

This Discussion Paper provides insights into the challenges posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in West Africa, paying particular attention to the ECOWAS convention on small arms and light weapons as a collective sub-regional response to a potent threat to peace, security and development. It connects global and regional discourses on illicit arms control and provides a balanced, empirical examination of the performance of the convention. It is a useful contribution to debates on arms-proliferation control in Africa and provides well-informed recommendations of interest to scholars, peace activists, policy practitioners and strategists working on peace and security in Africa.

Dr. LINDA DARKWA is a research fellow at the Legon Centre for International Affairs (LECIA), University of Ghana, Legon. She teaches graduate courses in peace and security, international humanitarian law and gender and international relations. She is also a facilitator with the International Training Programme on Peace Building and Good Governance for African Civilian Personnel (ITPPGG), an international training partnership coordinated by LECIA along with the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs and Italian ministry of foreign affairs. Dr Darkwa was an African guest researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute between January and March 2011.

## The Challenge of Sub-Regional Security in West Africa

THE CASE OF THE 2006 ECOWAS CONVENTION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

LINDA DARKWA

**Nordiska Afrikainstitutet**  
The Nordic Africa Institute

Nordiska Afrikainstitutet  
(The Nordic Africa Institute)  
P.O. Box 1703  
SE- 751 47 Uppsala, Sweden  
[www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se)

