



# WORKSHOP FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

**THE EXTRACTION INDUSTRY AND BORDER MANAGEMENT:  
The Role of Parliament**

**ORGANISED BY:**

***THE FOUNDATION FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT  
IN AFRICA (FOSDA)***

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**VENUE: ERATA HOTEL, ACCRA, GHANA**

## **Executive Summary**

This workshop was the second phase of the parliamentary project of the Foundation for Security and Development (FOSDA) under the theme: *Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy through Capacity Building and Inter-Party Dialogue*. In keeping with its focus on the promotion of peace, security and good governance in Africa, FOSDA organized this two-day workshop on the topic: *“The Extraction Industry and Border Management: The Role of Parliament”* for three Parliamentary Committees of the National Parliament of Ghana which was also attended by parliamentarians from Mali, Cote D’Ivoire and Senegal.

Also present to grace the occasion were state dignitaries in the person of Hon. Alhaji Malik Al-Hassan Yakubu (Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament) who was the Guest of

Honour and Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu (Minister of the Interior). The workshop was consistent with, and supportive of the overall efforts by FOSDA to consolidate parliamentary democracy by facilitating parliamentary coalition building and inter-party solidarity on issues that are crucial to national security, development and the livelihood of the population.

This objective was imperative because the situation in the Ghanaian parliament presents an almost evenly divided house between the opposition and the ruling party with sometimes an entrenched parliamentary solidarity along party lines. Such entrenched positions are definitely unhealthy to debates in parliament on issues that are crucial to security and livelihoods of the population which invariably undermines the democratization process. The picture of this scenario is more graphic in the impasse between the minority and majority in parliament over the Representation of the People Amendment Bill (ROPAB) now an Act, which resulted in a total boycott in parliament by the minority.

Being cognizant of the above, it became important to support parliament to help forge inter-party dialogue and consensus building on sensitive issues in the interest of national security, development and democracy which are intrinsically linked. It has become a common knowledge that the prevalent security threat in Africa, relates more to the fear of crimes, conflicts and the lack of basic necessities of life than regime change. The solution of these fears, it is believed, will culminate in personal safety, leading to community safety and finally regime safety all of which are recipe for the consolidation of democracy.

In the light of the foregoing, there was the need to share with parliamentary committee members the nature, norms and working of the institutions they oversee to enable them appreciate the sensitivity of their various committees to national security, development and the democratic process in Ghana. Thus the committees for Defence & Interior, Mines & Energy and Environment, Science & Technology were selected for this workshop.

The presentations which were made by dynamic and well-researched resource persons engendered thought-provoking discussion among participants culminating into a Communiqué at the end of the workshop. The presence of foreign parliamentary participants added a great impetus to the workshop, contributing immensely to the achievement of its objectives. Their participation created a platform for experience sharing and exchange of ideas pointing to need for harmonization of policies in the sub-region for a deeper integration. It was less of a lecture-audience type of workshop and more of “interactive-discussion” type right through the sessions to coffees breaks. However for ease of presentation and brevity of the report, these discussions and interactions will be limited to structured presentations.

## **WELCOME STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTORY OF CHAIRPERSON**

**BY MISS AFI YAKUBU, DIRECTOR OF FOSDA – TO BE INSERTED**

## **Opening Speeches**

### **Mrs. Gertrude Zakariah-Ali** **The Chairperson**

Mrs Gertrude Zakariah-Ali having accepted to chair the occasion mentioned that the workshop was timely and an appropriate follow-up to what was organized by FOSDA in 2004. She noted that poverty reduction remains a core objective of Africa's democratic development and security and it is attainable by a sustainable economic growth. Thus parliament without doubt has a vital role in bringing this about through the building of national consensus that is derived from their legislative, deliberative and oversight roles. Ghana's Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy, according to her aims at reducing poverty and promoting growth to levels that can make Ghana a middle-income country by 2015. However such growth does not happen per-adventure but comes about through a conscious effort at peace building, improving citizens' participation, overcoming major development challenges and strengthening good governance practices. She stated that strengthening the science and technology capacity is key to the nation's development, and emphasized the need for policy changes that promote more research and development programmes in areas such as mining and energy, private sector development, and investment. She mentioned that the trafficking in humans, proliferation and misuse of Small Arms pose security threats to the country and the sub-region with adverse impact on developmental process. Therefore she called on parliamentarians to create collaborative mechanisms to promote dialogue and narrow difference between the majority and minority especially on matters of national security and development. She acknowledged the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of Parliament to enable it perform more effectively in the national interest. Mrs Zakariah-Ali was quick to add that media reportage plays a crucial role in the achievement of this, and that a development-oriented media can contribute much towards consensus building for national development, peace and stability.

### **Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu**

**Deputy Minister for the Interior and Chairman of Ghana National Commission on Small Arms**

The opening statement of Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu drew the attention of participants to a shift towards a broader scope of the concept of security to encompass such vital issues as economic, food, environmental, health and job security compared to the narrow traditional notion of security as regime safety. He maintained that in times gone by many might not be able to see the extractive industry an area of security concern but in recent time it is glaring and we fully appreciate that all inadequacies, problems and conflicts within the mining industry impact negatively on the environment, on people and ultimately on the national economy and our overall wellbeing. He identified lapses such

as non-payment of royalties, environmental and water bodies pollution, cyanide spillage, degradation of land and forest cover and poor social responsibility by extractive companies as being the cause of strained relationship between these companies and host communities leading subsequently to conflicts. The Ministry of the Interior therefore welcomed the workshop as timely and its topic as most appropriate in bringing to the fore sensitive human security concerns that are normally over shadowed by classical security consideration of regime safety. He reiterated government's effort to address the proliferation and misuse of small arms and related crimes through periodic cordon, search operations, public sensitization, weapon re-registration and destruction, the procurement of scanners and metal detectors for security agencies at the borders among others. The Hon. Dep. Minister called on parliamentarians to give much needed assistance to the outstanding issues for the passing of legislation which gives legal backing to the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and also the ratification of the recently signed ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

**Hon. Alhaji Malik Al-Hassan Yakubu**  
**Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament**

Hon. Alhaji Malik Al-Hassan Yakubu acknowledged the healthy working relationship between FOSDA and the parliament in special reference to the series of capacity building workshops it has organized for Members of Parliament. Before proceeding further Hon. Yakubu remarked that *“a state of peace and security is an eternally desirable state of affairs and whoever strives to achieve it has indeed embarked on a noble course. This is the trust of FOSDA's objective and I tell FOSDA – you have embarked on a noble and desirable course”*. He was emphatic about how some societies will do everything to jealously guard peace by virtue of its priceless nature. He was however quick to state that it takes conscious effort by human societies to push away rancour, acrimony and rather elect healthy interactions to ensure peaceful coexistence, and therefore admonish every society to seek it conscientiously if development is to be registered in the annals of the history of the nation and the sub-region at large.

