



## WANEP and ECOWAS Commission Renew MoU for Collaboration on Peace and Security in West Africa

Accra, Ghana – The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This significant renewal was formalised in Abuja by the President of the ECOWAS Commission and was followed by a symbolic signing ceremony at WANEP's Regional Secretariat in Accra on Friday 26 July 2024.



The MoU renewal underscores the crucial ongoing partnership between WANEP and ECOWAS providing the framework through which WANEP continues to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). Specifically, it focuses on the operationalisation and decentralisation of the Early Warning and Response Mechanism. Through this MOU, WANEP serves as the primary Civil Society Organisation implementing partner to the ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate. WANEP

provides support for the systematic collection, analysis, and reporting of data critical to conflict prevention in the region and conducts research and analysis related to early warning. This Collaboration also extends to supporting National Early Warning and Response Centres, thereby enhancing efforts in conflict prevention and transformation at ECOWAS Member State level.

Beyond Early Warning, WANEP, through its Regional Secretariat, its Liaison Office at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, and its National Secretariats across ECOWAS Member States, continues to engage various departments and units of the ECOWAS Commission. This includes particularly with the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS) to conceptualise, develop and implement initiatives in response to various peace and security threats. These include initiatives cover areas of violent extremism, election management, gender, youth, peace and security.

The MOU reaffirms the commitment of both institutions to the principles of partnership and close cooperation concerning peace and security across West Africa. It will serve as the basis for WANEP and ECOWAS to work together to integrate specific civil society perspectives in line with the spirit and tenets of ECOWAS agenda 2050.