

**COMUNIDADE ECONOMICA DOS  
ESTADOS DA AFRICA OCIDENTAL**



The priority themes of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women are in line with the strategic goals of the ECOWAS Commission's policies and programmes, and the Commission is pro-actively implementing

actions to support the prevention and response to all forms violence against women in all spheres of its regional cooperation and development programmes.

I will devote my address to three important areas of ECOWAS intervention to ensure the elimination, prevention and response to violence against women and girls, namely in the areas of, (1) promotion of democracy,

Peace and Security Action Plan to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender into all security and peace processes, and also facilitated the set-up of a Regional Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWECO).

respect, our project on Business Incubator for African Women  
Entrepreneurs (BIAWE) being funded by the NEPAD-Spanish Fund for

Africa deserves to be mentioned. The BIAWE concept is aimed at  
addressing the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in both

Directorate in charge of Gender and Child. The ECOWAS Commission looks forward to sharing experiences and good practices from this annual meeting which we can use to enrich our resolve to promote gender equality and women empowerment in the region. I wish us all a very fruitful deliberation.