



## **STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON ENHANCING GENDER INCLUSIVE RESPONSE TO THE FARMER-HERDER CONFLICT IN WEST AFRICA**



**Organized by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP**

**DATE: October 30-31, 2019**

**VENUE: Sunlodge Hotel, Accra, Ghana**

### **1.0. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION**

Over the years, the peace and security environment of West Africa has been fraught with an avalanche of varied threats. Prominent among these, is escalating violence in relation to farmer-herder conflict affecting many communities across the region. While the phenomenon is common in most farming communities, it is predominant in Nigeria, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire often destabilizing and displacing population of affected communities with significant impact on women, youth and children. The movements of pastoralists due largely to climate change variabilities, scarcity of land and lack of adherence to existing regional and national mechanisms, proliferation of arms and increase in the number of cattle and herds have fueled tensions and conflicts between farmers and herders, thus leading to massive destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods.

While protracted farmer-herder conflicts in communities have prompted development and activation of varied responses including State policies and laws as well as sub-regional protocols as evident in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Transhumance, the voices of women and youth in the mitigation of the threat continued to remain relatively silent. Also, despite several recommendations and actions to mitigate this threat, there has been limited gender sensitive inclusivity to decisions and responses to address the vulnerabilities and impact of these violent conflicts on women and youth. Notably, although articles 17 and 18 of the ECOWAS Protocol on Transhumance calls for the involvement of women and youth in the proposed arbitration commission as enshrined thereof to address the threats and regulate the activities of transhumance within West Africa, the perspectives of women and the youth have not been given prominent attention in efforts to prevent the threat and mitigate its impact through gender sensitive dialogue and mediation, especially at the community level. Yet, it remains a relevant tool in ensuring inclusive participation in enhancing resilience against farmer-herder conflicts in communities of the affected countries. Besides, it is also pertinent in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans as well as contributing to the actualization of the gender component of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF).

Against the backdrop of the foregoing chasms in response strategies, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), as part of its efforts in peacebuilding and fostering social cohesion in communities across the sub-region, held a two-day regional stakeholders' consultative meeting aptly tagged; ENHANCING GENDER INCLUSIVE RESPONSE TO THE FARMER-HERDER CONFLICT IN WEST with the view of developing and engendering strategies to enhance inclusive participation of women and youth in responding and mitigating the threat of the conflicts in the region.

### **1.1. Justification**

A plethora of studies have revealed that women provide varied contributions to peace processes. Most community-based women groups across all communities in West Africa have made a positive impact in promoting peace and have engaged in different forms of peace education and reconciliatory efforts often with the support of formal institutions. UN Security

Council Resolution 1325 was the first adopted by the Security Council to explicitly address the impact of armed conflict on women. It introduced a set of international standards for all UN member states, conflict belligerents, the UN system and its peacekeeping forces, and other stakeholders. Under the resolution, these actors must take varying steps to ensure that efforts to prevent, resolve and rebuild from armed conflict incorporate the perspectives of women. The resolution also calls for full implementation of international laws relevant to armed conflict, condemning any violations of the rights and security of women.

It has become increasingly obvious that finding a sustainable solution to the herder-farmer conflict require the participation of all sectors of society including women and men, in identifying and implementing workable and lasting solutions as all sectors of society have something essential to bring to the process. However, there is a gap in participation, particularly women and youth involvement in the proposed arbitration commission as enshrined in Articles 17 and 18 of the ECOWAS Transhumance protocol<sup>2</sup>. Involvement of women, youth and other key stakeholders in dialogue and mediation processes in communities has proven to be a critical tool for resolution of conflicts.

In recognition of the vital role women can play in conflict mediation, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) through the Women Peace and Security Program (WIPNET) conducted a stakeholder meeting to harness women's experience in community dispute management that can be incorporated in response strategies to mitigate the Farmer-Herder conflict as well as establish mechanisms for their inclusive participation in the process. The meeting provided the platform to assess local actions directed at managing possible threats of the conflict on women as well as a platform to harness women's voices within the mechanisms to mitigate future occurrences. Additionally, the meeting identified possible entry points for women to participate in formal peace negotiations.

