

## WANEP PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR ECOWAS RIGHT TO EDUCATION AGENDA



***WANEP Deputy Executive Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, making her presentation at the Opening Session of the ECOWAS Human Rights Day Celebrations held on 16th January, 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia***

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) has pledged to support the ECOWAS Commission and Member States to implement the Right to Education agenda through its Peace Education Program. The commitment was contained in a solidarity message by the WANEP Deputy Executive Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah at the Opening Session of the ECOWAS Human Rights Day Celebrations held on 16th January, 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia.

The Deputy Executive Director, who is also the Program Director of WANEP also affirmed that WANEP will avail its resources and structures to support the monitoring and reporting on issues of human rights in the region. The event was attended by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President and Mr. George Manneh Weah, President elect of the Republic of Liberia. Representatives from civil society, regional and continental organizations, the media were also in attendance.

Presenting WANEP's experience in advancing right to education, Mrs. Addae-Mensah said that WANEP establishes that there is a symbiotic relationship between Education and social cohesion/peace and security and acknowledges significant progress and achievement by Member States in terms of Right to education. While recognizing the efforts of various state actors towards accessible, affordable and efficient education, she however reiterated that many gaps and challenges still exists in spite of the progress made. Some of these gaps, according to her include but not limited to over concentration on quantity/numbers of enrollment rather than quality of education, accessibility and affordability to quality education, significant gender gaps in advancing right to education and limited partnerships to support the State.

As part of efforts towards addressing these gaps, Mrs. Addae-Mensah said WANEP will continue working with ECOWAS Commission and Education Ministries of member states to enhance efficiency of education through the development of Peace Education across the region. Part of WANEP's intervention will also include providing capacity building to actors from different levels of the education sector, promoting an understanding of education as a right and exploring incentives for improving accessibility, affordability and efficiency with special emphasis on girl child education. She said WANEP will specifically support the implementation of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security with a focus on the role of education in partnership with ECOWAS Directorate on Education.

She further recommended the continuous sensitization and awareness raising by civil society on various international, continental, regional and national provisions relating to right to education, advocacy and lobbying for the ratification and domestication of normative frameworks and monitoring of implementation of programs and budgets on right to education among others.