

“Mano River Region at Risk?: Post-Conflict Conversations Within and Across Borders”

Monrovia, Liberia: January 13th & 14th, 2009

A “States at Regional Risk” Conference (SARR)
sponsored by the Institute of Critical International Studies of Emory University

FOCUSING QUESTIONS:

The following questions were the basis of panel discussions at the conference. Each participant was asked to respond specifically to one of the questions in a brief position paper submitted prior to the conference. This format enabled all participants-- including leaders of humanitarian organizations, policy makers, and academic scholars--to engage in pragmatic, issue-orientated conversations using these questions as starting points.

Session One: *Under what conditions are international peacekeeping operations appropriate? Looking forward, how should they ideally unfold in the future? How might they differ in various contexts in West Africa?*

Session Two: *Conflicts often unwittingly transform patterns of gender, ethnic, class, and other inequalities. What is the best way to harness and reinforce the potentially positive aspects of this collateral effect of conflict?*

Session Three: *What would you do with “no strings attached” donor funding?*

Session Four: *How does a history of porous boundaries and regional movements impact contemporary experiences in the nation-state and the Mano River region? Can international institutions engage in locally relevant regional networks in a meaningful way?*