

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



FROM TRANSITION TO CONSOLIDATION

# A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION WORKING ON COLLABORATIVE PEACEBUILDING

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**West Africa Network for Peacebuilding**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2015**





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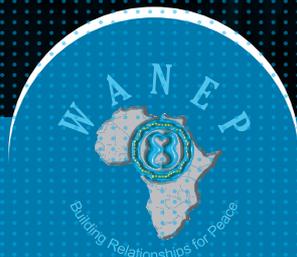
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## Abbreviations/Acronyms

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>AfAP</b>    | - | African Alliance for Peacebuilding                             |
| <b>APSA</b>    | - | AU Peace and Security Architecture                             |
| <b>AU</b>      | - | African Union  |
| <b>CSDG</b>    | - | Civil Society Coordination and Democratic Governance Programme |
| <b>CEWS</b>    | - | Continental Early Warning Systems                              |
| <b>CEPAN</b>   | - | Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria                        |
| <b>CSO</b>     | - | Civil Society Organisation                                     |
| <b>CVE</b>     | - | Countering Violent Extremism                                   |
| <b>DPA</b>     | - | Directorate of Political Affairs                               |
| <b>DPKRS</b>   | - | Directorate for Peace and Regional Security                    |
| <b>ECPF</b>    | - | ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework                           |
| <b>ECOSOC</b>  | - | Economic and Social Council                                    |
| <b>ECOSOCC</b> | - | Economic, Social and Cultural Council                          |
| <b>ECOWAS</b>  | - | Economic Community of West African States                      |
| <b>ECOWARN</b> | - | ECOWAS Early Warning Systems (ECOWARN)                         |
| <b>ESF</b>     | - | ECOWAS Standby Force   |
| <b>EU</b>      | - | European Union   |
| <b>EWD</b>     | - | Early Warning Department                                       |
| <b>EMPABB</b>  | - | Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin BEYE              |
| <b>GBV</b>     | - | Gender Based Violence  |
| <b>GCTF</b>    | - | Global Counterterrorism Forum                                  |
| <b>GPPAC</b>   | - | Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict        |
| <b>HAPC</b>    | - | High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace                  |
| <b>ICMC</b>    | - | Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators              |
| <b>IPCR</b>    | - | Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution                    |
| <b>IPSS</b>    | - | Institute for Peace and Security Studies                       |

|                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| <b>JAES</b>    | - | AU-EU Joint Strategy                                  |
| <b>JFA</b>     | - | Joint Financing Agreement                             |
| <b>KA IPTC</b> | - | Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre |
| <b>MOU</b>     | - | Memorandum of Understanding                           |
| <b>MFD</b>     | - | Mediation Facilitation Division                       |
| <b>NAPs</b>    | - | National Action Plans                                 |
| <b>NAPE</b>    | - | Non-Violence and Peace Education                      |
| <b>NEWS</b>    | - | National Early Warning Systems                        |
| <b>NEWRM</b>   | - | National Early Warning Response Mechanism             |
| <b>NPC</b>     | - | National Peace Council                                |
| <b>OSCE</b>    | - | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  |
| <b>PASA</b>    | - | Peace and Security in Africa                          |
| <b>PNCS</b>    | - | Programme National Pour la Cohésion National          |
| <b>R2P</b>     | - | Responsibility to Protect                             |
| <b>SSPRC</b>   | - | South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission       |
| <b>USAID</b>   | - | US Agency for International Development               |
| <b>UNDP</b>    | - | United Nations Development Programme                  |
| <b>UNMIL</b>   | - | United Nations Mission in Liberia                     |
| <b>UNOWA</b>   | - | United Nations Office for West Africa                 |
| <b>UNSCR</b>   | - | United Nations Security Council Resolution            |
| <b>VAW</b>     | - | Violence Against Women                                |
| <b>WARN</b>    | - | West Africa Early Warning and Response Network        |
| <b>WANEP</b>   | - | West Africa Network for Peacebuilding                 |
| <b>WAPI</b>    | - | West Africa Peacebuilding Institute                   |
| <b>WIPNET</b>  | - | Women in Peacebuilding Programme                      |



# ABOUT WANEP

## ABOUT WANEP

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is a leading Regional Peacebuilding organisation founded in 1998 in response to civil wars that plagued West Africa in the 1990s. Over the years, WANEP has succeeded in establishing strong national networks in every Member State of ECOWAS with over 550 member organisations across West Africa. WANEP places special focus on collaborative approaches to conflict prevention, and peacebuilding, working with diverse actors from civil society, governments, intergovernmental bodies, women's groups and other partners in a bid to establish a platform for dialogue, experience sharing and learning, thereby complementing efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and development in West Africa and beyond.

In 2002, WANEP entered into a historic partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the implementation of a regional early warning and response system referred to as ECOWARN. A Memorandum of Understanding between WANEP and ECOWAS was signed in 2004 and has consistently been renewed. The MOU is currently running for another five years – 2014 to 2019. This partnership constitutes a major strategic achievement for WANEP and West Africa civil society as it offers the much-desired opportunity to contribute to Track I response to conflicts and policy debates.

In August 2015, WANEP signed an MOU with the African Union Commission to provide support to the Commission's Peace and Security Department in the implementation of the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) including the gender mainstreaming of the architecture. WANEP is also a member of the Peace and Security cluster of the African Union's (AU) Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and the ECOSOCC Adviser on Civil Society relations with African Governments and the Focal Point for Africa CSOs on the AU-EU Joint Strategy (JAES). At international level, WANEP has a Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is the West Africa Regional Representative of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). WANEP provides professional courses in conflict prevention and peacebuilding informed by several years of practical experience to governments, businesses, and practitioners throughout the region and beyond. Underlying its work is a commitment to professionalism and a dedication to a world of mutual respect, tolerance and peace.

### Vision

“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”.

### Mission

To “enable and facilitate the development of mechanisms for cooperation among civil society-based peacebuilding practitioners and organisations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses to violent conflicts; providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions will regularly exchange experience and information on issues of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, social, religious and political reconciliation; and promoting West Africa's social cultural values as resources for peacebuilding.”

## Operating Principles and Values

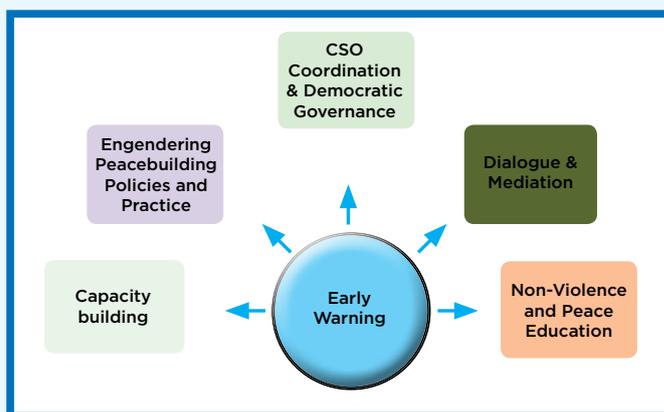
- Belief in mutual respect for one another;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Gender equality and zero tolerance to discrimination (sex, tribe/ethnicity, race, HIV-AIDS status, etc.);
- Collegiality, teamwork and dedication to duty;
- Tolerance and respect for diversity;
- Justice for all;
- Quality delivery;
- Collaboration and consultation

## What We Do

**WARN** seeks to enhance human security in the region by monitoring and reporting on socio-political situations that could degenerate into violent conflicts.

**The NAPE** program seeks to promote a culture of non-violence as a platform for achieving sustainable peace in the region. It is specifically focused on children and youth in-school and in informal sector.

**WIPNET** is a platform to support women and build their capacity in the promotion of peace and human security in the region using international instruments including the UNSCR 1325 and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) as guide and reference.



**The CSDG** Program provides a platform to engage with diverse stakeholders in promoting peaceful democratic transitions, and partner with other civil society organizations to monitor and mitigate election-related conflicts, promote dialogue towards the attainment of peaceful elections.

enables WANEP involvement in the search for a peaceful settlement of crisis especially at its nascent stage, promote inter and intra communal dialogue, enhance and mediate capacities of communities and other relevant state and inter government bodies.

**WAPI** seeks to increase knowledge base and enhance the expertise and skills of individuals, organizations and businesses in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also seeks to increase the number of competent, active peacebuilding practitioners in West Africa.

In addition to WANEP core programs, there are other cross cutting programs that respond to context-specific peace and security issues across the region. One such program is the Human Security project in Mali, which through nationwide consultations is developing a civil society human security strategy for Mali.

