



"It is a collective responsibility to be able to build the reputation of an organization so that at the end of the day, we would have an organization we all will be proud of."

Professor Isaac Albert, Regional Board Chair

"WANEP is one of the most determined, most organized, partners of ECOWAS with a track-record of making strategic inputs to ECOWAS which no-one can dispute across Africa."

- Dr. Abdel Fatau-Musa, Deputy Head of Office and Director of Political Affairs, UN Office to AU



Participants at the Board Retreat including National and Regional Board members, Regional office staff and Mrs. Nana Asantewa Afadzina, the Executive Director of the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) who gave the keynote address (Nana making her presentation right)

WANEP Holds Inaugural Board Retreat

WANEP News is a quarterly E-Newsletter of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, (WANEP). It provides substantive information on our work in a breezy yet informative style, detailing the communities we serve, the principles underpinning our work and our key achievements. **WANEP News** is a platform to keep our key partners and major stakeholders abreast with our intervention strategies towards promoting a peaceful environment in the region and beyond and the key lessons from the field.

As always with our tradition and in the spirit of partnership, networking and community ownership, **WANEP News** will also feature collaborative efforts with tactical partners in achieving peaceful co-existence as an avenue for experience sharing and best practices. We will also highlight WANEP's social events and Teambuilding strategies in both narrative and pictorial formats.

In a nutshell, **WANEP News** is telling our story our own way! Happy Reading!

In its continuous efforts to strengthen organizational governance architecture for increased efficiency, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP held an inaugural retreat for its board members from the national networks and the regional secretariat. This is in line with the organization's conscious transformation from a project-driven to a vision-driven organization. WANEP's highest decision-making body, the General Assembly took a giant step in 2010 to professionalize the WANEP Board both at the national and regional levels in order to ensure the functionality of the organization as a leading CSO in peace and security in West Africa.

Mrs. Nana Asantewa Afadzina, the Executive Director of the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) who gave the keynote address described the retreat as "an indication that WANEP takes its growth and effectiveness very seriously and demonstrates its willingness to build a lasting institution." She noted that the composition of WANEP Boards across the region is an array of carefully selected professionals with expertise in different fields and charge them to be committed to delivering the organization's goals.

The inaugural Board Retreat was specifically to orientate the regional and national board Chair persons and provide them with the opportunity of understanding the workings of WANEP, expose them to peacebuilding practice within the broader vision of African Union and ECOWAS peace architec-



TALKING PEACE

WANEP ED Advocates Inclusive Action for Conflict Resolution

Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP Executive Director has said that an effective conflict resolution requires “a more inclusive and action oriented process with focus on information sharing and rumor management, trust building and commitment, synergy of purpose between the government and the entire citizenry.” He said these are the fundamental lessons for anyone involved in nation building and conflict transformation. Mr. Eze made the remarks in a paper he presented at the dialogue forum on the Jos peace process organized by WANEP in collaboration with the Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria (CEPAN) and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR). Below are excerpts of the paper;

On behalf of our board and management, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, CEPAN, G-PAT, the government of Plateau and indeed all the stakeholders gathered here today for their continued support and collaboration with WANEP in the search for durable peace on the Plateau. In the same manner, I salute the courage of the people of plateau state to continue the journey (no matter how difficult and tedious) towards a peaceful and stable environment for themselves and their children yet unborn. Let me therefore from the outset underline WANEP's principle and favour for local ownership of peacebuilding and conflict transformation processes and reiterate that our role is to support rather than replace, encourage rather than undermine, collaborate rather than compete and above all ensure an atmosphere of inclusivity rather than exclusivity.

Ours is becoming a protracted conflict in which the new generation of actors continually loose count of the reason why they are executing the conflict apart from the single stories they have been banqueted to by their parents and “role models”. When conflicts reach a certain crescendo and takes on the shapes and dimension of identity, issues are lost and superficially incompatible differences are created to further fuel the conflict. Rather than focus on the issues, parties focus on how they outwit and maneuver the other. In over a decade now, Plateau state has been faced with a vicious cycle of violent conflicts that has claimed the lives of thousands and destruction of livelihoods estimated at billions of Naira.

Dear friends, we are, all of us at a crossroads. History bacons on us and urgently too to make the difference, the time to act would have been yesterday, the other time is now. The people with the pedigree to undertake the required actions are right here in this room.

“Cote d'Ivoire Deserves Stable Democracy” - WANEP Programs Director

On behalf of the Executive Director of WANEP, let me welcome all of you to the first substantive meeting of the Steering Committee for the NEWS project. Following the launch of this Steering Committee in August, I am particularly excited that this meeting is taking place as it demonstrates your individual commitment to ensure a credible and peaceful electoral process. So let me thank each one of you for being here today.