He intimated that without cooperation and consensus building between the majority and minority in parliament it will be difficult as serious disagreements could lead to chaotic situations that would be detrimental to the country's peace, security and democratic development. In the light of this he called for debates to be centred on national interest and development in the sense of how the nation as a unit can out-pace other in the global political economy in areas where Ghana or the sub-region has the comparative advantage in order to improve the standard of living of its ordinary citizens. He noted that the prevalence of arm robbery, proliferation of illicit weapons and drugs in Ghana is becoming a daily phenomenon. He therefore called for no dissenting voices from parliament on issues regarding drugs, illicit trafficking of weapons and other trans-border crimes since such views weaken the fibre of society's commitment and national institutional efforts at addressing them. Hon Yakubu observed that the task of building capacities to augment the existing institutional frameworks that deal with these security threat is a herculean one, yet the task of doing so and bequeathing to posterity a society that is safe and free from fear of crime is one for which posterity will ever be grateful. Additionally, he raised the issue of the minimal exploitation of science and technology in

this part of our world and recalled that the maximum application of these have been the drive behind the advanced and growing economies of the industrial nations. Therefore he called for a higher application of science and technology if Ghana, an agrarian economy is to be able to produce and provide the nutritional and industrial capacity for an improved livelihood of its citizens. The subject of the environment and natural resource as phenomenal source of conflict in the Ghanaian communities and the sub-region alike did not pass without a mention. Thus considering the impact it has on national security and development, he stated that it will be a great boost if a parliamentary capacity is built to ensure democratic control over national resources utilization to guarantee sustainability, equitable distribution and prevention of resource-related conflicts.

**By Mr. Daniel Andoh**  
**Statement of the Resident Representative of the UNDP**

In a statement read on behalf of Mr. Thierry Randrianarijaona, the Resident Representative of the UNDP, by Mr. Daniel Andoh, he indicated how proud the UNDP was to be associated with the workshop initiated by FOSDA.

According to him recent developments in the energy sector and trans-border security underscore the importance of the workshop.

He observed that, the theme of the workshop imposes a great task on members of parliament to skilfully supervise the overarching objective of the extractive industry such that their negative impact is significantly managed and reduced. He maintained that border control and management has its own constraints however it is of essence to security to secure the national frontiers to staunch criminal activities perpetrated through the country's entry points. He mentioned that the support of UNDP towards this workshop was based on the organization's mandate to work with along country-owned solutions towards national and global development challenges. It hopes to achieve this through the development of programmes in the six priority areas namely: democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment and HIV/AIDS of which gender equality is the overarching essential objective. Therefore, the UNDP's assistance to Ghana is to support national efforts by building capacity for sustainable human development aimed at poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In the light of this, he commended the government (parliament) and civil society (FOSDA) for organising and holding the workshop as partners to champion the quest for solutions and acceleration of socioeconomic development of Ghana and the sub-region.

**The Working Sessions**

## PENEL ONE

### **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND TRANS-BORDER SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA**

By Hon. Dr. Benjamin Kunbuor, MP and Ranking Member on Defence and Interior.

Hon. Dr. Benjamin Kunbuor indicated the last two decades have seen dramatic change in the global security situation with old threats receding to the background and giving way to new and complex ones. Ironically, these new threats which the global community is exposed to have a trans-border dimensions or better still threats that are no respecter of national borders, he maintained. Examples of these he mentioned as trafficking in human and narcotics, HIV/AIDS pandemic, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, mercenary activities and more seriously poverty. According to Dr. Kunbuor these unfolding realities have led to a rethinking of the global security situation. However he sees poverty as the precursor of most of these security threats. It will thus be consistent with the foregoing to say that the imminence of these security threats is a symptom of a failing state which demands an immediate attention in holistic security approach. Dr. Kunbuor pointed out that democracy as opposed to other forms of ordering political life has a great potential and an inbuilt mechanism for negotiating conflict and controlling or managing security threats. Therefore democracy has come to be seen as intrinsically linked to peace and security. These two (*peace and security*) are not seen as an end in themselves but pen-ultimate to the well-being of the people. As a result he sees parliamentary oversight as an aspect of governance with the potential mechanism to regulate security. The fact is that in democracy, according to him, the representatives of the people (*parliament*) hold the supreme power and no sector of the state should be excluded from its control. As the security sector deals with one of the state's core task, a system of checks and balances is needed to counterbalance the executive power. He identified a number of generic challenges that inhibit parliamentary oversight responsibilities over the security sector. First, he mentioned the "*secrecy law*" and "*the rule of confidentiality*" in public administration which hinder efforts to enhance transparency in the security sector. This privilege is over exploited in most emerging economies where legislation on freedom of information is absent as is the current position in Ghana. For instance questions on defence issues are not allowed in parliamentary debate. The second was the lack of expertise by parliamentarians to deal with technical issues such as weapon procurement, arms control and readiness of military units. The third challenge was globalization and its associated emergence of regional and sub-regional security blocs which hardly provide for domestic parliamentary oversight yet has both direct and indirect effect on national security arrangements. International treaties on the security sector more often than not make no provision for oversight by national parliament.

The most serious of the bottlenecks has been the lack of a well thought-through and politically negotiated defence policy. By security sector policy, he was concerned with a strategic framework with guidelines that leads to the achievement of set objectives. Thus the key words in a security sector policy, according to him are security framework,

guidelines and objectives and these in the case of Ghana, must be formulated within its socio-historical, political and constitutional contexts.

He intimated that Ghana, very much like other African countries, has often looked at good governance issues within either economic or political categories with the former requiring predictable regulatory framework, effective and transparent public administration as well as an independent judiciary which can resolve business disputes and enforce commercial contracts. And the latter as one in which constitutional structures are put in place for participatory decision making processes. Not much attention has been given to how the security sector in Ghana is governed as a policy and how civil control of the sector could be exercised.

