

- (4) A Plan of Action highlighting emerging themes and recommendations that could be used as a guide for future initiatives in the areas of demobilizing, rehabilitating and re-integrating war-affected children in West Africa;
- (5) Measures to strengthen the mechanism for halting the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the sub-region.

We have two days to accomplish our task but I am confident that we can achieve the goals we seek because the objective is urgent and noble and must be accomplished in the quickest time possible.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I cannot conclude my remarks without expressing once again, appreciation to all ECOWAS States for honouring our invitation to dialogue on the issues of this Conference. I would also like to say a big thank you to the Government of Canada for the solidarity it has shown to West Africa and for supporting Ghana to host this all-important Conference. It is a measure of this solidarity that in addition to Canada meeting most of the costs of this Conference, we are privileged to have among us my good friend and colleague, Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada who will be co-chairing this Conference with me. We are confident that as a member of the exclusive Club of Developed Countries, Canada will use her influence to encourage Donor Countries to appreciate the enormity of the task which we have assumed and extend to us the much needed assistance which will make it possible for us to achieve positive results.

I wish the Conference every success.