For WANEP, this meeting marks a significant step towards consolidating the peace and stability that the people of Cote d'Ivoire deserve and have been striving for. WANEP is pleased that despite the previous experiences of an electoral process, which led to violent conflict in the country, the people of Cote d'Ivoire have still chosen the path of democracy and demonstrated great resilience in the period leading up to the next elections. This is highly commendable.

WANEP has been monitoring events in the country for the past few years and I would like to at this point, commend the various institutions and individual actors who have worked and continue to work tirelessly to ensure the consolidation of peace and that the upcoming election are effectively managed. You all here represent some of these institutions and I would therefore like to humbly request that we give a round of applause for all your efforts.

Today, we gather here as a steering committee that will serve as the critical link between alert and responses to these alerts. Your respective institutions have been invited to be part of this committee because of the recognition of your critical role in ensuring peace and security and also, of our confidence and trust in your abilities and capabilities to ensure that risks identified particularly in relation to electoral violence are averted or mitigated. My colleagues will in subsequent sessions share with you some of these alerts as monitored and analyzed by the NEWS project. So let me end here by thanking each one of you for coming. We are aware this is an extremely busy period for you and therefore we really appreciate your presence here and look forward to your active participation.

Let me take this opportunity to thank USAID for both its technical and financial support and finally to our very abled WANEP team here for the excellent organization of this meeting. **(Being paper presented at the Steering Committee meeting on Mitigating Electoral Violence, held in Cote d'Ivoire on Sept 16, 2015)**



EVENTS... EVENTS... EVENTS



Media Outings

WANEP held several media events at the regional office to mark the International Day of Peace which was celebrated on September 21, 2015 and the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on September 26.

WANEP Programs Director, Levinia Addae-Mensah (pictured top left), Regional Coordinators Vincent Azumah and Francis Acquah-Aikins (pictured below left) participated in live radio discussions to discuss WANEP's work in the promotion of sustainable peace in the region.

Peace according to Johann Galtung, "is not only the absence of direct or personal violence but an absence of indirect or structural violence." This structural violence manifests in the uneven distribution of wealth and resources as well as the uneven distribution of power to decide over the distribution of the said resources. These words find relevance in the theme of this year's International Day of Peace tagged; "Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for All."

It also resonates with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP's vision of a "West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction."

WANEP also conducted a vox pop on what peace meant to the populace and got some interesting responses. Pictures on page 6



WANEP Hosts Groups, Other CSOs

As the leading civil society organization in peacebuilding in the region, WANEP is always welcoming numerous groups and organizations in accordance with its mandate of collaborative approach to promoting peace and stability.

In this regard, representatives from the Swedish women organization; Kvinna Till Kvinna and delegates from South Sudan called on WANEP in the quarter. Kvinna is also supporting WANEP Liberia national office on gender based violence program. The South Sudan delegates came in the company of representatives of the Ghana National Peace Council to hear first hand WANEP's contribution to national peace architectures in the region.

Other civil society partners including the Institute for Democratic Governance, IDEG, Media Foundation and the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) also visited WANEP.



WANEP played host to delegates from South Sudan being seen off by WANEP Executive Director above (right). Below right, delegates from Kvinna Till Kvinna and left, CSO partners from IDEG, WACSI and Media Foundation.



FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...

99 Peacebuilders Trained in WAPI 13 and 14 Sessions



WAPI Session 14; Above left, Commandant KAIPTC delivering his speech. Top right WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze giving his address and above, Mr. Vincent Azumah, WANEP M&E Coordinator facilitating a course on M&E

A total of 99 Peacebuilders benefitted from the two sessions of the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute, WAPI held in 2015 in Accra-Ghana. WAPI is the capacity building program of WANEP which comes up every year in collaboration with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, KAIPTC. However, due to the outbreak of the Ebola pandemic in the region which led to an ECOWAS ban on inter-regional travels, the 2014 session was held in 2015.

A total of 46 participants took part in WAPI session 13 and 53 in WAPI 14 session making a total of 99 trained peacebuilders in the year. WAPI participants are drawn from regional and sub regional organizations such as the ECOWAS Commission and the African Union (AU). WAPI is designed to provide specialized, intensive, and cultural sensitive training in conflict transformation and peacebuilding to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and relevant actors from West Africa and beyond through its wide range of courses. The faculty is composed of peacebuilding experts with diverse skills in conflict prevention, early warning, dialogue and mediation among others.