**Professor Isaac Albert**  
(Board Chair)



## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

I took over as the Board Chairman of WANEP at the end of the organization's 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, which held, from 20-22 January 2015 in Accra, Ghana with the theme "WANEP Transition from Programming to Visioning in support of ECOWAS and African Union Peace Architecture." The forum afforded us the opportunity of adopting the 2015 to 2020 Strategic Plan of WANEP and reviewing the organization's constitution amongst other key tasks. Several reports were taken at the meeting: with most of them pointing to the fact that WANEP has clearly established itself as one of the best in the world. The strength of WANEP is in its adept problems identification, bottom-up project planning, efficient project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

WANEP attained so much because it was steered by an efficient Board and Management team. The challenge before my team and I working with the new management team is in how we consolidate and surpass the laudable achievements of the past administration. This was not going to be an easy task but it is possible. Hence, my Board resolved to work in tandem with the Regional Management team to attain key strategic objectives among them (i) strengthen the service delivery capacity of the national networks (ii) develop new strategies in response to current peace and security challenges in the region and continent and (iii)



expand the financial base of the organization for better performance. All of these were to be located within the framework of the 2015 to 2020 Strategic Plan of WANEP already approved by the General Assembly.

I am happy to report that a lot has been done in the direction of realizing these strategic goals mentioned above. These are reflected in the Annual Report. I will simply call attention to a few of them here because of their cross cutting influences. Firstly, our efforts in building the capacity of our staff at both regional and national offices through numerous training opportunities in result-based programming, financial management, strategic communications as well as monitoring and evaluation has been remarkable. More than ever before, WANEP staff are provided the opportunity of attending and participating in strategic trainings for honing their skills and getting more in tune with WANEP thematic areas.

The second strategic intervention is the inaugural WANEP Board Retreat held at the Coconut Groove Regency Hotel, Accra, from August 12 to 13, 2015 under the theme: “Strengthening the WANEP Governance Architecture”. For the first time in the history of WANEP, the retreat enabled us to bring together WANEP Regional Management, Regional Board and the National Boards across the National Networks to reflect on strategies for deepening qualitative service delivery, transparency and accountability at the national networks. The meeting afforded the participants the opportunity of having a better understanding of WANEP’s insistence on professional boards at the national level. It also enabled the board members to be better educated about their oversight functions. At the end of the meeting, key performance indicators for assessing national networks governance in line with the WANEP statutes was developed. WANEP more than ever before is better equipped for better performance at the national levels. Similarly, the Board approved the acquisition of new financial software that will harmonise the financial transactions of all WANEP national networks with that of the regional. It also provides for better supervision of the national networks account in line with WANEP financial policy. The financial managers of the networks have also been trained in the use of the system and other financial procedures. I have no doubt that this will improve WANEP’s probity and transparency and increase donor confidence.

In the period under review, WANEP also undertook a number of interventions in response to the complex peace and security challenges in the region and in line with ECOWAS conflict prevention framework. Notable among them is the commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ECOWAS, which afforded WANEP the opportunity to appraise ECOWAS peace and security strategy with a view to developing new ways of supporting the organization. Also in partnership with ECOWAS Gender Directorate, WANEP commemorated the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN resolution 1325. The conference brought together gender ministries and civil society organizations from the ECOWAS member states, inter-governmental organizations including the UN, to review the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in West Africa and develop new strategies to optimize the essence of the resolution. WANEP also organized an experience sharing conference at the Sunlodge hotel in Accra Ghana from November 5 to 6, 2015 on the theme “Enhancing design and delivery of peace education in West African tertiary institutions”. Once, again this is the first time that WANEP was holding this kind of meeting that brought together most of the Universities and Centres teaching Peace Studies in different parts of West Africa. All the participants at the peace education retreat readily acknowledged the fact that they have a lot to learn from WANEP for improving their curriculums, strengthening the exposure of their students to conflict resolution mechanisms, and for building their facilitation skills found to be necessary for training peace workers.

I have taken my time to chronicle WANEP’s major achievements and informed sound policy guidelines in the year under review. We are able to do so much because we have very competent Board members full of new ideas. So efficient are my colleagues on the Board that I am confident of having our ability to transition WANEP from a project-driven to a vision-driven institution. I am also lucky to be working with an efficient management team that is able to translate “small” suggestions into big projects with no supervision. Indeed a new WANEP beckons in which our best of the past would be bettered.

## WANEP REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

|  |                                 |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p>Madame Fatoumattou Batoko-Zossou (Vice Chair)</p> | <p>Madame Mariam Dao Gabala</p> | <p>Rev. John Nkum</p>                 |
|  |                                 |                                       |
|  |                                 |                                       |
| <p>Prof. Patricia Donli</p>                          | <p>AVM Christian Edem Dovlo</p> | <p>Madame Antoinette Yawavi Mbrou</p> |



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with mixed feelings that I write the first Management piece of our Annual Report exactly one year I assumed office as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Director of our institution with mammoth support and overwhelming expectations. In writing this Management Report, I alternate between pride and disappointment, between hope and despair and between disillusion and optimism. With pride – and you can read this for yourselves – I can say we are growing at a very indescribable rate. Our new ways of doing business, our activities and programming are having tremendous impact, and our influence is increasing in dimensions and scopes. We are adapting to a rapidly changing and complex conflict contexts and expanding our work and program to match these complexities. Looking back at 2015 therefore, I can say with all sense of humility that I am proud of our works and the modest achievements we have chalked. On the other hand, I am extremely concerned at the growing rate of violent extremism with disillusioned youths at the center, political intolerance, growing levels of poverty and gender disparity in the region.

The year 2015 was a remarkable turning point for the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in several spheres. In particular, it marked the end of the strategic period 2010-2014 which recorded giant strides and ushered in a brand new strategic plan with new direction and a new Management. WANEP has now successfully transitioned from its founding directors to a new leadership that

continue to hold forte and translate the collective aspiration of the network into realities. This was a historic achievement as it defined the strength of the organisation and its sustainability while enhancing African ownership in style and pride.

The WANEP Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 was approved for implementation at the January 2015 General Assembly. The Plan describes the WANEP expertise and enduring capacity to support African Governments and its intergovernmental organisations in its peace and security agenda through research and data collection for conflict early warning, context specific training, gender mainstreaming, election dispute management as well as networking and institutional strengthening. The Plan is informed by the peace and security challenges and opportunities facing the transformation of Africa and has received uncommon support by our key partners including the Governments of Austria, Denmark, Sweden and USA as well as our intergovernmental organisations - ECOWAS and African Union and the member states

The current WANEP strategy builds on the remarkable successes that WANEP has recorded over the last 16 years and the current exigencies of the continent. It priorities collaboration with AU and ECOWAS in the areas of women in peacebuilding, peace education, dialogue and mediation, research, training and advocacy through the following;

- National Early Warning and Response Systems (incorporated with national peace and security architecture)
- Citizen capacity in peacebuilding and conflict prevention interventions at community, national and regional levels
- Research in policy advocacy to promote peace and security
- Gender capacity in peacebuilding and conflict prevention at community, national and regional levels
- Institutional and financial sustainability of WANEP (National Network & Regional Secretariat)

The novel features of the Strategy, 2015–2020, include the internal strengthening of WANEP and its national networks through a solid governance and accountability scheme, inclusive capacity building measures to address gender parity and the underrepresented groups, support to fragile and post-conflict states, continued partnership with intergovernmental organisation and African states and engagement with the private sector.

In the year under review, WANEP acquired a uniform accounting software for its regional and 15 national networks. This software, enables the regional office to provide daily supervision to its national offices accounts and ensure probity at all times. A training of all the Finance Managers in the use of the software and other financial procedures was conducted in the last quarter of the year. The direct impact of the training is the improved financial regulations, timely reports and enhanced donor confidence. Similarly, a retreat for all the regional and national board members was conducted in the third quarter of the year to acquaint the board of their roles and responsibility within the WANEP structure and in the actualisation of the current strategic plan.

WANEP in August 2015 signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Union Commission in support of the Commission's peace and security agenda as enshrined in the Africa Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The MOU provides WANEP and CSOs the platform to support and contribute to peace and security debate on the continent. A meeting between AU and WANEP's leadership for the operationalization of

the MOU was held in November 2015. The key outcome of this MOU is the request by the Commission for WANEP to assign a Liaison Officer to the African Union Commission tailored along the WANEP Liaison Officer to ECOWAS. WANEP is also working with the Commission to explore and exploit the contribution of the Business Community to peace and security on the continent. Private sector contribution is vital to peace and security and in Africa's development, and hence the need to engage with them in what has been captioned "Business for Peace in Africa".

The Nigerian, Togolese, Guinean, Ivorian and Burkinabe elections have come and gone. WANEP shares in the pride that despite all scepticism, these elections exceeded in quality and excellence. While, we acknowledge that West African Elections are still work in progress, there is no gainsaying the fact that indeed, there has been remarkable progress from the dark ages of the 90s. In all these elections, WANEP instituted a very robust situation room through its National Early Warning System that resourced ECOWAS, AU, UNOWA and other key actors. In the Nigerian elections for instance, the ECOWAS report acknowledged the support of WANEP in providing data and analysis for navigating through the complexities of the elections while the Government of Cote d'Ivoire specifically wrote to thank WANEP for its role in the electoral process.