Dr. Kunbuor concluded on a statement that we need as a nation to do a critical rethinking of our *democratic project* in a holistic manner. He remarked that as nation when we opted for democracy as the best path in human history for the ordering our political life, we did so with the understanding of its ramifications. That the rules of democratic engagement would be relatively the same in every field of endeavor be it political, economic, and social or security in nature. Therefore we have to avoid selecting high standard of democratic rule for almost all sectors except the security sector.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT**

**Mrs. Rosaline Baatuolkuu Ofori-Obeng**

Mrs. Rosaline Baatuolkuu-Obeng-Ofori, alluded that globalization, free market economy and poverty have increased the demand for cheap labour and services, including prostitution. She insisted that the influx of international aid workers, military personnel, peacekeepers and employees of international organizations in a situation of armed conflicts or political instability often bring about a demand for services deriving from sexual exploitation. According to her human trafficking is a global issue with 600,000 – 800,000 people being trafficking across international borders each year whereas many more are trafficked within their own countries. Majority of these who are children (81%), between the ages of 13 and 18 end up on the street as street children. At these ages, children hardly make rational decision on their own especially on issues like health, needs, security and the future. Yet on the street they are left on their own to make critical decision with whatever consequences that go with their choices.

In the particular case of Ghana, Mrs. Baatuolkuu-Ofori-Obeng mentioned that statistics on trafficked children is currently not reliable but what is known is that children are trafficked within the country to work as domestic servants or used as labour in the fishing, mining and agricultural sectors. Through this practice, children's labour is exploited by men and women who pay as little as US \$60 per child to the parents. She cited the definition of human trafficking per the UN protocol against trafficking as:

*Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;*

She explained further that the UN definition stipulates the consent of the trafficked person as no justification for the act since these trafficked persons are most often vulnerable, under privileged and are easily influenced subtly against their personal well-being. Speaking further she blamed the Ghanaian trafficking situation partly on some cultural practices, ethnic discrimination and endemic poverty. She mentioned for instance that though poverty and the demand for cheap labor are at the root of child trafficking, Ghana's longstanding cultural practice of traditional adoption – sending children to more affluent relatives has helped foster an environment where the trafficking industry flourishes. Besides some ethnic groups are seen through the lens of a “cast system” and are perceived to be a people condemned perpetually to the periphery of society whose essence only lie in being instrument of service to the higher class of society. Therefore, she sees the elimination of these discriminations as the problem half solved. Not only does this act of human trafficking cast a snare on the reputable name of countries which are involved but it also rob these nations of human resource base in the long term. Besides she indicated that the security implication of not knowing who is being trafficked in and out and also within the country can have serious consequences.

Mrs. Ofori-Obeng discussed the best practices to stop this phenomenon as offering training to students in schools, establishing counseling centres, criminalizing prostitution, networking of security agencies in the sub-region and educating transport co-operatives on the menace of human trafficking.

She also mentioned there was the need for research into various trafficking and development issues by Parliamentarians to identify problems within their constituencies and seek possible pragmatic solutions to them in consultation with the constituency members. This is because the root causes of trafficking may differ from region to region – whereas one root cause may be due to traditional beliefs, another may be as a result of excessive poverty and lack of alternate choice of livelihood. She called on the District Assemblies to enact specific laws at the decentralized level to prohibit trafficking in a manner that befits the context within which this practice takes place in the respective districts. For example, in some districts, drivers could be accomplices of traffickers. Thus by-laws could be enacted to criminalize such as act.

Additionally, parliamentarians wield a lot of socio-political influence in the community. This privileged status, can earn the commitment of the traditional ruler and opinion leader within their constituencies to review negative traditional and cultural practices that encourage trafficking. In conclusion, she stated that since parliamentarians represent the voice of the constituencies it is imperative for them to play a major role in ensuring the vigorous implementation of that the anti-Trafficking bill.

**Socio-Economic Impact of Human Trafficking on Development in Ghana: The Role of Civil Society**  
**By Mr. Eric Okrah**

Mr. Eric Okrah equally defined human trafficking per the UN Protocol **adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 55/25 15th Nov. 2000**). According to him human trafficking has a criminal, human rights, and exploitative dimension. He explained that the human trafficking has stages beginning from recruitment stage through the transportation stage to the destination points. These stages are characterized as follows:

<i>Recruitment</i>	<i>Transport</i>	<i>Destination</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• False information about work and working conditions</li> <li>• False promise of opportunities</li> <li>• Family pressure to earn money</li> <li>• Abuse of authority</li> <li>• Sale</li> <li>• Kidnapping</li> <li>• Destination unknown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• False passport/ID card</li> <li>• Confiscation of personal documents</li> <li>• Abuse of authority</li> <li>• Fear of arrest</li> <li>• Threat/use of violence</li> <li>• Sexual harassment</li> <li>• Rape</li> <li>• Resold to other agents</li> <li>• Destination unknown</li> <li>• Language problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wages lower than promised</li> <li>• Non-payment of wages</li> <li>• Threat/use of violence</li> <li>• Confiscation of personal documents</li> <li>• Fear of arrest</li> <li>• Sexual harassment</li> <li>• Confinement</li> <li>• Debt bondage</li> <li>• Unfamiliar environment</li> <li>• Language problems</li> <li>• No social support network</li> </ul>

This phenomenon, he insisted has both socio-economic and security implications. Socio-economically, he was of the concern that most of the trafficked persons are children who end up not getting the opportunity of gaining education resulting in slimmer opportunities of gaining meaningful job. This problem is not limited to the trafficked person or his family but also to the nation. It reduces the quality of man power in the long-term which ultimately affect the future productivity of the nation. Making a popular quote of “he that is down needs fear no fall”, Mr. Okrah made the security implications of trafficked persons more vivid. He indicated that most of these people end up very destitute with no hope and nothing to live for and can easily become “good” instrument for any vicious act such as arm robbery, drugs peddlers, coups, rebel and mercenary activities upon the least persuasion. He was of the opinion that several factors such as poverty, political conflicts, inadequate skills, lack of education and economic opportunities accounted for the prevalence of human trafficking in the sub-region. He pointed out that the civil society can play the following role to address this phenomenon:

- Advocacy and awareness creation to potential victims.
- Develop skills and employment opportunities of victims.
- Establishment of hot lines.
- Supporting on-going research work for example data collection, mapping of gap areas to aid effective policies.
- Collaboration between government and civil society to build capacity of communities.
- Assisting in information sharing and dissemination.
- Exchange of experience and information.

