



West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

WANEP Appeals for Calm in Liberia

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is following with keen interest the on-going political upheaval in Liberia. WANEP is concerned that the accusations and counter-accusations trailing the current electoral process in Liberia, if left unresolved has the potential of jeopardizing the hard-won peace the country has attained. This is more worrisome particularly that Liberia is on the brink of making history, as this election marks the first transition of power from one democratically elected government to another since 1944!

WANEP is particularly concerned that the opportunity of the greater number of Liberian citizens to express themselves and determine their leaders through the poll is being suppressed through the actions of some of the political elites.

WANEP notes that the on-going political stalemate in Liberia is occurring without recourse to the peace accord reached by all the political actors through the Farmington River Declaration signed on the margins of the 51st Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Governments of ECOWAS in Monrovia on June 4, 2017.

WANEP reiterates that dialogue remains the best alternative to peaceful resolution of all the issues and urges the parties concerned to seek amicable ways of resolving the conflict. In this regard, WANEP appreciates the immediate response of the ECOWAS Commission and the Authority through the visit of the ECOWAS President and Chair of the Authority to Liberia to engage the political actors on the 1st of November 2017. WANEP urges the political actors to utilize the opportunity provided by ECOWAS and its allies and to tow the path of peace by prevailing on their supporters not to take the laws into their own hands. We urge all stakeholders to settle their grievances through duly-constituted authority rather than resorting to violence. WANEP further calls on the parties concerned to ensure that the run-off elections are conducted in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility devoid of violence.

WANEP calls on the International Community especially the African Union and United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to give ECOWAS and the people of Liberia their usual support in resolving the impasse and to reinforce all decisions taken by the Community Institution.

As the leading peacebuilding organization and the civil society partner to ECOWAS and African Union, WANEP shall remain seized of the situation and support all initiatives aimed at resolving the issues and concluding the elections/transitions.

Accra, 01 November 2017

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