

**OPENING REMARKS AT THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP ON  
IMPLEMENTING REGIONAL PROTOCOLS FOR SECURITY AND  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE ECOWAS, 17 AUGUST 2006 AT ERATA HOTEL,  
ACCRA  
BY AFI YAKUBU, DIRECTOR, FOSDA**

Good morning, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to this workshop on IMPLEMENTING REGIONAL PROTOCOLS FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ECOWAS. The workshop brings together parliamentarians from Liberia, Mali, Senegal and Ghana. Also in attendance are officials from the UNDP, ECOWAS, and civil society organisations. This two day workshop will elicit discussions on important topics relevant to the advancement of the ECOWAS in this globalize world, where regional organisations play a key role.

Since 2002, FOSDA has organised a series of workshops, conferences and awareness programmes which are all geared towards improving human security in the West African sub-region. I dear say, most of our work yielded some positive results.

With the calibre of participants and resource persons attending this particular workshop I am convinced that at the end of it all constructive and ACTIONABLE recommendations would be made. I am curious about how the theme of the workshop will be handled. 'Implementing Regional Protocols for Security and Development in ECOWAS'. ECOWAS abounds with protocols.

Since its creation in 1975 ECOWAS has engaged actively in the signing and adoption of several protocols. In 1978 the Protocol on Non-Aggression (PNA) was signed. In 1981 the Protocol Relating to Mutual Assistance on Defence (PMAD) was also signed. In 1993 the ECOWAS Treaty was revised. In 1999 the ECOWAS Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security was signed. In 2001 the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance was adopted. The latest addition to the huddle of protocols is the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and other Related Materials which was signed in June 2006. Eventhough the sub regional body has made impressive achievements in the areas of conflict management and peacekeeping, its principal objective of promoting the socio-economic development through regional co-operation to improve the living standards in the sub-region is still on the drawing table. Implementation of the various protocols at the national and regional levels is vital if the peoples of the region are to feel the impact of ECOWAS.

One fundamental problem in Africa is the lack of effective implementation of our standing agreements, protocols, conventions etc. For instance if the agreement on the free movement of persons, goods and capital is to be effective with an impact on the regional economy then there is the need for the removal of the numerous road blocks and border control and replaced by modern methods of border control using current technology.

It my fervent hope that the topics that would be discussed in the next two days will throw more light on how the array of protocols and provisions can be harnessed by the

governments of ECOWAS to address environmental threats, poverty, disease and trans-national crime. For it is only when these threats are removed that true regional economic integration can take place.

We are extremely happy that you have all been able to come. Welcome, Bon arrive, and Akoaba

For and on behalf of FODSA,  
Ms. Afi Yakubu,