## **1.2. Specific Objectives of the Meeting**

- To harness women and youth perspectives and concerns on intervention in dialogue and mediation to forestall farmer-herder conflict;
- To create a space for active participation of women and youth in order to clarify their specific roles in dialogue and mediation of farmer-herder conflict;
- To share experiences on existing instruments and normative frameworks to support women's meaningful involvement;
- To discuss the gender dimensions of the ECOWAS Transhumance policy and contributions of key stakeholders' towards operationalizing it;
- To examine the role of women/gender focused agencies in mitigating the impact of Farmer- Herder conflicts in line with existing National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325.

### **1.3. Expected Outcome of the Meeting**

- Stakeholders identified and agreed on operative procedures for the intervention on farmer- herder conflicts in Nigeria, Mali, Ghana and Burkina Faso;
- A commissioned research to assess available gender inclusive dialogue and mediation mechanisms on herder/farmer conflict in West Africa that contributes to women inclusion to regional, national and community policy and practice;
- Roles and inclusive participation of women and youth in the meeting, planning and implementation of the intervention are clearly defined;
- Opportunities for women to negotiate their involvement in minimizing the conflict and its impact.

### **1.4. Approach/Methodology**

The meeting was held in Accra-Ghana with thirty (30) participants comprising representatives such as; community women leaders, Women focused CBOs, CSOs involved in the conflict, Relevant Ministries and Departments, Researchers on Farmer/Herder conflict and Transhumance. Others are ECOWAS, Miyati Allah, Farmers Associations, UNOWAS, GIZ and Forum on Farmer and Herder Relations in Nigeria (FFARN). Gender consideration was factored in the selection of participants from target countries - two males, two females and a youth. Panel discussions at the meeting focused on the dynamics of farmer-herder conflicts in the region with emphasis on Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso. This was followed by a presentation on the recommendations from the ECOWAS Expert meeting on farmer-herder conflict. Plenary sessions and group discussions were further employed to further interrogate the issues and suggest possible approaches for consideration towards mitigating farmer- herder conflicts in target countries.

## **2.0. OPENING SESSION**

### **2.1. KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

In his keynote address, Dr Chukwuemeka Eze provided a panoramic view about the varied threats to peace and security landscape of West Africa. Among the varied threats he highlighted included increased terrorist and violent extremist insurgency attacks, transnational organized crimes as well as man-made and natural disasters such as flooding and droughts, which is a direct consequence of climate change and environmental degradation. In particular, he stressed that the recurrent farmer-herder conflicts occasioned by pastoral movements, consequences of climate change and environmental degradation continue to fuel tensions and violence between farmers and herders in communities in Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Ghana among others. Revealing the catastrophic effect of farmer-herder conflicts, he cited WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) report that between 2011 and 2016, over 2,000 lives including women were lost in Nigeria alone with a further 5,000 people displaced within the same period. He also highlighted that Mali recorded 300 deaths as a consequence of farmer-herder conflict in 2018 while 100 people including women and children were also killed

in Burkina Faso in the same period. Apart from this, he pointed out that women and girls continued to be traumatized and suffer all forms of sexual and gender-based violence associated with farmer-herder conflicts in the affected countries in the region.

Touching on the triggers of protracted farmer-herder conflicts in communities, Dr. Eze pointed out expansion of agriculture on former grazing lands, growing livestock industry dominated by nomadic pastoralists, climate change and its concomitant threats including - floods, warming and drought – desertification and deforestation which continue to affect soil fertility and heighten water scarcity in communities. The omnibus effect of this, according to him, is reflected in the widespread phenomenon of migration which has increased pressure on lands and terms and conditions upon which different migrants gain access to resources. He further mentioned that cattle raiding across borders into neighbouring countries and limited availability of cultivatable land, coupled with farmers' expansion of lands often result in heightened competition, tension and violence between farmers and herders in communities. To understand the dynamics and assuage the threat of farmer-herder conflicts, he elucidated the need to explore the use of social ecology framework, which analyses conflicts from the levels of individual, relationship, community and State, how they interact to influence and provide the basis for peaceful coexistence and conflicts.