- Whether victims return voluntarily or not they need support to return to their family, community or Country. These returnees may face psychological, family related, health, legal & financial problems and this is a crucial area civil society can be of great help in preventing the returnees from fall prey to excruciating and deprived life again.

He also called for effective deterring sanctions by making offenders of trafficking criminally liable by the criminalizing all activities related to human trafficking.

## **CROSS-BORDER CRIMES AND PRACTICAL CONTROL MEASURES**

*By Mr. Prosper P.D. Asima*

Speaking as an Immigration officer, Mr. Prosper Asima, brought out intricate issues about cross-border crimes and painted a graphic picture of the startling security and socio-economic implications. He specified that technological advancement and the global economic order have not only facilitated the movement of goods but have also expedited the passage of clandestine cross-border activities such as small arms trade, narcotic drugs dealing, human smuggling and trafficking, armed robbery and terrorism. According to him, this calls for a better border management which involves border control and surveillance, analysis of risks, personnel and facilities analysis. He was of the opinion that border management policies and laws have become imperative in the face of current security developments around the world which has culminated into a global consensus that sovereign nations need as a matter of urgency, to review, restructure and to reintegrate their border regulatory apparatus and laws in order to conform to requirements capable of dealing with threats posed by cross-border crimes internationally.

Mr. Asima stated that Ghana operates an open border policy with its neighbors. This according to him is informed by the ECOWAS protocol on “*free movement of persons’ across member states*” which seeks to promote a fuller integration within the sub-region. In spite of this Ghana’s borders need to be controlled at a more desirable level of effectiveness than it is found now. Ghana’s borders at present are not in a healthy state as there is insufficient capacity to undertake proper patrols, searches, surveillance and monitoring. The borders are porous in nature with only 48 border control points dotted along the vast frontiers with its neighbouring states. This is to imply that Ghana’s border management capacity falls short of the accompanying security implication of the ECOWAS protocol on “free movement of goods and people” and the possible consequences cannot be far fetched. It is vulnerable to insurgency, terrorism and other related crimes because the risks of detection are limited.

Mr. Asima continued that cross-border crimes affect a nation negatively because it undermines economic activities and drives away tourists and businesses. Additionally it also degrades quality of life, destroys social and human capital since victimization and the fear of crime can force skilled workforce overseas. Besides, it also undermines the state security and democracy as the public loses confidence in the ability of the state to protect them. The worst stage of these implications, is when criminals are able to enlist the complicity of state officials either actively or passively. And this situation is always imminent when such threats are not immediately addressed by the nation concerned.

Mr. Asima was quick at this juncture to blame the prevalence of these cross-border crimes on armed conflicts in the ECOWAS sub-region during the past two decades. He indicated that these conflicts contributed towards the proliferation of firearms in the region and their accessibility contributed to the delay in the restoration of peace and the implementation of post-conflict reconstruction programmes. He equally sees armed robbery, organized smuggling networks, illicit trafficking and terrorism as crimes that feed on the weapons introduced into the region by conflicts.

On drug trafficking, he quoted the 2005 report of the UN office on Drugs and Crimes which stated that “Africa has in the last decade taken its place as a key zone for organized crime with special reference to it being a transiting point for drug traffickers and as a source of fraudulent activities”. Mr. Asima continued that these activities produce a collateral damage to a country’s reputation and Ghana was not left out on the list. He went on to mention crimes like vehicle theft, money laundering, cattle rustling and smuggling as among others that rob Ghana and the sub-region of peace and security as well as its potential to attract foreign direct investment.

To practically control this menace that is engulfing the sub-region, Mr. Asima was of the opinion that it will be difficult to curb cross-border crime without an extensive regional approach. The importance of developing a more effective regional response to cross-border crime becomes apparent when considering the fact that organized criminal groups have a common mode of operation in similar activities. Thus sharing expertise, intelligence and harmonizing combating efforts with a regional legislative approach to these crimes will increase the effectiveness of both national and sub-regional security agencies in handling these menaces. He cited for example that the West African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (WAPCO) can pioneer the standardization of international criminal and security codes for the sub-region in response to cross-border crimes.

What was more striking was the proposal he made for the setting up of special unit as a Cross-Border Bureau in the border zone to oversee the phenomenon. What has become a security weakness in Africa is that we incline to leave emerging and new security threats to be dealt with by existing policy and legislative instruments which on many occasions are vague and lacks the venom to address these new threats. Therefore setting a special bureau for cross-border crimes under the appropriate security agency will be a great boost. In this regard, Mr. Asima called on parliament to legislate new laws, amend and clarify existing ones to give effectiveness to agencies in the discharge of their duties. He maintained that the quality of public sector management is a reflection of the effectiveness and the level of scrutiny of parliament. Mr. Asima further called for outcomes of judicial proceedings of cross-border and related crimes to be publicized effectively and widely disseminated to deter potential offenders. This according to him will not only enhance crime prevention for public safety, but will also boost confidence in the state security apparatus and lead civil society generally to cooperate with these agencies in matters of security.

He ended by saying that it is important to note that freedom from violence and crimes are key components of development. Without peace and security it would be difficult for the nation to move ahead with its developmental agenda.

**The Role of The Ghana National Commission on Small Arms in  
Combating the Trafficking and Misuse of Small Arms  
By Supt. Francis Aboagye Nyarko**

Supt. Aboagye-Nyarko started with the essence of the establishment of the Ghana national commission on Small Arms (GNACSA) and indicated it was established by the government with the support of UNDP-Ghana to fulfill the requirement of the moratorium which had culminated recently into the Convention on Small Arms and Light weapons. Besides this he briefed participants that the National Commission's establishment was also to meet the commitment of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) and the ECOWAS Small Arms Project (ECOSAP). According to him it is an acknowledged fact that the uncontrolled trafficking, misuse and proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Ghana and the sub-region has caused untold human suffering and seriously undermined developmental effort beyond all stretch of imagination. Although Ghana is considered an Oasis of Peace for not experiencing any fully blown armed conflict, it has in recent years registered many instances of robberies, murders, rape, armed-violence, local conflicts such as land and chieftaincy disputes which are attributable to the ease of access to illicit weapons available to the perpetrators of these crimes. Thus the vision of the Commission is to make Ghana a safer and more secure country free from illicit weapons and casualties emanating from misuse of arms in the country.

