

set leadership standards through codes of ethics and conduct and be prepared to name violators of such codes; in this way ECOWAS can strive to improve leadership performance in West Africa;

undertake an audit of current cooperation activities to assess their impact on the rights of children; develop indices and other measures for ensuring policy and program sensitivity to the protection of the rights of children and women;

appoint a Panel of Eminent West Africans to spearhead advocacy in the protection of the rights of children and women, ensure the visibility of children's and women's issues, their constant presence on the "front burner," the mobilization of resources to address them, and assist in monitoring performance at national levels; and in so doing, work in close cooperation with the UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict and relevant others.

- As the CRC reporting process calls for a national report every 5 years, ECOWAS, must convene an extraordinary summit every 3 years to review progress in the implementation of national plans of action on the implementation of conventions and agreements on the protection of the rights of children and women.
- Create and strengthen a framework for increased civil society partnership in sub-regional governance;

Actions Required at the International Level:

The international community is called upon to assist the process of promoting and protecting the rights of children and women by supporting governance initiatives at all levels as follows:

- Offer debt relief under an arrangement that links it to demonstrated domestic commitment to poverty reduction plans that strategically target women and children, reduce military budgets, stem cross-border flows of small arms, improve human rights and build governance partnerships with civil society, among other measures;
- Support capacity building for improved governance at all levels, especially with respect to the protecting the rights of women and children;
- Intensify international campaigns to stem the flow of small arms and light weapons, encourage disarmament and create and sustain an international climate conducive to development;
- Impose sanctions and take other measures to address impunity;