He also expressed concern that despite women and youth being direct victims of farmer-herder conflicts in the affected countries, they have largely been excluded in processes to resolve the conflicts. He posited further that in spite of the agency of women and youth in the conflict, their voices are limited in efforts to mitigate the threats of the conflicts in communities. This, in his view, is counterproductive to the security ecosystem of the region. Equally, he stated that to find a robust solution to farmer-herder conflicts, gender, especially women and youth inclusivity is a *sine qua non*.

In his concluding remarks, he welcomed participants to the meeting and called on them to reflect on the impact of farmer-herder conflicts on women in the deliberations and come out with strategies to enhance women and youth participation and inclusivity in response and mitigation efforts. He further expressed the hope that recommendations generated out of the discussions would facilitate harnessing of women and youth voices and active participation in mitigating protracted farmer-herder conflicts in communities across the region.

## 2.2. SOLIDARITY MESSAGES

**2.1.1. ECOWAS:** In his message of solidarity, Danjuma Aku, representative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), mentioned that farmer-herder conflicts undermine regional integration efforts in West Africa. He thus shed light about effort by the regional governmental body in mitigating the threat of the conflicts in the sub-region. He emphasized ECOWAS Protocol on Transhumance among the key frameworks and measures towards addressing this phenomenon. Apart from this, he noted that ECOWAS has further undertaken a field research on farmer-herder conflicts in 2007 in collaboration with its three Centres of Excellence with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the crisis. The



recommendations of the field research, according to Mr Danjuma, was presented at the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council meeting and directions were given to the Commission on steps needed to be taken to implement the findings of the research. While noting the strategic relevance of agriculture and livestock production to the economy and development of the ECOWAS region, however, he pointed out that given the disharmony between farmers and herders which continued to flare out tensions and violent conflicts, livelihood security in communities across the region is enormously threatened. To mitigate this threat, in his view, a robust partnership between ECOWAS and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is imperative. He thus commended WANEP which has been a longstanding partner of ECOWAS in peacebuilding for initiating the meeting and expressed the hope that recommendations generated out of the conversations of the meeting will contribute in addressing the threat of farmer-herder conflicts in the region.

**2.1.2. UNWOMEN:** On her part, Salamatu Kemokai, representative of the United Nations Women, UNWOMEN, touched on the impact of conflicts on women in communities. She argued that while conflict affects both men and women differently, women are disproportionately affected largely due to preexisting inequalities including inadequate access to education, land, early marriage and lack of economic opportunities, which continue to undermine women participation in decision-making at all levels across the globe. Alluding to UN Resolution 1325 to buttress her point, she pointed out that although the resolution enjoins the world to create spaces for women inclusivity and equal participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes at the local, national and international levels, yet, they continue to remain at the peripheral of decision-making. She thus called for the need to interrogate the criteria for the discussion table and create platforms for amplification of the voices of women in decision making. To this end, she commended WANEP for the meeting, in seeking to enhance women participation in addressing farmer-herder conflicts. In her view, the invitation extended to her further cements the partnership between WANEP and UN Women in promotion of women peace and security in the region and beyond. She therefore thanked WANEP for extending invitation to her organization to participate in the meeting.

### **3.0. PANEL DISCUSSIONS: SESSION 1**

#### **3.1. FARMER-HERDER CONFLICTS IN WEST AFRICA: DYNAMICS AND TRENDS**

Presenting the topic of the session, Dr Nathaniel Danjibo Senior Lecturer/Research Fellow, University of Ibadan, presented a broader perspective about the phenomenon of farmer-herder conflicts in West Africa, highlighting historical antecedents, causes and impact of the conflicts on the economies of Ghana, Mali and Nigeria. In addition, he provided recommendations for response and mitigation of farmer-herder conflicts in West Africa. Highlighting the trends in the preponderance of the conflicts in the three countries, he observed that in Ghana, farmer-herder conflicts are prevalent in the Ashanti, Northern and the Eastern regions while the Mopti and Niger Belt regions are the common scenes of the conflicts in Mali. In Nigeria, he noted that farmer-herder conflicts are recurrent in 23 out of the 36 States. In terms of triggers of the conflicts, he highlighted land aridity, political ethnicity, scarcity of water, draught, population