According to Supt. Aboagye-Nyarko, the Commission seeks to attain the above vision by putting in place programmes against the proliferation of Small Arms and Lights Weapons (SALW) and also coordinate the efforts of security institutions to establish a centralized filing system on SALW. It will also sensitize and educate the public on the dangers associated with illicit weapon handling and the importance of peace in the process of socio-economic and political development. Having been at the forefront in the fight against the misuse and trafficking of SALW, the Commission in collaboration with Ministry of the Interior and the support of UNDP had launched Awareness Raising Campaigns against the proliferation of small arms in all the ten (10) regions of Ghana. Subsequently, the Commission did a stock-taking of illicit arms in nine (9) regions of the country and as part of this exercise it was able to organize and supervise the destruction of over two thousand (2000) illicit arms confiscated by the police between 2003 and 2005. As part of this effort the Commission has been able to hold a National Strategic Conference on Small Arms to facilitate the drafting and adoption of National Plan of Action on Small Arms which has been completed with the said document currently undergoing study. Supt. Aboagye Nyarko indicated that for the purposes of monitoring, the Commission captures on daily basis media reportage on small arms incidence in the country. This is fed into a database to assist the Commission in identifying areas where the misuse and trafficking of arms are predominant.

To ensure that the fight against small arms proliferation, trafficking and misuse of small is won, the Commission will be undertaking the following activities in the next five (5) years:

- Advocate for a special cordon and search operation for the retrieval of illegal arms
- Strengthen security collaboration with neighbouring countries at the borders
- Identify and organize all blacksmith to form association and to look for alternation source of livelihood to dissuade them from small arms manufacture.
- Come out with reviews of national policies/decrees on SALW among many other activities.

Finally he cautioned that the peace and democratic gains of the country must never be taken for granted instead efforts should be made by all citizens to sustain and improve upon it by contributing their quota in fighting the circulation and misuse of illicit Small Arms in the country to make Ghana and the sub-region a congenial place for development.

## **Science and Economic Development of Ghana**

**By Prof. Francis K.A. Allotey**

For all intent Prof. Francis K.A. Allotey's presentation was a wake-up call on policy-makers to fully embrace science and technology in the socio-economic efforts of the country. He opened his presentation with a passionate reference to a quotation by the first Prime Minister of India *"it is science alone that can solve the problems of hunger and poverty, of the insanitation and illiteracy, of superstition and deadening custom and tradition, of vast resources running to a waste, of a rich country inhabited by starving people who indeed could have ignore science... At every turn we have to see its aid. The future belongs to those who make friends with science"*. This statement summed up the spirit of Prof. Allotey's presentation. From a concrete example in the field of agriculture, he brought to bare that farming in this age is knowledge intensive based on information from remote sensing, Geographical Information System (GIS) Global Positional System (GPS), computer technology as well as biotechnology. By these, farmers from the industrialized countries are able to use satellite imagery and GPS to detect early signs of diseases and pests with the ability to target the application of pesticide, fertilizers and water to parts of their fields which needed urgently attention. He resolute that it is therefore not surprising that the developed nations using less than 2½% of their labour force are able to produce food in excess and export while Africa with over 66% of its labour force in agriculture, continue to wallow in the snare of starvation. In a very reflective disposition Prof. Allotey maintained that it is universally acknowledged that the developmental gap between the richer North and the poorer South is nothing else but a manifestation of science and technology gap. He indicated that at many fora African had articulated that:

- Improvement of the quality of life for every African
- Economic integration of the region and
- Improved trade and other linkages with global community;

are their three major development goals and normally go ahead to express that the above are only attainable through the utilization of science, technology and research. However after several efforts by successive governments since independence with the establishment of:

- the National Research Council (NRC)
- Ghana Academic of Art and Science
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Ghana Atomic Energy Commission
- Cocoa Research Institute
- Ghana Standard Board and the
- Noguchi Memorial Medical Research Institute,

Ghana unlike countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, China and India has not been able to develop fully its scientific and technological base to address the countries basic human needs of food, health care, shelter and transportation. In the case of South Korea and Ghana, both countries had the same economic base in 1962, even Ghana was reported by then to be slightly ahead of South Korea. But South Korea is now regarded as a developed country while Ghana is still a developing country. He blamed this position of Ghana on the unclear government policies on science and technology and the lack of mechanisms for the coordination of science and technology activities to promote synergy and avoid duplication. He bemoaned the lack of participation by the private sector in scientific and technological research in Ghana. Needless to talk of inadequate government funding – currently only 0.3% of GDP is set aside for the pursuit of scientific and technological research against a figure of 1% proposed by the Lagos Plan of Action in 1980. Prof. Allotey proposed that there is the urgent need for the establishment of an independent National Science and Technology Commission presided by the President with a Chief Science and Technology advisor attached to him as it pertains in countries like China, Nigeria, Brazil, India and Malaysia. He again observed that several of the major ministries have embedded scientific and technological components and therefore should create Science and Technology Divisions headed by Science and Technology advisors. He mentioned that science and technology pervades international affairs on issues such as population growth, energy, environment, health, agriculture, trade and telecommunications. Accordingly, he indicated that all issues with major scientific and technological component have been the focus of contemporary international agenda. Prof Allotey was of the opinion that science and technology issues are inadequately addressed in the Ghana's foreign policy because there is no institutional mechanisms which allow technical experts to move from the periphery to the centre of policy-making process. He was emphatic that Ghana and other developing countries are loosing out at WTO and other global talks because negotiators from these countries are most often not properly briefed on the embedded science and technological component of the agenda.

He reiterated that Ghana's poverty, environmental degradation, food security problems, energy and diseases require science and technology to surmount them.

**The Place of Science in Ghana's Education and Politics**  
**By Prof. Fredrick Kwaku Addai**

In affirmation of Prof Allotey's presentation, a senior colleague of his, Prof. Frederick

Kwaku Addai, equally made some mind-bordering statements worthy of consideration in our quest for development in Ghana and the sub-region. He drew a brilliant correlation between science and technology and national security as this was not obvious to many. He stated that when science and technology (S & T) are properly harnessed for socio-economic development of a nation, general quality of life improves and lack of basic necessities becomes isolated cases rather than the prevailing conditions of life. Under such circumstances, majority of the people enjoy personal safety and are able/willing to make SHORT-TERM SACRIFICES in anticipation of long-term gains rather than clamouring for instant gratification. This in turn leads to regime safety because majority of the citizens can afford to wait for long-term governmental plans to yield results, and to refrain from agitations for immediate and short-lived benefits that cannot be sustained. Additionally when governments have the peace to plan for long-term benefits, durable results are produced that continue to improve people's lives making them less likely to entertain pretenders purporting to liberate, redeem, or defend them from bad governmental policies. Such a condition in a country will most definitely consolidate parliamentary democracy and national security. Therefore according to him, science and technology are arguably the best tools for socio-economic development and by extension they are also the best vehicles to the destination of national security.

