameworks to deal with particular threats.  
- Implementation of the frameworks must start from the communities to national and the regional levels.  
- Effective assessment of frameworks and their implementation must be pursued comprehensively.  
- Engage national parliaments in the enactment of legal frameworks to curb threats to peace and security. |  
| Effective participation at the grassroots. |  
- Encourage a shift from the Westphalian notion of security to human security in order to involve ordinary individuals in the communities.  
- Enhance the capacity of CSOs to effectively engage individuals at the grassroots.  
- Decentralise security and implementation of policy frameworks. |  
| Developing modelling systems - identifying vulnerabilities in non-fragile states. |  
- Working with partners such as the African Development Bank, develop a modelling system to identify vulnerabilities and design resilience-building measures.  
- Collaborating with actors: states and non-state actors in the identification of vulnerabilities and resilience measures needed. |
Undertake a comprehensive review of national and regional security protocols and legal frameworks.

22.0 CLOSING REMARKS

22.1 After a review of the action points by participants, the Director of LECIAD, who was also the Chairperson for the Meeting, Professor Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu in her closing remarks, lauded participants for their high level of participation and the contributions made in shaping the discourse of the thematic areas discussed at the meeting. She noted that the platform provided the opportunity for intellectual engagement by all stakeholders in peace and security in West Africa and also called for similar initiatives frequently in order to identify solutions to the myriad problems bedevilling the sub-region.

22.2 Professor Mensa-Bonsu then expressed her appreciation of and gratitude to all who contributed to making the program a success and brought the two day-workshop to a close.
APPENDIX

Planning Meeting

On

Strengthening Regional Resilience against Emerging Security Threats in West Africa

AGENDA

Day 1: 23rd June 2017

Opening Ceremony

08.00 – 09.00: Arrival of Guests

09.00 – 09.05: Welcome Address & Introduction of Chairperson and Special Guests
09.05 - 09.10: Chairperson’s Opening Remarks

Dr. Linda Darkwa
LECIAD

Prof. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu
Director of LECIAD
University of Ghana – Legon

09:10 - 09:25 Statement by Partners

Dr. Cyril Obi
Program Director
African Peacebuilding Network — SSRC

Dr. Aderemi Ajibewa
Representative of the Commissioner
Political Affairs, Peace and Security
ECOWAS Commission

09.25 – 09.45: Chairperson’s Closing Remarks

Prof. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu

09.45 – 10.00: Photo opportunity & Ice Breaker

Thematic Session I - Overview of Emerging Threats to Peace and Security in West Africa

Moderator: Professor Thomas Tieku


10.45 – 11.15: Presentation of Background Paper - Dr. Linda Darkwa

11.15 – 13.00: Themed Discussions
- Maritime Security
- Cyber Security and Organised Crime
- Democratic Governance
- Violent Extremism

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch

Plenary Discussions

Moderator: Dr. Cyril Obi

14.00 – 15.00 - Group Presentations

15.00 – 17.00 - Moderated discussions
17.00 - Wrap up & closing

**Day 2: 24th June 2017**

08.30 – 09:00 - Recap of Day 1

**Thematic Session II – Identification of Knowledge Gaps and Opportunities for Policy Engagement in West Africa’s Peace and Security**

**Moderator: Dr. Remi Ajibewa**

09.00 – 09.30: Presentation of Background Paper - Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah

09.30 – 10.30: Discussants
- Mr. Kemayou, Political Economist, West Africa Region of the African Development Bank
- Dr. Ed Stoddard (University of Portsmouth)
- ACP Alhaji Mohammed Suraji, Director of Operations of the Ghana Police

11.00: Snack

11.00 – 12.30: Moderated Discussions

12.30 – 13.30: Lunch

**Thematic Session III - Building Resilience Against regional Security Threats: Considerations**

**Moderator: Mr. Ebenezer Asiedu**

13.30 – 15.00 Themed Discussions - What frameworks for building resilience exist and what are the challenges with their utilization?

- How can governments and regional organisations be encouraged to utilize empirical evidence to enhance resilience?
- How can the gap between policy and research be bridged?
- How can the capacity of civil society be enhanced to support states in building resilience?
**Plenary Discussions**

**Moderator: Mrs Levinia Addae-Mensah**

15:00 – 16:00 - Group Presentations & Discussions

16.00 – 16.30: Review of Strategic Priorities - Dr. Linda Darkwa

16.30 – 17:00 - Moderated Discussion on strategic priorities

17.00 – 17.10 - Closing Remarks

18.00 - Networking Dinner

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**LIST OF PARTICIPATING EXPERTS**

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<th>Title</th>
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