growth, urbanization and climate change among others. As regards to the direct causes of farmer-herder conflicts, he was of the view that accidental and deliberate invasion of farmlands, cattle rustling, flow of Small Arms and Light Weapon (SAWL), political marginalization, non-inclusion of pastoralists in decision-making that directly affect them, erosion of grazing track and corruption in acquisition of land. He further pointed out the impact of farmer-herder conflicts on affected countries which included destruction of crops and livestock as well as associated food insecurity in communities, internal displacement of persons, refugee flow and loss of human capital. He further noted that Nigeria alone lost \$ 14 billion, while Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa and Plateau States of Nigeria lost 47 per cent of their IGR due to farmer-herder conflicts. While 300 fatalities were recorded in Mali, over 100 fatalities were recorded in Burkina Faso, he further observed. Among others, he recommended the need to deconstruct archaic socio-cultural stereotypes that continue to heighten tension and violence between farmers-herders, strengthening of traditional and local institutions and use of universities as pilot experiment for ranching and product processing.

The Session Moderator, **Abdoulaye Guindo**, Executive Director, APIDC-Mali, particularly mentioned the need for West African States to tackle the threat of climate change and its impact on farmer-herder conflicts in the region. He also pointed out the need to create platforms for women and youth to participate in response and mitigation of conflicts between farmers and herders since they are, in no doubt, affected by the violence unleashed by the phenomenon. Discussing the presentation, Ifeanyi Okechukwu emphasized how current security dynamics of the region is influencing farmer-herder conflicts, the role of political elites and conflict entrepreneurs in fueling tension and violence between farmers and herders in communities. More importantly, he mentioned exploitation of tensions between farmers and herders by violent extremists operating in the region to perpetuate their insurgencies. He proposed the need to interrogate how ECOWAS frameworks respond to farmer-herder conflicts in the region and emphasized the imperative of strengthening traditional mechanisms of dispute resolutions to mitigate the conflicts and domestication of regional frameworks in countries to ensure synergy and coherence in response strategies. On her part, Adizatou Cheick, expressed concern about marginalization of women and youth in the resolution of farmer-herder conflicts in communities. Women, according to her, suffer sexual and gender-based violence in farmer-herder conflicts. She also observed that given the role of women in farming and pastoral activities as well as support to household activities, they are largely devastated by the conflicts and therefore necessitated the need to harness their agency and amplify their voices in the resolution of farmer-herder conflicts in communities.

### **3.2. GENDER DYNAMICS IN FARMER-HERDER CONFLICTS IN WEST AFRICA**

Framing the issues for discussion, **Dr Chukwuemeka Eze, the moderator for the session**, called on discussants to interrogate gender dynamics in farmer-herder conflicts, existing response strategies and the gaps that exist in terms of gender inclusion. He also urged them to examine the existing analytical tools and how they limit participation of women in decision-making and resolution of the conflicts. In furtherance of this, he called for the need to also examine

response structures at the community, State and regional levels for mitigation and how they affect women and youth participation in farmer-herder conflicts.

Discussing the issues, Nathaniel Awuapila, Executive Director, CORAFID noted that despite women being direct victims of farmer-herder conflicts, gender issues, especially issues of inclusivity and participation of women do not feature prominently in official response strategies (policies, laws and frameworks) at the local, States and national levels in Nigeria. He indicated that gender concerns always seem to be an afterthought of State policymakers. Rather, it is civil society advocacy and activism that have made gender concerns a frontline issue in national conversations. Again, he stated that at the Community, State and national levels, women and youth are always on the sidelines of decision-making processes. Citing the case of Nasarawa and Benue States of Nigeria to buttress his argument and the existing body of literature on gender inclusivity, he said that there are limited spaces for women and Youth in decision making processes, especially peace mediation and dialogue. He noted that whereas youth are engaged in ensuring security (vigilantism) in communities, they are, however, marginalized in decision making regarding development, peace and security. Similarly, he noted that gender concerns are not prominent in international organizations' interventions in conflicts and peacebuilding activities.

