

**REPORT ON
TWO-DAY STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP ON
EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON INTERNAL
CONFLICTS AND DISASTERS**

ORGANISED BY

KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION [KAF]

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

**6TH - 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2005
VOLTA HOTEL, AKOSOMBO**

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

Conflicts and disasters have become endemic in most parts of Africa, and Ghana is no exception. Though it is acknowledged that Ghana is an island of peace in a turbulent sea, it has got its own fair share of conflicts in various part of the country during the past decades.

Most conflicts which have engulfed nations and wrecked untold hardships on the citizens and destroyed state infrastructure, have often begun as minor family, clan, tribal, religious, traditional or chieftaincy feuds.

Even though such occurrences cannot totally be ruled out , it is believed that even before these feuds degenerate into large-scale conflicts and constitute threats to national peace, the existence of a workable Policy on Early Warning System on Internal Conflicts and Disasters, with in-built Response Mechanisms, could go a long way to quell them, even before they spread. After all, prevention, it has proven, is less expensive than cure.

It is in this light that the Konrad Adenaur Foundation [KAF], a German Non-Governmental Organisation which is committed to governance issues, in conjunction with Ministry of the Interior, which has over-all responsibility for internal security, thought it expedient to organise a Stakeholders' Workshop on Internal Conflicts and Disasters with the aim of bringing all shade of opinions to bear on the formulation of effective Early Warning System Policy Document for the country.

The Programme which is in line with the Ministry's strategic plan, was also to offer all the Stakeholders and the Experts in the field of Conflict Management, the opportunity to thoroughly deliberate on the Matrices which had been developed by the Mui-ti-Sectoral Committee responsible for the formulation of the Policy Document.

2.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the workshop were the following:-

- To create an avenue for Participants and the Committee Members to interact and share ideas as to come out with an acceptable the final policy.
- To assemble all those who matter with regards to the formulation of the Policy.
- To afford experts in the area to make the necessary inputs;
- To offer stakeholders the opportunity to study the matrices put together by the Committee and make the necessary contributions;
- To come out with an acceptable Document that will owned by all and could stand the test of time.

3.0 METHODOLOGY:

The under-mentioned methodology was used:-

- Forty-five [45]-minute Lectures by Resource persons;
- Statements by identified Organisations;
- General discussions, questions and comments.
- Workshop Session.
- Report-Back session.

4.0 EXPECTATIONS

The expectations of the organisers were the following;

- Dispassionate discussion of the subject
- Identification of the indicators of various Politically related Conflicts;
- Identification of the major indicators of Socio-Cultural Conflicts;
- Identification of the major indicators of Economic and Natural Resources based Conflicts and Disasters;.
- Formulation of Early Responses measures to counteract Conflicts and Disaster;.
- Production of a comprehensive matrix on Early Warning system on internal conflicts and disasters;
- Production of a Policy Document on Early Warning system on internal conflicts and disasters which will become a model for the sub-region.

5.0 WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION:

5.1 The opening ceremony attracted about sixty (60) people including Media personnel.

5.2 The Deputy Minister of Interior, Hon. Nkrabea Effah-Dartey, [MP], gave the keynote address while Nana Kobina Nketsia IV. Omanhene of Essikado was the Chairman for the function.

5.3 The Ministry was led by the Chief Director, Mr. Edwin Barnes. Also in attendance was the Director of Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation [PPMED] and RSIM, Mr. Roland A. Modey who was the Moderator.

Find the complete attendant list as Appendix “A”

6.0 OPENING CEREMONY

6.1 The opening prayer was said by Mrs. Beatrice A. Obro, Assistant Director, Ministry of Education and Sports after participants were welcomed by the Moderator of the workshop, Mr. R.A. Modey. This was followed by the Opening Remarks by the Chairman, Nana Kobina Nketsia IV, Chief of Esikado. He underscored the importance of the workshop and stressed the need for the participants to really delve deep into issues to enable them identify the actual causes of the problems facing this nation as far as conflicts and disasters were concerned.

6.2 Mr. Ben Guri, Programme Co-ordinator, KAF who made a statement on behalf of KAF Country Director, pointed out the essence of the workshop and its effects on governance. He enumerated some of the programmes KAF had organised with other MDA's and declared his organisation's intention to support any programme that have a bearing on enhancing good governance in general and internal peace in particular.