Members of the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) program of WANEP-Liberia with Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze when he visited WANEP-Liberia

The Women in Peacebuilding Program has now developed a new approach by mainstreaming the provisions of UNSCR 1325 into its activities and engagements with States. WANEP continues its collaboration with the ECOWAS and African Union Gender Directorates in the actualisations of the spirit of UNSCR 1325. In the year under review, several joint programs were executed including in the organisation of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the resolution through which the implementation progress of the ECOWAS member states were reviewed with a view to improving delivery and presentation of the CSOs perspective at the Peace and Security Council meeting of the African Union - a feat that the Commission specifically acknowledged in its communique.

WANEP took its peace education campaign in support of the ECOWAS Council of Minister's pronouncement and endorsement of peace education into schools' curriculum to another level. In the last quarter of the year, a meeting was organised for all Coordinators of Peace and Conflict Studies Programs in West Africa to review content in view of current security challenges, improve delivery and ensure synergy of purpose. A key outcome of the meeting is the inculcation of countering violence extremism strategies and community resilience mechanisms into the peace and conflict studies program in higher institutions in West Africa

As I conclude and as the Strategic Plan makes it clear, WANEP's achievements have been remarkable, including informed policy making as witnessed by a multitude of its stakeholders and increased recognition. As a new team, we are determined to take this highly successful organization to the next level of excellence. The activities that are detailed in this annual report are part of the process and contribute to the realization of our vision for sustained African peace, security and development. I wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment to excellence by the WANEP Board, Management and staff, network members, including international resource persons and strategic partners. Last but not least, my deep appreciation goes to our funding partners, including our longstanding members of the JFA, for helping sustain this precious African success story. I am, thus, pleased to present this Annual Report for 2015 containing our key activities and milestones to the members, the Board of Directors, the partners and the communities we serve. We could not have managed without the support of all of you.

## WANEP Regional Management Team



Chukwuemeka Eze - Executive Director



Levinia Addae-Mensah - Program Director



Esther Gordon-Mensah - Administrative Manager



Gisele Vedogbeton - Finance Manager

## DELIVERING ON 2015 - 2020 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, WANEP commenced the implementation of a new Strategic Action Plan (2015 to 2020) that is focused on two pillars: **Consolidating the WANEP National Early Warning System in support of ECOWARN/CEWS and Strengthening National Architectures for Response.** The new Plan builds on WANEP's earlier Strategic Plan (2010 -2014) which focused on decentralizing the organization's activities through its national networks in the 15 ECOWAS member states in support of the ECOWAS Early Warning System (ECOWARN). Drawing inspiration from the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, the new Strategic Plan is geared towards addressing the gap in the responses to early warning especially with regards to structures to deal with peace at the community level and to ensure a nexus between "Early Warning and Response."

WANEP's West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN), Program is holistic and provides an intellectual basis for programming as captured in the 2010 -2014 Strategic Plan. WARN plays a central role in support of the ECOWAS and AU's preventive mechanism and response regime. It is predicated on three pillars of prevention, mitigation and preparedness. The goal of WARN is to provide robust information to enhance human security in the region by monitoring and reporting on socio-political situations that could degenerate into violent conflicts and providing timely responses to potential violent conflicts that continue to threaten the peace of West Africa. A key component in ensuring the effectiveness of WARN is to promote coordination and the collaborative involvement of community based groups to ensure early, appropriate and timely response.



WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze with key stakeholders including former President Olusegun Obasanjo and Mrs. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, Commissioner, Political Affairs, Peace and Security, ECOWAS during the election observation in Cote d'Ivoire



Stakeholders meeting on Hotspots mapping in preparation for Niger elections

As the CSO official implementing partner of ECOWAS, WANEP in the reporting period reached greater heights in improving its support to the institutionalization of ECOWARN. The WANEP/ECOWAS partnership in the implementation of ECOWARN continues to be a reference point and a working model of CSO and inter-governmental institution partnership in the prevention and mitigation of violent conflict across the globe. WANEP successfully completed the operationalization of its National Early Warning System (NEWS) in all the 15 ECOWAS member states with the official launch of NEWS and validation of indicators in Cape Verde. WANEP further developed capacity of NEWS managers, analysts and monitors in all 15-member states through regional and national level trainings. As a result, the volume and quality of early warning data at the community level increased significantly and strengthened national and regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, thus paving the way for timely responses.

At the continental level, WANEP played a key role in drawing up the Roadmap and initial action plan for the operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS). WANEP is to provide support in the area of data collection for West Africa whilst four other organizations were selected to support similar work in East, Central, Southern and North Africa regions respectively.

**Strategic Objective 1: National Early Warning and Response Systems are functional in all Member States and linked to ECOWAS Early Warning and Response System**

## 1.0. TAKING EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE TO ANOTHER LEVEL

Under the WANEP Capacity Building Project, the organization conducted several trainings in the year to equip and update skills of NEWS managers across ECOWAS member-states on data collection and analysis. Special focus of the training was on emerging threats to peace and security in member states. Similarly and in preparation for election monitoring and observation, key stakeholders in the region were trained on election dispute management, electoral violence early warning signs and response mechanisms. The training resource was based on the WANEP Election Dispute Management Practice Guide. Significant outcomes in the reporting period were as follows;



Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah facilitating a session at the re-training of the National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) Managers

### 1.1. Strengthening National and Regional Capacities for Conflict Prevention:

- Quality and volume of early warning products improved with the training of 21 community analysts including representatives of the African Union on conflict analysis

in early warning. For instance, after the trainings, an additional four policy briefs were produced making a total of nine policy briefs across the region.

- 37 participants comprising 22 males, 15 females, including 4 ECOWAS analysts, 15 NEWS Managers, 4 Zonal Coordinators, 4 WANEP PMC and Regional staff were taken through refresher courses in early warning.
- 20 staff members of the Independent Electoral Commission of Cote d'Ivoire including all the four Vice Presidents and Central Commissioners of the Commission were trained from March 25 – 27, 2015.
- WANEP and ECOWAS Early Warning Department, (EWD) held debriefing sessions as part of efforts to ensure effective coordination of NEWS in support of ECOWARN. It was also a platform to share experiences and have a better understanding of the new ECOWAS structure of decentralization of the National Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NEWRM) and the NEWS Managers roles and responsibilities within the structure.
- WANEP NEWS portal was enhanced within the year with the addition of a mobile application to facilitate the offline submission of reports for NEWS. The application has been piloted in Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali and will be launched on iOS, Android and Windows platforms in January 2016.

## 1.2. Enhancing and Sustaining Electoral Support



WANEP NEWS team with members of the National Commission for Reconciliation and Reforms (CNRR) paid a visit to the Mogho Naba Baongo II in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



WANEP NEWS team with his eminence Cardinal Philippe Ouedraogo, the Archbishop of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

WANEP has been monitoring and analyzing elections and electoral processes in West Africa for over a decade under the undergirding philosophy of collaborative approaches to Peacebuilding, which is aimed at creating an enabling electoral environment before, during and after the elections. The organization employs a three-pronged approach to election monitoring including, providing resources, building local capacities and putting structures in place for effective monitoring and observation.

Under this approach, WANEP consulted with key stakeholders in West Africa to assess their state of preparedness in the conduct of their respective elections. Together with the stakeholders, WANEP developed and validated context-specific indicators to monitor and observe elections in the selected member states. On account of these consultations, Stakeholders in Burkina

Faso committed to a dialogue process, which was geared towards garnering commitment towards ensuring peaceful transition to democratic rule. Subsequently, stakeholders signed a declaration that detailed an agreement and roadmap, which culminated in peaceful elections on November 29 in that country.

In addition, a Consolidated Situation Room for election monitoring was set up in Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Burkina Faso whose elections took place during the year. This commitment to collaborate with relevant stakeholders towards promoting sustainable peace before, during and after elections contributed to ensuring a peaceful election and transition in Nigeria from the ruling party to an opposition party. WANEP's role in mitigating electoral violence and supporting ECOWAS Democracy and Good Governance efforts was greatly appreciated by the Head of ECOWAS Observation mission in Nigeria, President John Agyekum Kufuor who said,

***“WANEP, one of ECOWAS’ CSO partners, provided updates on the north east geo-political zone to the ECOWAS situation room. From their reports, the on-going counter-insurgency efforts by the Nigerian military and the Multinational Joint Taskforce have relatively stabilized the north east region”.***



The election observation team pose with His Excellency Dr. Ibn Chambas



His Excellency Dr. Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) during his visit to WANEP Election Situation Room in Conakry, Guinea

Similarly, His Excellency Dr. Ibn Chambas, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) commended WANEP for its efforts in supporting non-violent electoral processes in West Africa during his visit to the WANEP Election Situation Room in Conakry, Guinea on Guinean Election Day, October 11, 2015. He encouraged WANEP to keep up the good work of supporting a non-violent electoral process through its election monitoring system. **The organization also received rave reviews and high commendations from ECOWAS for its professionalism and timeliness in reporting the 2015 Nigerian elections held in March.**

WANEP has forged significant partnerships with ECOWAS, the AU and other key agencies in election monitoring and observation. Staff both at the regional and national offices also participated actively in the ECOWAS observation mission and were part of the monitoring team in Cote d' Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Togo and Nigeria, including a team of women in the UNOWA situation room in Guinea.



