



West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

August 15, 2017

**The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone
Thru WANEP-Sierra Leone National Secretariat
Freetown, Sierra Leone**

Your Excellency Sir,

Condolence Message to the Government and People of Sierra Leone on the Flood Disaster

The Board, Management and Staff of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) joins the rest of the world to express our deepest condolences to the families and victims of the grave incidences of flooding and mudslides in Sierra Leone which has resulted to loss of lives and wanton destruction of properties. WANEP stands in solidarity with the Government and people of Sierra Leone in these trying times.

Your Excellency Sir, in the midst of this unfortunate incident, we wish to appreciate the government of Sierra Leone for the rapid response to addressing the situation and ensuring the safety of its people. WANEP also acknowledges the support and commitment of all those who are mobilizing efforts and in some instances, even risking their lives to respond to this national tragedy. We specifically commend the efforts of development partners, the Red Cross and other civil society organizations for their untiring efforts and quick response to arrest the situation.

As we count the losses and mourn the dead, WANEP hopes that this will be a wake-up call and serve as an opportunity for us to recognize our humanity and collective responsibilities towards ensuring human security. In this regard, WANEP wishes to appeal to all to be circumspect as information on the effects of the floods is shared, particularly on social media, to ensure utmost responsibility and respect for human dignity.

Your Excellency, the WANEP Board, Management and Staff across the 15 ECOWAS Member States also wish to use this opportunity to appeal to the relevant authorities to find more sustainable measures to prevent such perennial fatalities in future. WANEP recalls that incidences of flooding and mudslides are not new to the country and urges all and sundry to desist from the politicization of this tragedy and the blame game but rather engage in a dispassionate assessment of the issues at hand and explore more integrated and coordinated approaches to mitigate the impact of such natural disasters.

As we express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families, we also pay unreserved tribute to the deceased and wish the wounded speedy recovery. Please be assured Your Excellency that in the face of these trying moments, WANEP remains resolved and committed to the promotion of peace and security in the region.

Yours Sincerely,



Chukwuemeka B Eze
Executive Director