6.3 The Deputy Minister of Interior thanked the KAF for their support and enumerated the numerous conflicts types in Ghana; and stressed on the fact that any incident which creates tension such that law and order breaks down giving way for mayhem was of great

concern to the government. He charged participants to work very hard to produce a document that could be relied upon in minimizing the numerous potential conflicts that stare government in the face.

6.4 Mr. Ojielo Ozonnia Peace & Governance Advisor, UNDP, focused on the need for Early Response Mechanism.

6.5 The Chief Director, Mr. E.P.D. Barnes, briefed the participants on the essence of the workshop and the expectations. He also presented a general overview of the Matrices that were developed by the Committee and charged members to take dispassionate look at them.

6.6 In his closing remarks, Nana Kobina Nkatsia IV charged participants to use their level of experience and knowledge to help in enhancing the well being of the people of Ghana.

6.7 The opening section was brought to a close with prayer by C/Supt. Amadu Salifu, Operation Commander of CID Headquarters.

Find attached copies of the speeches by KAF's representative and Hon. Deputy Minister for the Interior, as Appendix B¹, B²

7.0 WORKING SESSION I-PRESENTATIONS

7.1 This session featured six (6) main presentations by Resource persons. Additionally representatives from National Union of Ghana Students [NUGS], Trade Union Congress [TUC] and Ministry of Environment and Science [MES] were also given opportunity to make brief statements in their areas of concern.

LECTURE 1-EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON INTERNAL CONFLICTS-UN PERSPECTIVE.

7.2 Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, UNDP representative, Peace and Governance Advisor, tackled the subject matter from UN perspective. He focused on the need to go further to put in place Early Response mechanisms to address the issue of Conflicts and Disasters and welcomed the idea of establishing Peace Unit in the Ministry of the Interior to focus on prevention of conflicts.

LECTURE 2- EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON INTERNAL CONFLICTS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC [STUDENTS'] CONFLICTS.

7.2 With reference to Students Conflicts, Dr. Vladimir Antwi - Danso, from Legon Centre for International Affairs, [LECIA], University of Ghana, gave a detailed and practical exposition on the subject.

LECTURE 3- EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON SOCIO-CULTURAL CONFLICTS

7.3 Dr. William Ahadzi, Centre for Policy Social Analysis, University of Ghana, Legon, exposed participants on the subject matter with reference to Socio-Cultural Conflicts.

LECTURE 4- EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON CHIEFTAICY, LAND AND ETHNIC-BASED CONFLICTS

7.4 The issue of Chieftaincy, Land and Ethnic-Based Conflicts- practical examples in Ghana was handled by Nana Kobina Nketsia IV.

LECTURE 5- EARLY WARNING SYSTEM-WEST AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES

7.5 Mr. Eben Jacob Enoch from West Africa Network on Peace-building [WANEP] looked at Early Warning System from the West African Sub-Regional perspective.

LECTURE 6- EARLY WARNING SYSTEM-AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE.

7.5 On his part, Mr. Emmanuel Sowatey from Africa Security Dialogue and Research [ASDR] brought his various research experiences on the field of conflicts in Africa to bear on the discussion. Find attached copies of the various presentations as appendix C.

7.6 After the Presentations, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and call for clarification on some of the pertinent issues raised in the presentations. Members also came out with laudable suggestions and contributions.

Appendix C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5 represent copies of the lectures delivered by the Resource persons.

8.0 WORKING SESSION II-SYNDICATE DISCUSSIONS

8.1 There were three [3] Syndicate Groups formed with each Group working on one aspect of Conflicts with reference to the Matrices that had been designed by the Committee.

8.2 Group One, Group Two and Group Three looked at Political Conflicts, Socio-Cultural Conflicts and Economic and Natural Resource Based Conflicts respectively. All the Groups were allowed to make their presentations after which the floor was opened for interventions, reaction and interactions.

8.3 At the close of the discussions the Groups were able to refine the existing Matrices and came out with their observations and recommendations.

9.0 CLOSING:

9.1 The Closing Section of the Workshop made room for reports from the Leaders of the three [3] Syndicate Groups, the Chairman and the Moderator of the Workshop.

9.2 When he was given the floor, the leader of the Political Conflicts Group, Lt. Col. Tetteh-Akunnor, Ghana Army, recommended that in formulating the Policy Document, much care should be taken in order to avoid what they termed as Multi-Responsible Institutions so as to curb Conflict of Operations and Interest. There should be a Co-

ordinated or Centralised Implementation Agency otherwise known as National Operational Room.