### 1.3. Policy Influencing, Increasing information and public access to Early Warning products

- Stakeholders in Burkina Faso committed to a dialogue process to return the country to peaceful democratic rule and signed a declaration that detailed an agreement and roadmap that led to peaceful elections on November 29 in that country.
- The Nigerian Government instituted a Peace Committee of Eminent Persons as recommended in WANEP's policy brief titled; "Twists and Turns in the 2015 Nigerian Election: The Postponement Scenarios, February 2015."<sup>1</sup> Also WANEP's recommendation in a Press Release of March 2015<sup>2</sup> on the Political Situation in Sierra Leone led to the invitation of ECOWAS, AU and UN to do shuttle mediation as recommended in the press release.<sup>3</sup>
- The production of early warning products which has helped partner's strategic decision making contributed to USAID awarding WANEP a 5-year partnership agreement to provide early warning alerts and response recommendations on election-related violence triggers in 5 countries in the region viz; Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Sierra Leone.
- A WANEP policy brief released in 2014 and titled; "Transitions and Tensions in West Africa" <sup>4</sup>which recommended the reduction of tenure limits in West Africa culminated in the review of the tenure limits to 2-terms in the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance; which is yet to be approved by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

### 1.4. Galvanizing Action for Mitigating Election Violence

A structured and operationalized conflict early warning and response has been widely recognized and advocated as a critical conflict mitigation priority by West African Governments. Strengthening early warning and response around key elections in the region will help to increase stability and reduce the potential for future conflicts. Based on this realization, WANEP officially signed a contract with the United States Agency for International Development, USAID/West Africa, on February 20, 2015 for the implementation of a 5-year project titled "Mitigating Electoral Violence in West Africa through National Early Warning Systems (NEWS). The project is designed to strengthen the existing WANEP NEWS with special focus on monitoring, reporting, analyzing and communicating threats to peaceful elections in five ECOWAS member countries of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Sierra Leone.

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1 [http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=722:policy-brief-on-nigeria-twists-and-turns-in-the-2015-nigerian-election-the-postponement-scenarios&catid=22:policy-briefs&Itemid=36](http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=722:policy-brief-on-nigeria-twists-and-turns-in-the-2015-nigerian-election-the-postponement-scenarios&catid=22:policy-briefs&Itemid=36),

2 [http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=25&Itemid=33&limitstart=62](http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=25&Itemid=33&limitstart=62)

3 [http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=685:policy-brief-transitions-and-tensions-in-west-africa-building-on-the-strength-and-bridging-the-gap-in-the-ecowas-protocol-on-democracy-and-good-governance&catid=22:policy-briefs&Itemid=36](http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=685:policy-brief-transitions-and-tensions-in-west-africa-building-on-the-strength-and-bridging-the-gap-in-the-ecowas-protocol-on-democracy-and-good-governance&catid=22:policy-briefs&Itemid=36)



WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze with Mr. Alexandre Deprez, USAID West Africa Mission Director after the signing of the new USAID/WANEP project



Launch of the USAID/WANEP Project on Mitigating Electoral Violence through National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) in Burkina Faso

The USAID/WANEP NEWS project was successfully launched in the project countries during the year in the presence of high-profile stakeholders, key development partners and the media who expressed commitment to the operationalization of the project. The establishment of NEWS Steering Committees to enhance response strategies to mitigate electoral disputes in the target countries followed the high-profile launch. Members of the Steering Committee include senior officials of the Electoral Management Bodies, National Infrastructures for Peace, Security Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and the International Development Partners.

### 1.5. Establishing Platforms for Sustainable Peace

**1.6** To achieve lasting peace requires building effective capacities and providing credible structures to deal with the range of conflicts and security threats that affect societies and communities. To this end, WANEP has been providing support to relevant partners and key stakeholders towards the establishment of peace architectures as a platform for mobilizing the internal capacity of states to build peace, strengthen self-reliance and confidence in their abilities to solve their own problems. This is in line with WANEP’s belief that a credible and sustainable peace architecture is one that is multidimensional, inclusive and integrated into the traditions, culture and laws of the community. Much progress was made in the reporting period in this area.

WANEP in collaboration with the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HAPC) in Niger and the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP) held consultative meetings with key stakeholders to kick-start the design of peace architecture in the country. The process has so far heightened consciousness of major stakeholders on the need to establish and implement a National Peace Architecture. A draft structure of the Peace Architecture has been determined and a plan of action developed.

- WANEP worked with GPPAC to facilitate the process for the establishment of peace architecture in Benin. Several consultations with key stakeholders led to the development of a national action plan that is aimed at establishing the architecture.
- In Cote d'Ivoire, a Bill drafting committee has been established as a result of consultations. In the meantime, the "Programme National pour la Cohesion Nationale" (PNCS) in collaboration with WANEP Cote d'Ivoire has already established committees across the country to be integrated into the national architecture for peace when the new bill becomes law.
- In Nigeria, WANEP is providing support to the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in the design of the peace architecture. It also supported the 2015 Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference of the Institute for Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC) which focused on the "Place of Mediation and Mediators in a National Peace Infrastructure"

**Strategic Objective 2: Citizen Capacity is developed and deployed in peacebuilding and conflict prevention/interventions at community, national and regional levels**

## 2.1. Enhancing Conflict Sensitive Programming through WAPI

The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) established in 2002 has reinforced WANEP's reputation as an organization with the expertise to increase knowledge base and enhance the expertise and skills of individuals, organizations and businesses in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding towards producing competent, active peacebuilding practitioners in the region. WAPI is the flagship learning centre for the exchange of best practices and research in peacebuilding. It also provides the space and platform for the actualization of WANEP's vision for the development of capacities for the resolution of conflicts in Africa by Africans.

WAPI is held annually in collaboration with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Institute, (KAIPTC). However, in 2015, two sessions of WAPI were held; one in March and the other in September to make up for the 2014 session that could not hold due to the Ebola pandemic witnessed in the region.



WAPI Participant during a group working session

Opening session of the 2015 West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Institute (KAIPTC)



A total of 99 peace practitioners were trained in 2015 from the two sessions of WAPI comprising 45 females and 54 males. The participants included staff of the ECOWAS Commission, African Union, and civil society organizations from Niger, The Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Cote d'Ivoire. The courses in WAPI are designed to influence participants to employ conflict sensitive programming in their interventions. Both sessions also benefitted from a new course titled; Peacebuilding programme design, implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation that was added as a result of a capacity needs survey conducted in the region. There was also a great balance of 50% female and 50% male in the faculty.

As part of WANEP's internal Staff Professional Capacity Development policy, the Regional Coordinators of Programmes and of Network Development from the Regional Secretariat, NEWS managers, M&E focal Persons and Analysts also benefitted from this WAPI sessions.

With the recent training, 99 peacebuilding experts and 8 faculty members have now joined the WAPI alumni forum, which is an interactive on-line platform where members hold robust discussions on current human security threats, share relevant resources and proffer collective solutions to sensitive security issues in the region.

### 2.1.1. Voices from the field

The increasing number of participants attracted to WAPI annually is a testimony to its visibility and credibility garnered over the years. WAPI has hosted staffs from ECOWAS and AU and other civil society organizations who have used the skills and knowledge from WAPI to improve their work as quoted below.

- “The Conflict Analysis and stakeholder Analysis sessions were very good and relevant for us who work on Early Warning. I am recommending this training to my Situation Room colleagues here at the African Union (AU) so that they can broaden their perception in analyzing conflicts.” *Fisseha Abraham, CEWS, Situation room, African Union*
- “Given its imperatives to peacebuilding on the continent, I will highly recommend WAPI to colleagues; as well as advocate for the deepening of collaborations between the AUC and WANEP/KA IPTC.” *Dr. Kwaku Asante-Darko (Senior Expert on Conflict Prevention Peace and Security Department, African Union)*
- “ECOWAS deeply commends WANEP and KA IPTC's role in building the capacity of Civil Society Organizations and Regional Economic Communities in CPMR to ensure the prevention and resolution of conflicts on the continent.” *Brown Odigie (Program Officer, Capacity Building at the Mediation Facilitation Division, Department of Political Affairs of ECOWAS).*

## 2.2. Consolidating Peace Education and Conflict Studies

The WANEP Non-Violence and Peace Education Program, NAPE seeks to contribute to the promotion of a culture of non-violence and social responsibility among young people in West Africa as a platform for achieving sustainable peace in the



WANEP program team with Educators of Peace and Conflict Studies Program from tertiary Institutions in West Africa during the Experience Sharing Conference to develop strategies to enhance the design and delivery of effective peace education programs in the institutions

region. The NAPE Program is anchored on three levels of implementation through working with the Ministries of Education, Consolidating National-level programs and supporting the ECOWAS regional strategy, which calls for the adoption of peace studies in school curriculum in the West Africa region. In the year under review, WANEP carried out various public education and sensitization activities on peacebuilding and conflict prevention at the national and regional levels.

