



Regional Forum on Media,  
**Peace and Security**  
in West Africa

**Abidjan, 14-15 June 2012**



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## Press release

**Abidjan, 15 June, 2012** - The International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) held a regional Forum on Media, Peace and Security in West Africa, on 14 and 15 June 2012 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).

This important meeting, organized in partnership with the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire recorded the participation of nearly 100 national and international experts as well as representatives of the African Union, the United Nations and various international organizations working in the field of media.

Confronted with the worrying political situations of the West African sub region, the OIF and the UNOWA had deemed important to further discuss the role of the media in peace and security and set the foundation for a prospective analysis.

Therefore, following two days of successful and extensive discussions, the participants adopted a Declaration which will serve as a tool to better direct the involvement of the international and regional institutional actors, States, representatives of civil society and media professionals working in the field of media and security in West Africa.

Convinced of the crucial role of the media in the search for and promotion of peace, the participants have decided, among others, to envisage the establishment - in the near future - of a West African network of journalists specialized in peace and security issues which would oversee the effective implementation of the recommendations included in the final Declaration of the Forum.

The Abidjan Forum was an extension of the Praia Conference on the Elections, Peace and Security in West Africa (May 2011) as well as the Bamako Conference on Impunity, Justice and the Human Rights in West Africa (December 2011), co-organized by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the International Organization of la Francophonie in collaboration with ECOWAS and the African Union.

### ***For more information***

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