In the past 13 years, WAPI has trained over 500 practitioners and provided the space and platform for the actualization of WANEP's vision for the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa.

WANEP Strengthens Staff Capacity

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP conducts regular capacity building initiatives for staff in its continuous efforts to strengthen and position the organization as a leading professional peacebuilding institution in the region.

WANEP adopts a two-pronged programming approach at both the regional and national levels led by capable staff who are able to work together and contribute their skills and talents towards the actualization of the organization's vision and mission.

In this quarter, a number of WANEP staff both at the regional and national offices benefitted from numerous training opportunities in programming, financial management, strategic communications as well as monitoring and evaluation. Every year, new and old staff are taken through WAPI while refresher courses are held on a regular basis to ensure that all staff are familiar with WANEP thematic areas. These efforts go a long way in achieving the organizational mandate to promote cooperative responses to violent conflict.



Above, WANEP national network staff at WAPI 14th Session. Below, the former Executive Director Emeritus, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande conducting peacebuilding sessions with regional staff



FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...

Jos Peace Process on Course!

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in collaboration with the Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria (CEPAN) and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) held a meeting to review the peace processes in Jos, Plateau state of Nigeria. The meeting which held on September 8, 2015 is in line with WANEP's underlining principles of ensuring local ownership of peacebuilding and conflict transformation and reinforces its belief in collaborative approaches to the promotion of peace in the region.

Speaking at the forum, WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, reiterated that the aim of the forum is to reflect on personal and collective commitments to the peace processes on the Plateau and discuss the actions and inactions that may have contributed towards escalating or deescalating the crises. Mr. Eze stated "that no one can claim to have the solution to the problem of Plateau State more than the people of Plateau," and that no outsider can claim to have the knowledge of the issues more than the people themselves.

Mr. Eze further emphasized that the forum is not a platform to recount fatalities and casualties nor a reminder of the dwindling fortunes of the people due to the conflict and broken relationships. He said the forum rather presents an opportunity for renewed efforts and reflections on our personal and collective commitments to the peace processes in Plateau



A cross section of participants and facilitators including representatives of WANEP, CEPAN and IPCR at the meeting

State of Nigeria has been plagued with violent conflicts for over a decade resulting in the loss of lives and destruction of livelihoods estimated at billions of Naira. It has also led to the displacement and relocation of a significant number of the population. In 2011, WANEP IPCR initiated a dialogue process to design workable intervention strategies that can address the conflict and provide direction for sustainable peace in the state.

Research Proffers Options for Effective R2P Implementation

Preliminary findings of a baseline survey conducted by WANEP on the development and effective implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) has recommended the need for a massive awareness creation and sensitization exercise to be undertaken to ensure that there is a buy-in from all stakeholders across the country in schools, traditional institutions, CSOs and faith-based organisations on R2P. The study also recognized the need for individuals from the afore mentioned institutions to undergo regular capacity building programmes to ensure an all-round and effective implementation of R2P in Ghana.

The research which used Ghana as a case study was primarily to assess how existing R2P protocols have and are being implemented and how their implementation resonate and inform the implementation of R2P and the capacity of the state to infuse them into state laws, mechanisms and structures. The two-tier research project first assesses public awareness of R2P and which organisations or who has the responsibility to protect them from R2P and R2P related crimes.

In September 2005, a consensus was reached on the concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in the 2005 World Summit. The basis of the concept is that the international community has a duty to ensure that civilian populations are protected against genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and war crimes. Five years after the World Summit Outcome Document, Ghana and Denmark became the first to establish the national R2P Focal Points initiative. In this regard, WANEP in partnership with DANIDA commissioned a one-year long project (January 2015- December 2015) with a view of assessing the progress made so far and providing strategic inputs to the development of an R2P policy especially as 2015 marks the 10th anniversary since the adoption of the concept.



FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...



**"Our tomorrow is assured
by the peace we aspire today:
Let's silence the guns!"**

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
CS4218, Ashrafie Street Extension, Apapa
PO Box CT 4134, Cantonments, Accra - Ghana
Telephone: +233-302-779975 / 779977

Peace Day 2015: Building Partnerships for Peace

WANEP embarked on numerous activities both at the regional office and across the national networks to mark the 2015 Day of Peace. Such activities included, holding of debates, drama and quiz competitions, art competitions, planting of peace trees and live panel discussions on radio and television. A vox pop was held at the regional office to explore people's idea of peace. Some of the respondents had this to say about what peace meant to them;

"Having enough money for my basic needs so I do not have to hassle others out of their hard earned money." –Joseph, Ghana

"Peace is a strong word that simply means the lack of war. Peace= love..." Jean Louis, Cote d'Ivoire

Peace means to be in the midst of trouble and still be calm in your heart.- Cerue, Liberia

"Peace to me is beyond the absence of conflict, it is the absence of conflict and end of all its possible causes." Samba, Gambia



Pictures from the peace day celebrations across the WANEP networks. These pictures come from Togo, and Sierra Leone. Above and below, students perform peace dramas and a dance for peace.