Prof. Addai held a dissenting view on protestations against the addition (Ministry of Science) to that of Education and Sports. He however regretted the frequent change of oversight Ministry for Science especially the separation of Technology from Science. To him this does not create the enabling environment for the promotion of Science and Technology as the bedrock of socio-economic development. His reason was that science which is "the systematic pursuit of knowledge" must find practical expression in the creation of tools/devices/mechanisms that improve our understanding or control of our material environment (Technology); and alternatively must produce inventions of new ideas or methods for doing some things, or new ways of doing something already known (Innovation). According to him, when science is separated from technology and innovation, it becomes non-functional head-knowledge and does not contribute to development. Prof Addai insisted at this point that Ghana as a nation is not "walking the talk" that science and technology are fundamental to the socio-economic development of the country. Much has not been done to discover, develop, deploy and utilize science and technology. In an exclamatory fashion, he stated that if only we would implement a fraction of the scientific findings from our research institutions in agriculture, building and health, we would have made giant strides in development. He mentioned the under utilization of science and technology opportunities within the country, citing the haphazard importation of solar gadgets as an example, when the Engineering Faculty at KNUST has an internationally recognized solar energy unit where a number of ingenious gadgets have been created. Thus in a statement reminiscent of Prof. Allotey, he equally called for an independent expert group to advice government and parliament on broad scientific and technological policy as is the case in Canada.

He was indicative that the true place of science in Ghana's education and politics is "EVERYWHERE" and at "ALL LEVELS". It must permeate every level of instruction and endeavour. Presently, with the all-pervading role of journalism in shaping and directing national discourse and pre-occupations, Prof. Addai suggested the incorporation

of scientific methods in the training of journalists in what he describes as “scientific journalism or journalistic science”. He maintained it should not be difficult for Ghana to produce a motorized vehicle similar to a golf course car powered by solar cells to carry fontonfrom drums and carry chiefs and Queens in paranquins, instead of being carried by fellow human beings. He posited that if there is currently any aspect of science that has the potential of accelerating our socio-economic development at a pace that will surpass what electronic science has done for the Asian Tigers, it is PHOTOVOLTAIC SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY – how to harness, store and utilize sunlight and design tools to use solar energy for all human activities.

Finally in his judgment, Prof. Addai stated that Ghana has woefully failed to utilize the scientific reports and finding of the institutions funded to prosecute Science and Technology business. There has been no government policy over the years to utilize the findings of the various institutes of CSIR, adding that government machinery must be insulated from partisan alignment when it comes to issues of Science and Technology, which are the bedrock of the socio-economic development which both incumbent and aspiring government seek to attain.

## **DAY TWO**

### **Corporate and Community Interest in Mining: Finding the Balance**

**By Mr. Daniel Owusu-Koranteng**

The picture in the eyes of the ordinary citizen of mineral-endowed developing countries has been that of the sector being a key contributor to the GDP. But this picture seemed to have been redrawn by Mr. Daniel Owusu-Koranteng in his presentation. Many countries like Ghana have increased their dependence on the extractive sector to achieve national development objectives by adopting fiscal policies for the attraction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the extractive sector. According to him the International Financial Institutions like the World Bank have supported mining in developing countries with the objective of alleviating poverty in these countries. This probable economic logic is based on the fact that mining contributed to the industrialization of the developed countries like United States, Canada and Australia in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and would therefore be a necessary means of achieving economic growth and poverty reduction by mineral-endowed countries of the south as well. But the question had been whether reliance on the extraction of these natural resources had helped countries like Ghana to reduce poverty in any meaningful sense. On the contrary, Mr. Owusu-Koranteng thinks the over dependence on mining by many African countries has not yielded enough economic benefits to these countries to bring them out of their socio-economic predicaments; rather these so call benefits from mining are to a considerable extent exaggerated and present a paradox in the process. Although Africa holds about 30% of the world’s mining reserves, including 40% of the world’s gold reserves, 60% of cobalt reserves and 46% of Zirconium reserves all of which are excessively mined, Africa still carries the grim picture of entrenched poverty and deprivation.

He indicated that mining accounts for about 38% of the Foreign Exchange of Ghana but represents just 5% of its GDP. He pointed out that in the Ghanaian experience, mining is an enclave industry and has no strong linkages to other sectors of the economy. Instead it has become predatory on traditional sectors of the economy, destroying the environment and employment in these sectors, causing lowering of income. In the process this stimulates excessive migration from the rural areas to the urban. For example the Goldfields Ghana Ltd, a South African company displaced over 30,000 people in the Wasa West District in 5 years. A displacement on such a scale affects the spiritual, cultural, economic and social lives of communities. In 2001, a report by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) on five mining communities in Ghana states: *“In all, what the investigation team saw and learnt at the few communities inspected was very disturbing. There was evidence of gross human rights violation and insensitivity to human dignity and well-being”*. It is therefore not a coincidence that communities hosting mining companies have become hot spots for conflicts and places of deprivation. This development has been a backlash of the unhealthy competition unleashed by the World Bank among poor countries in the sub-region to attract investment through the lowering of mining regulations and standard, a situation which Mr. Owusu-Koranteng describes as a “race to the bottom”. Since 1994, over 70 countries in the South have changed their mining laws to attract foreign gold mining companies. Currently, the mining sector accounts for 70% of the total FDI flows into the economy of Ghana and in spite of being the leading foreign exchange earner, its minimal benefits to the national economy in the terms of GDP is an indicative of the high retention facility enjoyed by mining companies in the country. There is excessive capital flight, leaving little revenue from mining in the economy for national development. According to a 2005 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report, Ghana in 2003 earned just \$46.7 million (5%) out of \$893.6 million being the total mineral export value.

