

Creating the Political Space for Prevention: How ECOWAS Supports Nationally Led Strategies

September 17th, 2019, from 1.15 to 2.45pm,
Norwegian Mission to the UN – One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 35th Floor

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is well known for its success in preventing violence in the region over the past decades. Particularly, it has implemented high-profile efforts in mediating conflict in the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau and has supported peaceful transfers of power in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Benin, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire. In complement, ECOWAS has also developed an upstream (root causes) prevention approach alongside its preventative diplomacy (downstream) efforts. This upstream approach is culminating in the recent implementation of National Coordination Centers for the Early Warning and Response Mechanisms (national center); in each country, a center is or will be created to implement early action in the face of rising risks, and adopt other longer-term integrated upstream prevention approaches.

On the occasion of the launch of a new CIC policy briefing, "Creating the Political Space for Prevention: How ECOWAS Supports Nationally Led Strategies," we are pleased to invite you to a lunch discussion on ECOWAS's approach. The seminar will touch upon:

- ECOWAS's prevention architecture
- ECOWAS's approach to early warning and early response
- How ECOWAS supports member states in their priorities for prevention
- How ECOWAS has built trust with member states to establish a strong upstream prevention collaboration

The discussion will also look into the relationship between ECOWAS and the UN on prevention in the region, and at ideas for strengthening the relationship.

Agenda

1. **Introductory remarks by Ambassador Tanou Kone and representative of the Norwegian mission**
2. **Presentation of the Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) approach by the ECOWAS Director of Early Warning, Dr. Abdou Lat Gueye (by Video Teleconferencing)**
 - ECOWAS's approach to prevention and early warning/early response
 - How ECOWAS supports member states in their priorities for prevention
 - Examples of ECOWAS's successful approach
 - The relationship between ECOWAS and the UN on prevention in the region, and ideas for strengthening the relationship
3. **Brief presentation of the policy briefing on ECOWAS by Dr. Paige Arthur, CIC Deputy-Director**
4. **Moderated discussion**