

compile and report immediately on signs of potential conflict;

- b. Bolster ECOWAS early warning capacity so that the four Observation and Monitoring Zonal Bureaux can network with designated centres in national capitals and oversee an early warning network with the aim of protecting children from involvement in conflicts;
- c. Ensure that media representatives are afforded the necessary freedom to recognize and report responsibly and accurately on potential and actual conflicts;
- d. Identify groups or individuals who are willing and able to function as non-partisan mediators, and provide support that they may be mobilized at short notice to defuse conflict situations;
- e. In conflict prone areas, encourage dialogue between opposing factions by holding periodic meetings with community leaders and other local authorities, including women and young people.

C. REGIONAL INITIATIVES

(i) ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Mechanism

- a. **Integrating Child Protection into ECOWAS Peacemaking Initiatives**
Ensure that the protection and well-being of children features systematically in any negotiations to end war and peace accords.
- b. **Integrating the protection of children into ECOWAS peacekeeping operations**
Ensure that the following measures are incorporated into ECOWAS peacekeeping operations:
 - That the protection and rights of children are explicitly provided for in the mandates of ECOWAS Peacekeeping missions;
 - That child protection advisers are attached to ECOWAS field missions;
 - That appropriate training is provided for all peacekeeping personnel with regard to the rights and protection of children.

COMMIT to promote sub-regional, cross-border initiatives to reduce the flow of small arms and light weapons, the recruitment and abduction of children, the displacement of populations and the separation of families, as well as illicit trade in natural resources.

CALL on the international community to provide more support to host countries and