In November, WANEP met with Educators of Peace and Conflict Studies Program from tertiary Institutions in West Africa to develop strategies to enhance the design and delivery of effective peace education programs in the institutions. The meeting provided a platform for the educators to share their experiences in teaching peace education modules and explore linkages between theory and practice. **A key outcome of the meeting is the inculcation of strategies for countering violent extremism into peace and conflict studies program in higher institutions in West Africa.**

In recognition that lasting peace requires capacities and structures to deal with the range of conflicts and security threats that mostly affect societies and communities, WANEP carried out a number of peace education activities in the year as summarized below;



Drama Presentation on peaceful living by Peace Club members

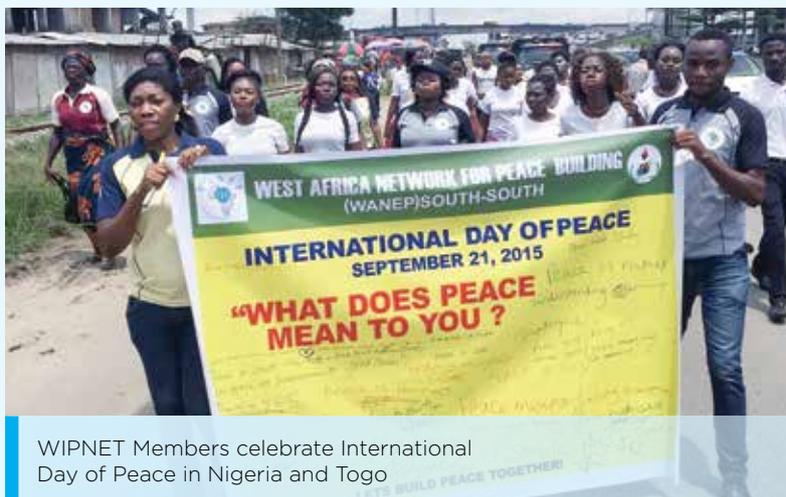
- Community dialogues held in Sierra Leone and Liberia on Sexual and Gender Based Violence to raise awareness on Liberia's Sexual Offences Act (2012) and trauma counselling for Ebola victims/survivors in Sierra Leone.
- Members of Peace clubs were regularly trained and updated on conflict trends and dynamics to position them for effective leadership and peer mediation. Such trainings took place in Benin, Senegal and Togo and covered issues of leadership and conflict resolution skills, psychological developmental stages in children and parents' role in monitoring children's behavioral changes.
- Peace clubs across the national networks were regularly mentored, monitored and supported to carry out various activities for building peace in the community. These regular mentoring and monitoring helps to ensure that the pupils and students adhere to principles of mediation.
- New Peace Clubs were established in the year across the networks and existing ones strengthened. In Benin, stakeholders validated the curriculum on non-violence and peace education while Ghana facilitated the incorporation of peace education into Social Studies, Religious and Moral Education subjects in schools through the teachers of the ten pilot schools in the Tamale metropolis. In Nigeria, the training of trainers was replicated at the community level to inculcate peace education into the curriculum of community schools.
- As a result of the skills acquired, significant behavioral change was recorded on the part of Peace Club members. They adopted behaviors of non-violence in school and at home and respect their environment and often intervene to end conflicts between their peers at school and also at home. Parents of these students have testified that

their children who are peace club members at school have helped them to settle domestic conflicts and disputes peacefully at home.

## 2.3. Public Outreach and Sensitization

### 2.3.1. International Day of Peace

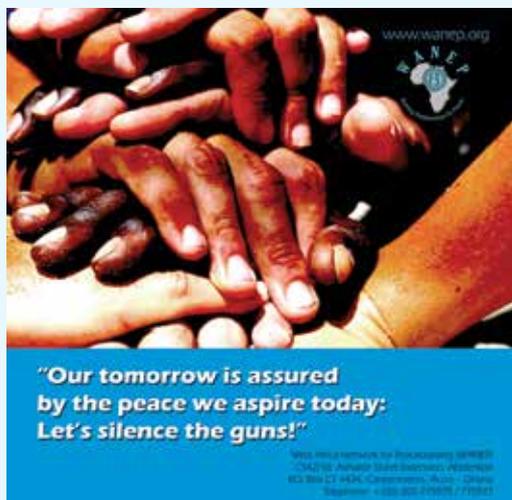
The theme of the 2015 Peace Day, “Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for All” resonates with WANEP’s vision of a West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction. WANEP marked the International Day of Peace across its networks with public outreach and sensitization activities through the Women in Peacebuilding, WIPNET and Peace Education programs. Such activities included inter-school debates, drama, quiz and art competitions and peace rallies to emphasize the message as well as entrench a culture of peace in the communities.



WIPNET Members celebrate International Day of Peace in Nigeria and Togo



- At the regional office, WANEP produced a peace poster with an emblem depicting the contributions and collaboration of all stakeholders in peacebuilding with the message; “Our tomorrow is assured by the peace we aspire today: Let’s silence the guns!”
- In a vox populi conducted by WANEP regional, respondents identified safety, security, protection, and the provision of basic social amenities as the indicators for achieving lasting peace (add the link)
- WANEP Nigeria facilitated a peace rally in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, South South region of Nigeria, which has witnessed electoral violence before, during and after the 2015 elections and has also recorded various clashes between different cult groups. The rally was an opportunity for the women to sue for peaceful co-existence among the different groups.



- Several discussions and peace fora were held in all the national networks as well as sporting activities and dance for peace all geared towards drawing public attention to the imperatives of peaceful co-existence

### 2.3.2. International Women's Day, IWD



Roundtable discussion titled; "Make it Happen: Women Unite Against Violent Extremism in West Africa" to mark International Women's Day (IWD) 2015



WANEP through the national networks commemorated the March 8 International Women's Day with press releases, communiqués, seminars and conferences to draw attention to the plight of women and reiterating the critical role of women in peace and security. The Regional office convened a round table discussion on the theme; 'Make it Happen: Women Unite Against Violent Extremism in West Africa' to appreciate the contributions of women in countering violent extremism from a preventive perspective. In a press release widely circulated in the media on the occasion, WANEP acknowledged that Violent Extremism is not linked to any specific race, culture, nationality, ethnicity, or religion, and called for the revival of a regional women's peace movement and a meaningful response that must come from within communities. Another issue that received attention was the spate of insurgency and the growing rate of female suicide bombers especially in Northern Nigeria and the Sahel region, which has drawn the attention of high profile women. For instance, in Niger the wife of the Prime Minister issued a communiqué condemning the Boko Haram attacks in the Diffa region and urged the Government to put in place the necessary response measures to address violent extremism in the country. Other sensitization activities included the following;



Wife of the Nigerian Prime Minister presenting a communiqué condemning violent extremism to a government official to during the 2015 IWD celebrations

- Mass sensitizations campaigns on gender based violence in the District of Bangolo in Cote d'Ivoire under the Livelihood Improvement and Combatting Violence Against Women project supported by the Government of Australia.
- WANEP Sierra Leone held community radio discussions and phone-in programs in Kono District to raise awareness on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Violence

against Women (VAW), especially in the face of the Ebola scourge and its impacts on women and children.

- WANEP Nigeria carried out massive media engagement to promote UNSCR 1325 and the role of women in peace building. This deliberate media engagement led to increased publicity for the WIPNET program and helped to put women issues on the front burner in the reporting period.

WANEP Liberia in collaboration with the United Nation Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), has been carrying out a number of awareness creation programs in various communities against rape. This has yielded to an increase in the reporting of rape cases unlike in the past when victims and their families were reluctant to report for fear of stigmatization. Similarly, the advocacy for an increase in the number of women into the security agencies, especially the military and the police, has yielded positive results as evidenced by the increasing number of female recruits.

#### 2.4. Increased Visibility and Media Profile



WANEP recorded significant visibility on all media platforms in the reporting period

In order to sustain and expand its partnerships in the public and private sectors and leverage on the media to multiply the impact of its interventions, WANEP put in place a well-developed plan to promote its work to target audiences and stakeholders via the media using online and offline communications. In the year under review, WANEP media profile received a boost as the organization became more strategic and structural in its engagement with the media at both the national and regional offices. As a result of this strategic engagement, there was more media coverage of WANEP activities and events. There has also been a significant increase of WANEP online presence in the social media. Some of the events that attracted media coverage and were trending in the social media included the launch of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) project, the global day celebrations such as the International Women's Day, International Day of Peace, World Disarmament Day, and launch of the USAID/WANEP project on Mitigating Electoral Violence. Other events such as the commemoration of the ECOWAS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the peace education experience sharing meeting, seminars and conferences as well as WANEP electoral monitoring and observation processes among others, made headline news and trended on the social media. In addition, major publications of the organization were widely disseminated in the mass media as resource for peace and security.



