



## INFORMATION NOTE 1030\*\*\*

### **UNOCI, NGOs conduct sensitization for a peaceful post-election environment in Soko and Wélékéhi**

**Bondoukou, 2 January 2011 ...** The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the Collectif des ONG et Associations de Bondoukou (COAB), a local NGO umbrella, held sensitization sessions on 31 December 2010 in the villages of Soko and Wélékéhi, near Bondoukou [416 km nord-east of Abidjan], to encourage the population to preserve the peace there.

After explaining to the inhabitants of each village the role and mandate of the UN mission, Aminata Betche of the Public Information Office conveyed UNOCI's congratulations for their exemplary behavior during the recent presidential polls. She urged them to maintain a peaceful post-election climate so as to ensure social cohesion and a better future for their village, region and country.

In Soko, inhabited mainly by seven communities - Abron, Bambara, Gbin, Koulango, Malinké, Nafana and Sénoufo - 35 personnes, including the seven community chiefs, were present at the meeting, held in the compound of village chief Kobénan Bénétoit.

At the end of the discussions, the chief's spokesman, Ouattara Adama, thanked UNOCI on behalf of the population, and conveyed the encouragement and blessings of the participating community and religious chiefs for the success of UNOCI's mission. While harmony reigns between the populations, Mr. Ouattara said, it was impossible to do too much to safeguard it, so «we commit ourselves to ensuring a peaceful post-election climate in Soko».

In Wélékéhi, 56 persons attended the meeting, held in the compound of village chief Sié Kobénan, who is also vice-president of the Bondoukou General Council. After a discussion on the attacks against UNOCI on state radio and television, the notables of Wélékéhi expressed the village's satisfaction at the message of peace brought by the delegation.

They also made a commitment to follow the road to peace in the interest of the wellbeing of their village.

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