Another pertinent view pointed out by Nathaniel was the too much focus on women as victims of farmer-herder conflicts without minimum attention to the role they play as perpetrators of violence. This, according to him, has contributed to gaps in gender dimensions of the conflicts, response strategies and inclusivity in the resolution of disputes, especially in view of the critical role of women in the socialization of children in society. Ending violence against women and creating platforms for inclusive participation in decision making is imperative in changing the narrative in farmer-herder conflicts and the approach to its resolution. As such, he called for domestication and effective implementation of national, regional and international laws, policies and frameworks that protect women, youth and promote their participation in decision making process and conflict resolution, especially mediation and dialogue.

In her discussion, Loda Coulibaly of REJEFPO, observed that the socio-cultural construction of African societies inhibits inclusive participation of women and youth in decision making and conflict resolution processes. For instance, she noted that entrenched inequalities in terms of access to lands for agriculture and other economic activities continue to undermine economic empowerment of women and youth. This is further compounded by increased terrorist and violent extremist attacks against women, which have made most women lose their lands and displaced. It has also increased poverty rate among women and youth in most African societies, according to her. She further noted that although the Malian Constitution guarantees and safeguards women's rights and their participation in decision making, in practice, their involvement is very limited largely due to socio-cultural structures. For this reason, she noted that inclusive participation of women in peace mediation and dialogue in communities are very limited. In her remedial submission to the problem, she called for the need to examine the nexus between violent extremism and gender disempowerment, increased education and understanding of women and their concerns at the local, national and regional levels and



creation of coordinated platforms to accelerate women and youth participation in dispute resolution in communities.

### **3.3. Current Strategies and Gaps in Responding to Farmer-Herder Conflicts in West Africa: An Assessment of Vulnerabilities and Inclusivity**

**The moderator for the session, Dr Dayo Kusa**, Independent Consultant/Conflict Transformation Expert noted that there are a number of national, regional and international policies, laws and frameworks that seek to promote women and youth inclusivity in decision making and conflict resolution, however, gaps in the action plans for implementation continue to undermine its realization. She also noted, among others, that entrenched patriarchy in West African societies is a key fault line that continues to hinder women and youth participation in conflict resolution and decision-making processes. Another gap she identified in her remarks was that security operations or response to threats in Nigeria, for example, are fraught with fragrant human rights abuses and do not also take into cognizance the vulnerability of women and persons with disabilities. Besides, she highlighted that farmer-herder conflicts have not featured prominently in Nigeria's security largely due to prioritization of countering Boko Haram insurgencies in the North Eastern region of the country until farmer-herder crisis became a bigger crisis. This, to her, has also contributed to limited women and youth inclusive participation in an effort to mitigate the conflicts in communities. She also mentioned that conflict impact assessment often ignores the effect of conflicts on women and further affect gender disaggregation of data relating to exclusivity and vulnerability of women in farmer-herder crisis. Inadequate gender mainstreaming in farmer-herder crisis and issue of sovereignty were further raised by Dr Dayo as key gaps that hinder inclusive participation of women in mitigation of farmer-herder conflicts as well as regional intervention at the local level of affected States in the sub-region.