WANEP's media profile was further boosted with the regular participation of staff in live panel discussions on the electronic media. In recognition of its proven expertise in conflict prevention, peace and security, Staff of WANEP were much sought after by the media to comment on various peace and security issues at the regional office and across the networks. WANEP's engagement with the media goes beyond the media merely providing coverage of WANEP's activities. Rather, the organization tactically partners with the media to change mindsets, perception and attitudes on conflict reportage, and promote nonviolent behaviours through the use of dialogue and mediation in responding and transforming conflicts. Such strategic media engagements have led to increased visibility of the organization in the public domain thus consolidating its reputation as the leading Civil Society Organization in peacebuilding and security in the region.

As the WANEP profile continued to rise, various groups visited the regional office to explore areas of collaboration based on WANEP's proven expertise and contribution to peace and security in the region.

In the reporting year, the organization hosted representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP) to discuss collaborative strategies for ensuring peaceful elections in the upcoming Ghana elections in 2016. Delegates from South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC), came in the company of a representative of the National Peace Council of Ghana to learn from WANEP's contribution to the establishment of peace architectures in the region. The Swedish women's organization, Kvinna Till Kvinna visited WANEP to learn more of WANEP's work, especially in the field of women, peace and security. Kvinna is also supporting WANEP Liberia on Gender-Based Violence.

#### Letter of Appreciation from the National Peace Council of Ghana

*On behalf of the National Peace Council, I write to express the appreciation of the Chairman, the Board and the Secretariat, for hosting our guests from the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC) led by Hon. Chuol rambang, chairman of the SSPRC, who were in Ghana from Saturday, September 26, to Wednesday, September 30, 2015.*

*Sir, the Council is happy to inform you and your team that the South Sudanese team was so impressed with the reception and the courtesies your good office accorded them when they visited **WANEP, on September, 30, 2015**. They had indeed wanted to learn more but for time constraint. According to them, the time and information you shared with them and the courtesies you generously accorded them would forever remain in their memories.*

*Once again we are very grateful!*

**MOST REV PROF EMMANUEL ASANTE**

**BOARD CHAIRMAN**

## 2.5. Strengthening Staff Capacity for Peace



WANEP staff and other participants at the Peace and Security in Africa (PASA) 2015 Session at Uppsala, Sweden

WANEP conducts regular capacity building initiatives for staff in its continuous efforts to strengthen and position the organization as a professional peacebuilding institution in the region. In line with its capacity building strategies, a number of WANEP staff both at the regional and national offices, undertook several capacity building activities during the year in program design financial management, strategic communications as well as monitoring and evaluation. Every year, old and new staff pass through WAPI and continuous refresher courses for improved efficiency in program design and delivery. Summary of the trainings during the year were as follows;

- 13 staff from 13 National Networks were trained in Peacebuilding programme design, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- 14 staff were also trained in new financial accounting and reporting procedures and software usage
- WANEP Benin trained a total of 32 people including its staff and staff of member organisations in Personal development and leadership and conflict analysis and peacebuilding.
- 3 WANEP staff, comprising 2 females from WANEP Regional and WANEP Sierra Leone and 1 male from WANEP Burkina Faso, attended the phase 5 of the Peace and Security in Africa (PASA) 2015, which is the final phase of the program in Sweden and South Africa respectively. This brings to a total of 8 the number of WANEP staff who have attended the program in the last five years.
- The National Coordinator of WANEP-NIGER participated in a peace building training course at the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin BEYE (EMPABB) In Bamako, Mali.



- 3 national office staff (1 female, 2 male) from WANEP Ghana and WANEP The Gambia completed the second phase of their training in Programme Evaluations and Research and are now serving as the core of WANEP's new Research, Monitoring and Evaluation team across the national networks.

## 2.6. Community Driven Interventions

WANEP's underlining principles of collaborative approach to the promotion of peace and security in the region is reinforced by its belief in ensuring local ownership of peacebuilding and conflict transformation through a bottom-up approach of effective involvement of communities to find lasting solutions to their own problems. Such community driven interventions and ensuring local ownership led to the signing of a peace declaration by key stakeholders in Nigeria and Burkina Faso and ultimately resulted in peaceful elections in those countries in March and November respectively.

A two-day National Dialogue facilitated by WANEP Ghana in collaboration with the National Peace Council (NPC) was held with 30 school administrators to deliberate on the issue of wearing of hijab/ head scarfs, and compulsory morning devotions which seemed to have been raising tensions in some schools in Ghana and to devise means to douse tensions and prevent a degeneration into violence/ crisis situation. Following on, the National Peace Council committed to ensuring the matter, which is already in court, is settled out of court through dialogue. Also, the network led in the dialogue and mediation initiatives in the conflict between the Konkomba and Bimoba tribes of Kpemale and the Bimbilla and Bunkpurugu, all in Northern Ghana. Consequently, the warring factions in Kpemale have committed to peaceful co-existence and most members of the community displaced by the conflict are gradually returning home.

Other community level interventions included the review of the peace process in Jos, Plateau state of Nigeria, led by WANEP Nigeria in collaboration with the Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria (CEPAN) and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR). As a consequence, stakeholders have designed workable intervention strategies to address the lingering conflict and provide direction for sustainable peace in the state. Similarly, WANEP convened a stakeholders' consultative forum to find lasting solutions to the protracted conflict in the Casamance region. Participants to the conference were drawn from Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea, countries bordering the Casamance region. Major outcomes included the development of strategic action plans by the stakeholders with key recommendations to the major players on the way forward.

**Strategic Objective 3: Research results are utilized in policy advocacy to promote peace and security**

### 3.1. Influencing Discourse and Policy Advocacy

In its quest to transform into a Think-Tank and Research Advocacy resource in the region, WANEP established a robust Research Department in the review year to influence policies and contribute to global discourse in peace and security on the continent. The department

focuses on building staff capacity in research and undertaking key research work in WANEP's thematic areas in partnership with key institutions in peacebuilding and related sectors.

### 3.2. Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

WANEP in partnership with DANIDA commissioned a one-year research project spanning January to December 2015 to assess the progress made towards the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), in Ghana and West Africa since its adoption in 2005. The project also provided an opportunity for WANEP to make strategic inputs into the development of an R2P policy, especially as 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the concept.

At the official launch of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Project



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 as well as capacity of the state to infuse them into state laws, mechanisms and structures. The two-tier research project first assessed public awareness of R2P and which organizations or who has the responsibility to protect them from R2P related crimes. It is worthy of note that Ghana and Denmark were the first countries to establish the national R2P Focal Points initiative.

A key recommendation from the research was the need for awareness and sensitization in schools, traditional institutions, CSOs and faith-based organizations on R2P to ensure local ownership. It also recommended regular capacity building programmes to ensure an all-round and effective implementation of R2P in Ghana.

**Strategic Objective 4: Gender capacity in peacebuilding and conflict prevention is developed and deployed at community, national and regional levels**

#### **4.1. Mainstreaming Gender into national peacebuilding and conflict prevention programs**

WANEP recognizes that gender roles have contributed to discrimination, exclusion and inequalities across the region and globally and in order to combat these inequalities; the organization is committed to ensuring that a gender perspective is applied in all its operations. In light of this, WANEP's Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET)'s Program exists as a necessary gender mainstreaming complimentary program with the goal of building the capacity of women at the grassroots level through to the national level in the area of peacebuilding. **Two indigenous tools; the Scale and the Brick, had been developed for analyzing conflict with a gender lens.** These tools informed the faculty for the two sessions of WAPI held this year and received rave reviews from representatives of civil society and inter-governmental organizations who attended WAPI.

#### **4.2. Support the development and implementation of UNSCR 1325**

##### **4.2.1. ECOWAS/WANEP Commemorate 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNSCR 1325**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in partnership with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) marked the 15th Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325, with a high-profile meeting which brought together 45 participants from Ministries of Women Affairs and Gender, representatives of Civil Society Organizations, Media and Development Partners in West Africa. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (Ghana) from October 20 to 21, 2015 under the theme "15 Years of Implementing UNSCR 1325 in West Africa: Looking Back and Looking Forward". The meeting was convened to review the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in West Africa, share the successes and lessons learned in promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, examine the challenges relating to the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs), and strategize on how to fast track the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa.

A significant outcome of the meeting was that recommendations proffered in the communique of the meeting which were shared with the media, has informed implementation plans of the UN Women's Women, Peace and Security agenda. The meeting amongst other things increased the visibility of the WIPNET Program and its relevance towards the furtherance of peace on the continent through women. Following this, WIPNET resources and publications were widely disseminated by the UN Women on their website. At the national level, WANEP's work in promoting women, peace and security in the region under the UNSCR platform has resulted in the following;

- Funding support from organizations and bodies such as the Government of Australia and GIZ supporting work in Cote d'Ivoire and Benin respectively.
- The U.S. Department of State and Homeland Security under the auspices of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group, invited WANEP Nigeria's WIPNET desk to a 3-day workshop in March on community engagement as a CVE tool.
- Significant progress made on the development of UNSCR 1325 Regional Action Plan and NAPs. WANEP at the national level facilitated and led the committees on the development of UNSCR 1325 NAPs. So far, 12 countries in West Africa have developed their NAPs.
- A survey conducted by ECOWAS and WANEP to ascertain the Tangible achievements made in the three NAPs pillars of prevention, participation, and promotion of the UNSCR 1325 including in the additional pillars of protection and prosecution.