9.3 On their part, the Socio-Cultural Conflicts Group observed that the various root causes such as Land disputes, Inter-tribal conflicts, Flooding and Drought were likely to create poor socio economic development. They therefore recommended that, there should be clearly defined government policies such as public education, mediation and consultations by the target audience to create the required awareness.

9.4 The Group on Economic and Natural Resource Based Conflicts pointed out that Research and Development Units of various responsible Agencies must be properly equipped to perform their roles effectively and efficiently. Agencies needed to enforce bye-laws and uphold regulations while awareness, training and education of all stakeholders should be encouraged. They were of the opinion that while the Policy Formulation was on-going the responsible Institutions must act on some of the issues raised before the Document would be adopted.

9.5 Mr. E.P.D. Barnes, Chief Director, Ministry of the Interior who chaired that Session of the Workshop, used the opportunity to thank the participants for their presence and keen participation. He expressed profound gratitude especially to the Members of the Committee who had been involved in all the stages in the production of the matrices.. Mr. Barnes assured members that what transpired at the Workshop would be taken into consideration in the final draft of the policy and any other useful information would be welcomed.

9.6 This brought the proceedings of the day to a close, after Workshop Moderator, Mr R.A. Modey had congratulated the participants for their active participation through out the sessions the expertise they exhibited. He was of the views that since the issues raised were pertinent for the work of the Technical Committee and the task of the Committee borders on the very existence of the nation there was the need for all hands to be brought on deck in finding answers to them.

10.0 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

- There should be a co-ordinated and Centralized Implementation Agency or National Operation Room to implement the recommendations;
- There was the need to avoid multiple institutions addressing the problems to avoid un-necessary rivalry;
- It was observed that the major problem creating land disputes is the poor land administrative system and lack of a land policy. It was recommended that all land related agencies should be co-coordinated. The main strategy to curb land disputes was to institute effective communication strategy to create awareness on land policy;

- .It was recommended that due to the retardation of development brought about by chieftaincy disputes, the National House of Chiefs should be empowered to have clear succession plans in the various traditional areas of the country;
- It was also recommended that to ensure good governance, political interference in chieftaincy institutions, among others, should be discouraged;
- It was observed that the influx of alien herdsmen into the country is on the increase and that it is posing serious security and government should `make strict policies on quarantines at our borders to quarantine herdsmen and their cattle to avoid diseases and other epidemics. It was recommended that the movement of herdsmen in the country must be monitored and herdsmen who violate our laws be prosecuted. Finally as a long term measure, Governments in the sub-region should endeavour to make our borders “green” in order to curtail the influx of alien herdsmen into the country;
- With regard to influx of refugees, the committee observed that cross - border conflicts, political/ religious persecution, and natural disasters, were among the major causes of the influx of refugees. It was recommended that good governance and good neighborliness should be promoted in the sub-region;
- Again, since some of the causes are now avoidable, the government should strengthen the various relevant institutions and encourage them to collaborate with the UNHCR to deal with the situation when they arise;
- Religious interference, clashes between different religious faiths and lack of clear lines of allegiance to state and religion were identified as the major problems associated with socio-cultural conflicts. It was therefore recommended that, the National Commission on Civic Education be strengthened to regulate the affairs of all religious bodies;
- It was also observed that there is marked polarization along ethnic lines resulting in heightened tension in the country and there was the need to defuse it. It was recommended that a vigorous national campaign on the need to see ourselves as one people with one destiny, be embarked upon. It was suggested that there was the need to explore the positive side of own differences to strengthen our national unity.
- As a way of promoting good Governance, equitable distribution of the national cake as well as regional balance in appointments was to be encouraged.

- It was recommended that there should be what is termed as a “Peace Fund” to finance measures to sustain peace in the country;
- The Research and Development units of Ministry of Health and various responsible agencies must be properly equipped / funded to perform their roles effectively.
- Better enforcement of bye laws and regulations was recommended;
- The Technical Committee was to meet again to review the document for further discussions.
- Responsible institutions must act now on some of the issues raised before the document is adopted.

11.0 CONCLUSION:

The two-day Stakeholders’ Workshop on Early Warning System on Internal Conflicts and Disasters was successful to a large extent. The goals set were achieved. As indicated in the closing remarks, the indicators of internal conflicts and disasters were clearly identified as regards political, labour, students, socio-cultural and economic conflicts. The need to finalise the production of a comprehensive Policy Document on Early Warning System on Internal Conflicts and Disasters was stressed. The document, when finalized should be implemented by relevant stakeholders with the requisite expertise. However, it was unanimously agreed that, it would be more worthwhile if another workshop could be held before the final output would be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

APPENDIX 'A'
ATTENDANCE LIST.