Another discussant, Danjuma Aku Programme Officer, Rostering and Training, ECOWAS provided security perspectives of farmer-herder crisis, existing regional mechanisms for response as well as gaps in existing ECOWAS response strategies to the crisis. He noted that in 2016, the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council directed the ECOWAS Commission to take immediate steps towards addressing the farmer-herder crisis which had assumed security dimension through research. The research report, according to him, generated recommendations in four thematic areas - implementation of ECOWAS regulatory framework, security and local governance, livestock sector transformation and sensitization and communication. With regard to the first recommendation, he noted that it called for a review of existing frameworks related to transhumance and international transhumance certificates, which enhance tracking and regulation of livestock movements across the region. In the second thematic area, he mentioned harmonization, domestication and implementation of regional and national regulatory laws and frameworks to enhance mitigation of conflicts related to transhumance movements. As regards to the third thematic area, the need to strengthen cross border cooperation among States and local community dialogue and mediation structures to address farmer-herder crisis were noted in the recommendations. Danjuma also stated that ICT surveillance on movements of cattle was recommended to ensure effective tracking of transhumance movements. In the fourth thematic area, he mentioned the need to develop

communication strategies and highlight good and challenging practices for impact on mechanisms for response. In his concluding statement, he called for the need to strengthen local resilience, review of existing regulatory regimes on farmer-herder crisis as key mitigating factors in farmer-herder conflicts.

In her submission, Wuraola Solomon Program Officer, CDD-Nigeria, highlighted inadequate assessment of inclusivity and vulnerability of women in the mitigation of farmer-herder conflicts at the national and local levels, as key gaps in response strategies. She further noted that women and children suffer sexual and gender-based violence, especially rape which continued to be used as an instrument of attack against women and girls. She further pointed out that inadequate protection of women and girls displaced by farmer-herder crisis in Internally Displaced Persons camps impact negatively on their security. Apart from this, she was of the view that farmer-herder crisis also impacts negatively against education of girls and youths in communities and therefore conflict impact assessments needed to highlight it prominently in reports for policy response. She also mentioned socio-cultural beliefs and limited State capacity as other hinderances which prevent women and girls from reporting sexual violence perpetuated against them for appropriate response. At the regional level, she particularly emphasized ineffective operational guidelines for implementation of frameworks and policies on transhumance activities and inclusive participation of women and youth in decision-making processes at the local, national and regional levels as gaps that heighten farmer-herder conflicts in West Africa. In conclusion, she stated that the provision of access to education for girls and women at all levels is key in addressing vulnerabilities of women in conflicts and empowering them to participate in decision making.

Key recommendations from the panel discussions were as follows;

- There is the need for creation of engendered spaces to enhance women and youth participation and inclusivity in decision-making, mediation and dialogue processes involving farmers and herders. This requires building capacities and providing them with education as tool of empowerment;
- There is also the need to highlight the female herders in policies and ensure their protection;
- Creating spaces for women and youth participation in the dialogue and mediation process are key in amplifying their voices.
- There is the need for prioritization of violence against women and girls in response strategies at the local, national and international levels;
- Gender disaggregation of data in terms of women vulnerability and perpetration of violence is key;
- Community policing should be strengthened and institutionalized as a mechanism for responding to the farmer-herder conflicts;
- DDR programmes should also focus on female ex-combatants in farmer-herder conflicts

#### 4.0. PANEL DISCUSSIONS: SESSION II

##### 4.1. Policies, Programs and Partnerships in Addressing Gender Gaps in Response Mechanisms: A Multi Stakeholder Approach

**Lydia Sasu, Executive Director, Development Action Association (DAA), moderator of the session**, called on discussants to focus their discussions on interrogating strategies for addressing gaps in farmer-herder conflict response mechanisms. Following this, Salamatu Kemokai, UNWOMEN Policy Specialist, Humanitarian, Peace and Security, pointed out that at the regional level, ECOWAS has developed a number of policies and frameworks including, the 1999 Protocol on Conflict Resolution, Peace and Security, Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance 2001 and Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment, which all create space for gender inclusivity and participation on issues pertaining to the protocols. She particularly mentioned that the protocol related to peace and security makes provisions for inclusive participation of women and mainstreaming of gender in decision making processes. Apart from the policies, there are also established institutions including the Gender Technical Commission and ECOWAS Gender Development Centre responsible for facilitating gender mainstreaming in policies and implementation. Additionally, she noted that ECOWAS has adopted Gender Statutory Act in 2015, seeking to promote equality of rights between men and women in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda.