WANEP in collaboration with ECOWAS Commemorated the 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 with a high-profile meeting under the theme "15 Years of Implementing UNSCR 1325 in West Africa: Looking Back and Looking Forward"

**COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO****ECOWAS COMMISSION**

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**COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**

ECW/GYDEX/SAG/GEN/01-004/stu *SW*

November 18, 2015

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WANEP REGIONAL OFFICE  
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Executive Director,

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation towards the recently concluded **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)** meeting to commemorate the **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325**, in West Africa, held from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2015, Accra, Ghana.

The **Communiqué** of the meeting has been disseminated to the President and Commissioners of the ECOWAS Commission, and will also be submitted to the Mediation and Security Council.

It was a successful collaboration between ECOWAS and WANEP and I hope we can continue to have opportunities to work together.

Thanks.

Please accept, Executive Director the assurances of my best regards.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Fatimata Dia Sow**  
Commissioner, Social Affairs & Gender

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES  
COMMUNIDADE ECONÓMICA DOS ESTADOS DA ÁFRICA OCIDENTAL  
COMMUNAUTÉ ECONOMIQUE DES ÉTATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

### 4.3. Women's Participation and Inclusion in Decision Making Processes

WANEP in collaboration with ECOWAS and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria trained 30 women from the North East States of Nigeria comprising Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe on dialogue and mediation. The zone was targeted for this first phase of the training due to the fact that it has been the hotbed of Boko Haram insurgency attacks where scores of women and girls are kidnapped on a daily basis and sometimes forced into suicide bombing. The training provided them with practical skills, strategies, and techniques necessary for effective participation in peace processes and for the conduct of effective

dialogue and mediation. In addition, the trained women mediators have been included in the database of women involved in dialogue and mediation awaiting operationalization by the ECOWAS Mediation Facilitated Division, (MFD).



Women from the North-East Zone of Nigeria at the first phase training on Dialogue and Mediation held in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting was organized by ECOWAS and WANEP

The over 200 school girls kidnapped more than a year ago by the Boko Haram insurgents in Chibok, a suburb of Borno State and who are yet to be found prompted a Declaration from ECOWAS on the abduction of the Chibok girls. The Declaration was adopted by the ECOWAS Ministers of Gender and Women in January 2015. It was recognized that building the capacity of women from that zone was key towards ensuring that women play major roles in peace processes in the zone. Attendees to the meeting included representatives of ECOWAS, WANEP, government ministries, departments and agencies. **Dr. Fatimata Dia SOW, Commissioner, Social Affairs and Gender at the ECOWAS Commission said; “it is important that we all as women and men raise our voices to bring to the attention of all key stakeholders the important role of women as agents of change and to demand for their inclusion in all peace processes.”** Similarly, Mrs. Iran Ajufo, Director, Women and Gender who represented the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Hajiya Zainab Maina of Nigeria said women’s contributions to the peace process are valuable not only for themselves, but for the collective being of society; “women’s inclusion helps create and sustain peace and security for all!”

## Strategic Objective 5: Institutional and financial sustainability of WANEP (National Network and Regional Secretariat) ensured

### 5.1. Strengthening WANEP Governance and Institutional Structure

**5.1.1. General Assembly:** The 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly took place from January 20 to 22, 2015 in Accra, Ghana under the theme: “WANEP Transition from Programming to Visioning in support of ECOWAS and African Union Peace Architecture.” WANEP’s new strategic plan covering the period 2015 to 2020 was officially adopted at this Assembly. The General Assembly also provided the platform for the successful leadership transition of the Executive Director and regional board, and review of the organizations constitution among others. WANEP used the opportunity of the meeting to honor its strategic partners namely; the Governments of Sweden, Denmark and Austria for their sustained partnership with the organisation over the years in the promotion of peace and security in the region through the Joint Financing I Agreement (JFA).



Transition: Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, immediate past Executive Director, handing over the mantle of leadership to new Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze



WANEP current Executive Director Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze flanked by founders of WANEP, immediate past Executive Director, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande (Left) and First Executive Director, Dr. Sam Doe (Right)



Outgoing Executive Director, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande delivering his speech during the WANEP General Assembly

**5.1.2. Inaugural Board Retreat:** The first WANEP Board Retreat under the theme: “Strengthening the WANEP Governance Architecture” held from August 12 to 13, 2015. It brought together WANEP Regional Management, Regional Board and the National Boards across the National Networks to deliberate and proffer strategies for the effective governance and continued sustenance of WANEP. The Regional Board is mandated by the Constitution to make policy decisions in the absence of a General Assembly for the efficient functioning of the Network pending approval of the General Assembly. The retreat made several recommendations for strengthening WANEP’s governance structure both at regional and national levels covering issues of finance, communication, program implementation, WANEP corporate identity among others.

In 2010, WANEP's highest decision-making body, the General Assembly, took a landmark decision to transform the Board both at the national and regional levels from a representative to a Professional Board thus making the Board the second highest decision making organ in the organization. The professionalization is to reinforce the functionality of the organization as a leading CSO in peace and security in West Africa that is also able to contribute to continental peace and security initiatives and interventions. In the reporting period, WANEP Benin and Cote d'Ivoire held their general assembly and elected new board members while WANEP Guinea developed a 5-year Strategic Plan in line with WANEP Regional Secretariat's five-year strategic plan covering the period 2015 to 2020.



WANEP Staff, Regional and National Board Members with key Stakeholders at the inaugural Board Retreat

## 5.2. Building Strategic Partnerships for Peace



Show of appreciation to WANEP strategic partners; the Governments of Sweden, Denmark and Austria for their sustained partnership with the organisation over the years in the promotion of peace and security in the region

WANEP places particular emphasis on collaborative approach to peacebuilding with the conviction that it is far cheaper to prevent violent conflicts than to react. In this regard, the organization entered into strategic partnership with development partners and inter-governmental organizations during the year as listed below;

**5.2.1. USAID/WANEP Partnership:** In February, WANEP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), entered into a unique partnership with the signing of a five-year contract for the implementation of a project titled; “Mitigating Electoral Violence in West Africa.” The direct partnership between the two institutions is the first of its kind in the region and attracted high-level interest from the US Government including, Counsellor to the US State Department, Thomas A. Shannon who was represented by Mr. Alexander Deprez, the USAID, West Africa Mission Director. The project aims to mitigate electoral violence in Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Sierra Leone through WANEP National Early Warning Systems, (NEWS). Under this project, WANEP successfully monitored elections in the project countries whose elections took place in the reporting year viz; Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire and Guinea.



WANEP-Nigeria Team presenting the Multi-Sectoral Contingency Plan to His Excellency Otunba Moses Alake Adeyemo the Deputy Governor of Oyo State Nigeria in February 2015

**5.2.2. WANEP-Nigeria** is working with the Government of Oyo state under the Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination Project and officially presented the multi-sector and multi-hazard contingency plan to the Oyo State Government. The Contingency plan is the first multi-sector, multi-hazard state level plan developed by government and non-government actors for effective coordination of emergency response in Nigeria. The network also developed a joint humanitarian response project with other organizations.

**5.2.3. GPPAC Meetings:** As the West Africa representative of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC),

WANEP participated in several GPPAC meetings such as; the International Steering Group, the GPPAC/Global Alliance for Peacebuilding TOT for curriculum development steering community and delivered a paper during the UN High Level thematic Debate in New York, USA. At the auspices of GPPAC, WANEP took part in the International Conference on strengthening peace and Democracy towards development at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), in Vienna. As a result of this visibility, WANEP was recognized as presenting the best example of the collaboration of a civil society organization and a regional international organization at a Vienna meeting and at the 47th ordinary session of the UN (UN webTV).

**5.2.4. USIP/WANEP-Mali Partnership:** WANEP-Mali played host to Regional Representative from the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), to conclude the partnership between the two organizations. USIP is partnering with WANEP Mali to address the security challenges in the country. In this regard, USIP and WANEP-Mali will implement several workshops aimed at addressing security challenges among different stakeholders including; Local Communities, Security Services in Mining Areas, Road Users and Police Services. In addition, Pastoral and Farming Communities, and the University environment will also be targeted. According to USIP, WANEP Mali was selected for this project because **“WANEP has prior experience organizing workshops and proven skill in mobilizing key stakeholders”**

### 5.3. Support to AU Peace and Security Architecture

At the AU Consultation on Vision 2063 which was held in 2013, WANEP’s presentation and Advocacy of “The Africa We Dream, Desire and Deserve” provided key recommendations which is contributing to the on-going review of the document. In 2015 within the framework of ECOSOCC, WANEP was once again invited to contribute to this review and provided technical inputs on generation of strategies to actualize African Solutions to African Problems.