Mr. Owusu-Koranteng called for a moratorium on mining to allow a re-assessment of the performance of the mining sector and its contributions to national development and poverty reduction after decades of dependence on mineral resources for economic growth. This according to him is an imperative in the face of the over-bearing evidences of the sector’s insignificant contribution to the economy and the statement made by the World Bank’s Operations Evaluation Department (OED) in its assessment of the performance of mining in Ghana. It stated:

*“it is unclear what gold mining’s true benefits are to Ghana. Large scale mining by foreign companies has high import content and produces only modest amounts of net foreign exchange for Ghana after accounting for all its outflows. Similarly, its corporate tax payments are low due to fiscal incentives necessary to attract and retain foreign investors. Employment creation is also modest given the highly capital intensive nature of modern surface mining techniques. Local communities affected by large scale mining have seen little benefits to date in the form of improved infrastructure or services provision because much of the rents from mining are used to finance recurrent, not capital expenditure. A broader cost-benefit analysis of large scale mining that factors in social and environment cost and includes consultations with the affected communities needs to be undertaken before granting future production licenses”*

Mining communities in Ghana have described the mining investment as a shattered hope in the sense, that contrary to their expectation that mining would lead to development, it had rather led to social dislocation and the exacerbation of poverty. He added that according to Michael Ross (2001), 12 of the world’s most mineral-dependent states including Ghana and 6 of the world’s most oil-dependent states are classified by the

World Bank as “Highly Indebted Poor Countries”. To him, finding a balance between community (national) and corporate interest would require a moratorium on mining leases to enable the nation undertake a cost-benefit analysis of surface mining. But this subsequently requires a political will since the mining companies constitute a strong lobby driven by a fundamentalist ideology that can be summarized in the instructions of King Ferdinand of Spain to the Conquistadors in 1511 “ *Get gold humanely if possible, but at all cost get gold*”.

**Existing Legislation on Mines, Energy and the Environment in Ghana:  
Issues and Perspectives  
By Abdulai Darimani**

From a stand point of production and consumption, both energy and mining have direct and indirect consequences for the quality of environment. Delineating on this nexus, Mr. Darimani stated that the public response to fuel price adjustments, the renewed attractiveness of Ghana’s mineral wealth to foreign investors, and emerging trend of environmental lobby groups on oil/mining all testify to their importance and the strong relationship between them. He was of the opinion that history of development has been characterized by the dynamic power of energy to drive economic and social activities and in many cases measures the extent of economic growth and development. Undoubtedly, energy and mining have a long history of importance in the processes of Ghana’s socio-economic development. In spite of this long history of their importance to the economy of Ghana and the contemporary massive foreign direct investment inflow as well as increased mineral production, the contribution of energy and mining sector to national development have been marginal in many ways. In affirmation to a corresponding presentation, Mr. Darimani indicated that although Ghana’s mineral resources are massively exploited, the sector has very limited value-addition and linkages to the rest of the economy in what Mr. Owusu-Koranteng describes as “*enclave industry*”. There is a subtly neo-colonial scramble for mineral and energy resources of the continent. This rush is defined, framed and fostered by the process of globalization in which African governments including Ghana are simply responding to the terms and conditions of the process. However some of these countries have been obliged by over-bearing conditions to reform their mining sector focusing on industry promotion and state regulation. Ghana is one of the pioneering African countries undertaking such reforms. This according to Mr. Darimani, involves determining the state’s most appropriate response to the ascent of corporate power in the sector, the lessening of the power of regulators, ascertaining how to spread the benefits of mining and energy equitably as well as the enhancement of social equality and political participation in policy and decision making process in the sector. He was frantic that mining and energy projects leave heavy environmental and social footprints, and often cause irreversible damage to land, water bodies, community infrastructure and contribute to greenhouse gas emission. Thus the ability of mining and energy projects to contribute to poverty alleviation has been questioned by many who had taken notice of the poor social and environmental development records of mineral and oil-dependent economies. He added that the legislative framework for the mining and energy sector should seek to prioritize the returns of the net benefits without any negative

effect to the environment, public health and human rights. The current energy, mining and environmental regime leaves significant gaps regarding the aforementioned and rather seeks in both content and process to satisfy the interest of transnational mining companies by offering them protection, expansive incentives with minimal regulation and enforcement environmental standards. However, the total life cycle of any mining project from reconnaissance through prospecting, exploration, production, processing to the point of closure, generates considerable and most often irreversible damage to the environment. In addition to this unfavorable story, mining companies are granted wide-range freedom under the stability provision in the Mineral and Mining Act 703 (2005) and the deregulation policy in the energy sector. Holders of mineral rights in Ghana are entitled to several benefits including exemption from: tax on personal remittances; payment of income tax relating to infrastructure at the mine site and payment of customs imports duties for plants, machinery, equipment and other accessories imported exclusively for mineral operations. Mr. Darimani is of the view that this narrow market logic of improving investor confidence by giving unqualified incentive is reducing national development efforts to a short-term policy orientation. Additionally he stated there is no basis for determining the rate at which the country's mineral resources are being extracted. Besides these policymaking process in these sectors is not participatory and transparent and that a form of controlled democracy is more manifest in the energy and mining sectors. He mentioned for instance that public notification prior to the passage of the National Petroleum Authority Bill into an Act was very short, just a period of twenty-four (24) hours – One Day. Subsequently, public notice in respect of the Minerals and Mining Bill was two-weeks. Although it was a little better than the former, consultation was equally very limited. Both parliament and the Minerals Commission failed to carry out consultation with communities which have been affected by the past mining codes for nearly two decades.

He mentioned that there is an imperative need, though belated, for the development of national energy, mining and environmental policy to define and direct future legislative revision for the continued exploitation and utilization of the country's energy and mineral resources as well as the management of the environment. There can be no justification for continued operation of such important and multifaceted sector without a comprehensive policy. Such policies should involve the broad participation of all interest groups of society feeding ultimately on informed non-partisan parliamentary debate.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### **Parliamentary Control and Oversight Responsibilities on Mines, Energy and the Environment**

Panelists:

Hon. Soulaymane Camara {MP Mali}

Hon. Almousleck Aglou Dag Dag {MP Mali}

Hon. Moussa Cisse {MP Senegal}

Hon. Laurent Akoun {MP Cote D'Ivoire}

This session was chaired by Mrs. Rosaline Baatuolkuu-Obeng-Ofori with panelists leading discussions on the issues of mines, energy, environment and trans-border security preceded by a short presentation on these issues from the national and sub-regional point of view. They looked specifically at how they are providing democratic control and oversight responsibilities over national resource utilization in their respective countries to ensure their sustainability and equitable distribution to pre-empt resource-related conflict in West Africa and also check the rise of trans-border crimes. The objective of this session was to provide an opportunity for experience sharing and to identify gaps in legislation and policies, and to find the way forward.