The women were not also left out. (Above right) sensitization on peace while (middle) a stakeholders forum on modalities for the establishment of a peace architecture in Sierra Leone and a women peace dance!



FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...



Stakeholders Explore Context and Complexities of Casamance Conflict

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP brought together major stakeholders and key partners to discuss modalities for finding a lasting solution to the protracted Casamance conflict. The meeting which held from August 21 to 22, was specifically to explore possible contributions of civil society from the three countries of Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to peace and security in the Casamance region. It provided a platform for stakeholders to galvanize collective initiatives that would address the challenges and the emerging issues in order to accelerate the economic prosperities of the region as envisaged by the founders of ECOWAS.

Professor Oumar Ndongo who delivered the keynote address aptly tagged; 'Context and Complexities of the Casamance Conflict: Rethinking the Transformative Approaches,' gave a rich

historical perspective of the conflict tracing its origin from the colonial times, the key actors, the different strategies and initiatives plus the traditional approaches that have been tried over the years to find peaceful solution.

According to him, "Both the military and political approaches so far employed in the region have failed to bring lasting peace," adding that the various atrocities, the extremisms and economic spin offs taking place in the region have cast a doubt on efforts for finding solutions to the conflict.

Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP Executive Director echoed the views of Professor Ndongo but urged the participants to focus more on dialogue rather than debate. "we appreciate the obvious challenges and historical perspectives of the conflict but let us begin to deliberate on how to put these issues on the table of ECOWAS," he said.

Forum Reiterates Role of Civil Society in Development

The critical role of Civil Society Organizations in the development process was reiterated at the 4th Annual African CSO Continental Forum on the Joint -Africa EU Partnership Strategy (JAES) held in Djibouti on 18-20 September 2015. This was contained in a communique presented to the media at the end of the Forum.

WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze was among 40 leaders and representatives of civil society organizations across the five regions of the African continent who attended the Forum. The main focus of the Forum was to define Africa CSO priorities and framework of action within the current cycle of the Africa-EU partnership process in preparation for the Joint Annual Forum (JAF).

On the civil Society Interventions, the Forum agreed that civil society interventions should assume a coordinated and collaborative structure. This will include autonomous CSO action to popularize and extend the reach and impact of JAES to the grassroots.



WANEP SOCIALS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

Vincent Azumah July 22
Dina-Rose Gbelewo July 25
Bismarck Beglah Sept 15



WANEP Celebrates Former Liaison Officer

It was an evening of fun and encomiums and a tinge of nostalgia as WANEP celebrated its former Liaison Officer to ECOWAS Mr. Constant Gnacadja who bowed out after 12 years fruitful service with WANEP. Mr. Gnacadja was replaced by Alimou Diallo. Picture above; Dr. Sintiki Ugbe, ECOWAS Director Gender presents a citation to Constant while below group photograph of representatives of ECOWAS and other civil society organizations led by WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze who came to felicitate with Constant.

WHO WE ARE

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) was conceived in 1996 but formally launched in 1998. Unlike other activist organisations, WANEP strategically chose to engage major actors, particularly government actors in a bid to establish a platform for dialogue, experience sharing and learning, thereby, complementing efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and development.

WANEP is a member of the Peace and Security cluster of the African Union's (AU) Economic and Social Council –ECOSOCC representing West Africa and also has a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). WANEP is the Regional Initiator

OUR GOAL

WANEP's cardinal goal is to build sustainable peace, thereby creating an enabling environment for development in West Africa.

WHAT WE DO

WANEP work covers eight critical areas of intervention including;

- ◆ The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI)
- ◆ West Africa Early Warning and Response Network, (WARN)
- ◆ Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET)
- ◆ Non-violence and Peace Education, (NAPE)
- ◆ Civil Society Coordination and Democratic Governance Program, (CSDG)
- ◆ Responding to Conflicts through Dialogue

WHERE WE WORK

WANEP's growth and influence has been phenomenal. After 15 years of peacebuilding practice, WANEP has grown to become a household name in West Africa with national offices in all the ECOWAS Member countries, and over 500 member organizations spread all over WA.