Building on WANEP’s numerous engagements with AU and its role as the official CSO partner to ECOWAS on early warning, WANEP was selected by the AU Early Warning Unit to coordinate submission of CSO reports on the Africa Reporter for the West African region. Other contributions to APSA included the following:

- Contribution to the AU-High Level Annual Tana Forum of April 2015 via the conduct of Regional Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue in collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, (IPSS) in February 2015 on the theme “Secularism and Politicised Faith in Africa: Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Peacebuilding and Security in Africa.”
- Technical inputs/recommendations to the office of the AU-Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security on the protection and participation of women in peace and security agenda



Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director WANEP conferring with Her Excellency Madam Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission during the ECOWAS 40th Anniversary celebrations in Abuja, Nigeria



- Participation at the Joint African European Strategy Meeting as Africa CSO Focal Point. This resulted in Strengthened CSO engagement and cooperation between Africa and Europe
- Technical inputs in the AU's Strategic plan on the Joint AU-EU next strategy leading to the engagement of the CSOs in the designing of the strategy giving it ownership and inclusive direction.
- Contributed to AU Peace and Security Council meeting-Open Session on Women and Children in conflict and commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNSCR 1325. At this meeting, WANEP made a presentation highlighting the experiences of the WANEP partnership with ECOWAS and Member States in the implementation of 1325.

The engagements have led to the appointment of the WANEP Executive Director as Special Adviser on Governance and intergovernmental relations by ECOSOCC; as well as the ECOSOCC Regional Delegate to ECOWAS. He will also advise the main organs of ECOSOCC including the office of the Presiding Officer, the Bureau, Standing Committee and General Assembly. WANEP's role as JAES CSO Focal Point resulted in Strengthened CSO engagement and cooperation between Africa and Europe while the engagement of CSOs in the designing of the AU strategic plan has created a sense of ownership and inclusiveness among CSOs.

**5.3.1. WANEP/AU MOU:** The long-standing relationship between WANEP and the African Union Commission was formalized in 2015 when the two institutions signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in support of the Commission's peace and security agenda as enshrined in the Africa Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The MOU provides WANEP and CSOs the platform to support and contribute to peace and security debate on the continent. A meeting between AU and WANEP's leadership for the operationalization of the MOU was held in November 2015. The key outcome of this MOU is the request by the Commission for WANEP to assign a Liaison Officer to the African Union Commission tailored along the WANEP Liaison Officer to ECOWAS. WANEP is also working with the Commission to explore and exploit the contribution of the Business Community to peace and security on the continent.

Within the framework of this partnership, WANEP facilitated the Joint AU-RECs/RMs-CSOs retreat, which focused on formulating joint work, plans for 2016/2017 with the RECs/RMS, PSD units/Divisions and relevant AUC departments-Gender directorate, Political Affairs, economic affairs and social affairs. In recognition of WANEP's work, the Director of Political Affairs of the AU has recommended the ECOWAS/WANEP collaborative framework as a model from which other RECs can draw lessons.

#### 5.4. Enhance Civil Society Inter face with ECOWAS



Mrs. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, Commissioner, Political Affairs, Peace and Security, ECOWAS making a comment at the Stakeholders Interactive Forum to mark ECOWAS 40th Anniversary held in Dakar, Senegal

WANEP through its Liaison office located within the Early Warning Directorate at the ECOWAS Commission, Abuja, is facilitating working relations and sharing of information between ECOWAS and CSOs. This has resulted in increased ECOWAS/CSO collaborations, some of which have culminated in the signing of MOUs. The Liaison office is also providing technical support to the ECOWAS Strategic Planning Unit. In recognition of WANEP's work, it has been assigned a role to support National Early Warning System for member states in the ECOWAS proposal on setting up National Early Warning and Response Mechanisms.

WANEP organized two key events in commemoration of the ECOWAS 40th anniversary in Ghana and in Senegal. The Senegal event which was a high profile Stakeholder Interactive Forum, brought together representatives from governments, inter-governmental organizations, implementing partners and civil society organizations across the ECOWAS member states. **The event was described by the ECOWAS Commissioner of Political Affairs, Madam Salamatu Suleiman, as “an excellent opportunity to share experiences and to explore better collaborative strategies for preventing and mitigating conflict and entrenching sustainable peace in our region.”**

WANEP in partnership with the Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA) of the Commission organized a two-day sensitization meeting for CSOs on the new ECOWAS Human Rights Reporting Framework. Based on this partnership, WANEP was selected as the CSO partner for the monitoring and reporting of the ECOWAS Human Rights Framework.

The Commission's Directorate for Peacekeeping and Regional Security (DPKRS) organized a two-day workshop to sensitize selected focal persons from the 15 ECOWAS Member States led by WANEP on the roles of civilian dimension of the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF).



## 5.5. Coordination of the Africa Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfAP)

WANEP is leading on a planning process for a dialogue on Violent Extremism in Africa and the Effects of “Sit Tight” African leaders on Governance and the Human Security situation in Africa. The plan is expected to culminate in dialogue sessions and advocacy strategies aimed at supporting the AU and the RECs to agree and enforce a maximum two-term (not exceeding 10 years) policy.

## 6.0. Institutional Growth and Development

### 6.1. New hires and Staff movements

In its quest for the attainment of sustainable peace towards creating an enabling environment for development in West Africa, WANEP in the reporting period reassigned and recruited new staff at the regional office and national offices. The appointments were specifically targeted at implementing the organizations new Strategic Plan covering the period 2015 to 2020 which aims to reposition the organization from “Project to Vision-driven!”

**Staff Movements:** WANEP’s erstwhile Liaison Officer at the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Constant Gnacadja following a request from the ECOWAS Commission, bowed out after 12 years of meritorious service to become Program Officer at the Directorate of Political Affairs at the Commission and was replaced by Mr. Alimou Diallo, formerly the Regional Coordinator Network Development at the WANEP Regional Office.

**New Hires:** New staff were recruited within the year at the regional office as follows;

- Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah as Program Director
- Ms. Beatrice Brew has been recruited as the Program Officer, Research and Capacity Building
- Mr. Ansoumane Samassy Souare was also recruited as the Program Assistant at the WANEP PMC

**Redeployments:** The following staff were redeployed during the reporting year;

- Mr. Ifeanyi Okechukwu former National Network Coordinator, WANEP-Nigeria who is now Regional Coordinator Early Warning. He is also, heading the implementation of a five – year Project on Mitigating Electoral Violence through National Early Warning Systems with support from USAID.
- Ms. Queeneth Tawo, the former Regional Coordinator Programs has been redeployed as the Regional Coordinator Corporate Communications & Capacity Building.
- Mr. Francis Acquah-Aikins became the Regional Coordinator, Network Development from his former position as the Communications and External Relations Officer.
- Ms. Edwige Dede Mensah, erstwhile Program Officer, WANEP Peace Monitoring Centre (PMC), now assists Mr. Okechukwu as the Program Officer, Early Warning.
- Ms. Mfrekeobong Ukpanah who was the former Program Assistant, PMC stepped up to the position of Program Officer, Peace Monitoring Centre.

At the National level, changes at the level of National Network Coordinators (NNC) were as follows;

**New Appointments:**

- Mrs. Bridget Osakwe, NNC WANEP Nigeria
- Ms. Anna Jones, Acting NNC, WANEP The Gambia
- Mr. Francois Fadoua Tolno, Acting NNC, WANEP Guinea
- Mr. Albert Yelyang, NNC, WANEP-Ghana

**Resignations**

- Mr. Jean Millimouno, WANEP-Guinea
- Miss Pamela Cole, WANEP-The Gambia
- Mr. Isaac Bayor, WANEP-Ghana



### Executive Director and NNCs

00. Chukwuemeka B. Eze - Executive Director

01. Boris SOME - NNC WANEP- Burkina Faso

02. Alfred GOMIS - NNC WANEP- Senegal

03. César Fernandes - NNC WANEP- Guinea Bissau

04. Claudine AHIANYO-KPONDZO - NNC WANEP- Togo

05. Clement K. GBEDEY - NNC WANEP- Niger

0.6 Marie Joëlle KEI - NNC WANEP- Cote d'Ivoire

0.7 Edward K Jombla - NNC WANEP- Sierra Leone

08. Bridget Osakwe - NNC WANEP- Nigeria

09. WANEP- Cape Verde

10. François Fadoua TOLNO Ag. NNC WANEP- Guinea

11. Julien N. OUSSOU - NNC WANEP- Benin

12. Mahamady TOGOLA - NNC WANEP- Mali

13. Anna Jones - Ag. NNC WANEP- The Gambia

14. Victoria W. H. Wollie - NNC WANEP- Liberia

15. Albert Yelyang - Ag. NNC WANEP- Ghana

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