Hon. Soulaymane Camara of the Malian parliament opened the presentation on behalf of the Malian delegation. He intimated that, Parliamentary power and oversight responsibility over mines, energy and the environment stems from the constitution and by-laws enacted by the Parliament of Mali. The control of borders, mines and energy as well as the defence and security are spelt out by the constitution. He explained that even though the executive has the prerogative to declare war, state of emergency and other important executive functions, these privileges are exercised with the approval of parliament. He further mentioned that field trips to constituencies are a very essential way of overseeing issues in the mining, energy and environmental sectors in Mali. Report of the field visits are handed over to the parliamentary secretary for onward submission to the relevant parliamentary committee for the appropriate sanction. Regarding matters of security, Hon. Camara indicated that Mali pioneered the work on small arms and light weapons which is an issue of utmost importance in Mali and has a special committee linked to the presidency. In 2004 a law was passed to replaced/amend that of the 1962 in the regulation of arms.

Remarkably he mentioned that the Malian Parliament does not have Majority and Minority divide and that by this, issues are rather settled through consensus. The parliamentary groups rather work to remove hurdles and parliamentarians could either accept or reject bills on the merit of the bills than on a group view of a party. In his final submission Hon. Camara called for harmonization of legislation in the ECOWAS sub-region for uniformity of operations that are common to countries in the sub-region.

Hon. Moussa Cisse from the Senegalese parliament mentioned that Senegal as is endowed with gas, gold, phosphate and offshore oil as well as hydro-energy source which supplies power to Mauritania and Mali. By reason of these resources, issues regarding mining, energy and the environment are the heart-beat of the nation. Senegal has environmental problems associated with unclosed quarries and mines pits besides the encroachment of wetlands. According to him the Senegalese parliament had passed a bill recently to prohibit settlement on the wetlands. Speaking on the oversight responsibilities Ho. Cisse said the parliament has power over the national purse and therefore uses this instrument to control the various sectors of the economy parliament oversees. Close to the Malian experience, the Senegalese parliament can reject the policy declarations of the Prime Minister and also exercise a vote of no confidence on any unpopular policy introduced by the Prime Minister. He however registered a level of disappointment to an assertion from a Ghanaian parliament regarding the security threat posed by the Fulani herdsmen in Ghana. According to him the proposition of restricting these herdsmen entry

into Ghana have the tendency of undermining the regional integration efforts of the AU and ECOWAS by which Dr. Kwame Nkrumah is known as a legend. He was quick to remark that his submission was not to advocate impunity for those who come in as criminals – robbing, raping and fighting the indigenous people and depriving them of the rights. He thus insisted that their caliber should be made to face the law.

Hon. Laurent Akoun an MP from Cote d’Ivoire called for more capacity workshop like what is being witnessed for all parliaments on the African continent. He spoke on the security situation in Cote D’Ivoire and said that much progress has been made in respect of peace with people attending to daily routines unimpeded. He added that DDR has been on-going in Cote d’Ivoire and the exercise has seen the collection of many weapons from combatants. He also pointed out that the architectural design of African democracy emanated or drew inspiration from a one party system of governance in recent past. Thus the mosaic of our political thinking still has the decoration of the executive arm controlling everything. Such thinking according to him affects parliament in their oversight responsibilities. This was inline with Hon. Dr. Kunbuor’s earlier remarks about the misuse of party whip and the fear of MPs being chastised by their parties which ultimately limits their effectiveness in parliamentary debates.

### **The Communiqué**

A communiqué was issued at the end of the workshop which called on governments of the ECOWAS sub-region among others to speed up the harmonization of security sector regulations, formulate comprehensive security sector policies to address threats to the security of the sub-region, review relevant legislations on the security sector to reflect current democratic dispensations and strengthen the operational capacity of sub-regional parliamentarians.

#### **COMMUNIQUE FROM NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EXTRACTION INDUSTRY AND BORDER MANAGEMENT TO THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS OF MEMBER STATES OF ECOWAS, ON TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST, 2006**

We, Members of Parliament from Ghana, Senegal, Mali and Cote d’Ivoire, civil society organisations, government agencies and international institutions, attending a two day consultation on the extraction industry and border management, organised from 14 – 15 August, 2006 by the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA), with the support of the Open Society Initiative of West Africa (OSIWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ghana IN recognition of efforts of the Governments of the ECOWAS sub-region in implementing the provisions of the ECOWAS Protocol relating to the Mechanism for conflict prevention, management, resolution, peacekeeping and security signed in Lomé on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1999 and the

supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (A/SP1/12/01) adopted in December 2001 in Dakar (Senegal)

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the initiative taken by governments to combat trans-border crime and to create and maintain a violence-free society

**CONCERNED** about the continuous use of the ports of Member States of the ECOWAS subregion as transit points for human trafficking and illicit goods and services such as drugs, weapons, etc.

**DISTURBED** by the prevalence and level of poverty and exploitation of vulnerable groups in some parts of Ghana and the sub-region

**WORRIED** about the potential escalation of trans-border crime in the sub-region

**AGITATED** by the national security threat posed by drug trafficking in Ghana and the subregion as a whole

**ALARMED** by the terrible implications of inertia of science education, the de-linking of science and technology from national development, and

**AGONISED** by the devastating socio-economic impact of small arms on human life and property

**Hereby call**

- For the strengthening of the operational capacity of the sub-regional parliamentarians in their oversight responsibility in all sectors of governance
- For review of the relevant legislation on the security sector to reflect current democratic dispensations in the sub-region
- On Governments to take lead in the discussions and control of the proliferation of small arms in the West African sub region in particular and Africa in general
- Initiate the formulation of comprehensive security sector policies which address the threats the sub-region is exposed to and informed by global and regional contexts
- Build a critical mass for formulating and implementing national programmes of action on the ECOWAS convention on SALWs in particular and other security sector protocols in general and eventually
- Speed up the harmonization of security sector regulations within the sub-region.

**Dated in Accra this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2006**