NO.	NAME	INSTITUTION	POSITION	TELEPHONE NOS.
1.	Jacob Enoh Eben	WANEP	Programme Coordinator	021-221318 0244-162450
2.	Sowatey Emmanuel	A.S.D.R	Researcher	020819978 021-510515
3.	Kwadwo Addo	M.O.F.A	Desk Officer	0243-410085
4.	Beatrice A. Obro	M.O.E&S	Asst. Director	0244-757099
5.	Col. Yahaya (Rtd)	NSCS	Director	020-814-7275
6.	Osonnia Ojielo	UNDP	P&GA	0244-313118
7.	J. H. Anquandaa	GTUC	Head. Adm.	027-7654661
8.	A.E. Dadzie	GTUC	G.S.C.	020-2004128
9.	Kwaku Dua	BNI	HOD	0244-329237
10.	Raymond Adu	BNI	Official	0244-732037
11.	Emmanuel Amasah	BNI	2 I/C E.R.C.	0244-514547
12.	William Ahadzie	U.O.G	Lecturer	02444-523554
13.	Joanna Mensah	A C F	ED	0244-730395
14.	M.A. Bawumia	MOTI	AD	0244-377277
15.	Edwin Barnes	MOTI	CD	664783/0244- 285912
16.	Bern Guri	KAF	PD	768627
17.	Patricia Dovi Sampson	M.O.I	Asst. Director	0244-292133
18.	Ebenezer Sam	MOTI	ADIIB	0243-473224
19.	Ebenezer D. Addo	M.O.J.	Deputy Director	021-682525 020- 8501401
20.	L.K.Djokoto	MOFA	Director	0244-803761
21.	Peter Owusu Manu	MOFA	Asst. Director	0244-288356
22.	Doii Paa Kwasi Adutwum	GNTS	Asst. Dir. Fire Safety Dept	0244-362068
23.	Lt. Col.E. Tetteh Akunor	GA	Deputy Director AO	0244-785456
24.	C/Supt. Ransford Ninson	GPS	Deputy Chief Staff Officer	020-8174850
25.	C/Supt Amadu Salifu	C/D Headquarters	Anti Armed Robbery	020-8174346
26.	ASP John Habada	C/D Headquarters	Deputy Director	0244251033
27.	Emmanuel Abyawor Norieo	Min. of Environment & Science	Deputy Director	0244-251033
28.	Emm. Yeboah-Darko	NUGS	Press & Inf. Service	0243-463157
30.	Alex. Asamoah Nyarko	Min. of Local Government	Deputy Director	0243-440282
31.	W.K. Baffoe-Mensah	BNI	Hd of Dept.	0243-29239

32.	George Yeboah Afan	GPS	Police Hqrs	020-5155413
33.	Alex. Appau-Akoto	NADMO	D.N. C-Od	0244-563671
34.	Kwaku Dua	BNI	Head of Operation	0244-329237
35.	Edward N. Noi	CEPS	D. C	021-677303 0244-316273
36.	Sandra Dickson	BNI	Asst. Staff Officer	0244-528991
37.	Edward N. Noi	CEPS	Dep. Commissioner	021-677303 0244-316273
38.	Beatrice A. Obro	MOES	Asst. Director	021-683632 0244-757099
39.	A.E. Dadzie	CO GTUC	Gen. Secretary	020-2004128
40.	Emmanuel Yeboah-Darko	NUGS	Press & Inf. Secretary	0243-463157
42.	Ekow Asabir	TV3		0277-408413
43.	Emmanuel Ersey	TV3		0244-460459
44.	Kojo Hayford	TV3		0244-936881
45.	Mark Anthony Vinorkor	Daily Graphic		0244-206786
46.	Ken Sackey	GNA		0244-638610
47.	Effah Dartey	Ministry of Interior	Deputy Minister/MP	
48.	Nana Kobina Nketsia IV	Sekondi-Asikado	Senior Lecturer & Paramount Chief	
49.	Dr. Vladimir Antwi-Danso	Univ. of Ghana	Senior Lecturer	
50.	Dr. William Ahadzi	Univ. of Ghana	Senior Lecturer	