At the global level, she also noted that UNSC Resolution 1325 is another instrument for enhancement of women, peace and security. In her view, the aforementioned frameworks emerged out of recognition of the disproportionate impact of conflicts on women for increased platforms for amplifying their voices in peace and conflict resolution. According to her, the policies also stress the importance of women as active agents of peace and security at all levels. She observed that despite the ratifications and development of national action plans for implementation of regional and global frameworks, gaps still exist between communities and such policies affect their implementation. She also noted that socio-cultural value of societies in the region continue to undermine effective implementations and realization of women active participation in peace and security issues. She informed the meeting that, in recognition of this gap, UN Women is currently implementing two joint programmes related to farmer-herder conflicts in Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba States in Nigeria in the areas of provision of livelihood opportunities and establishment of peacebuilding infrastructure, particularly mainstreaming gender dimensions. She recommended a deconstruction of culture and harmful traditional practices hindering gender transformation in communities.

Agathe Kemeokai Telou, Gender Advisor UNOWAS, in her discussion, stated the need for analytical tools to take into cognizance women and girls as perpetrators of violence in farmer-herder conflicts to enhance response and mitigation at all levels. The need for integration of gender dimensions in response mechanisms and national action plans were also mentioned in her presentation. She further noted enhancement of synergy among States, ECOWAS, CSOs, women organizations, NGOs, traditional authorities to ensure women participation in peace

and conflict resolution at the local, national and regional levels. Again, she observed that sharing information and inclusion of women and girls concerns in peace and security issues in communities were also pertinent in gender mainstreaming. The need for convergence of local, national and regional conflict indicators as well as integration of gender dimensions were also mentioned as important in addressing gender concerns in conflict response strategies. In her conclusion, she stated that capacity building through training of women and young people in peace dialogue, negotiation and mediation is imperative in harnessing their agency in response and mitigation of farmer-herder conflicts.

The following recommendations were posited by participants at the end of the session;

- Robust collaboration and partnership with women networks in communities is critical to strengthening women participation and gender mainstreaming in response strategies.
- There is also the need to build and foster partnership with private sector to harness their contribution to peace and security.
- Analysis of farmer-herder conflicts should also focus on women as perpetrators of violence in farmer-herder conflicts.
- Development of policies and frameworks should reflect socio-cultural dynamics of local communities

## **5.0. GROUP WORKING SESSIONS**

### **5.1. Operative Procedures for Intervention on Farmer-Herder Conflicts in Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana: Group Exercise**

This session was facilitated by Mr. Ifeanyi Okechukwu of WANEP. Participants were divided into three working groups to discuss and present on the above topic under the following guiding questions:

- How do we enhance collaboration?
- What specific actions need to be taken to support ongoing regional, national and community initiatives?
- What is our time frame?
- Who is not in the conference room (influence mapping)?
- How do we ensure sustainability of initiatives?

**Note:** refer to appendix for harmonized group work.

### **Session VI: Action Points and Way Forward**

The following action points were taken at the meeting for the way forward;

- A working group was set up for harmonization of recommendations generated out of the discussions at the meeting;

- A suitable name for the forum was also to be identified for use on all platforms;
- A social media platform (WhatsApp) was set up for participants to share and generate ideas on gender inclusivity in response and mitigation of farmer-herder conflicts;
- A group email was also to be set up to enhance communication and sharing of information on activities of the group;
- A proposed steering committee that will drive the communication process and support the design of technical suggestions or recommendations on interventions and development of strategies for implementation of interventions. Membership of the team was to reflect the geographical location and language of participants at the meeting.

### **Closing Remarks**

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, the Deputy Executive Director of WANEP, noted that the absence of knowledge and understanding in gender dimensions of farmer-herder conflicts adds to the complexities of the conflict and heightens its threat to regional peace and security. For this reason, she mentioned that the meeting brought together participants with different backgrounds to generate knowledge and ideas that would enhance sustainable solutions to mitigating the conflicts. She thus expressed her gratitude to all participants for their contributions in generating ideas and innovations for the implementation of the various recommendations at the meeting. She further thanked the translators, media, technical and supporting staff from WANEP for their contributions in making the meeting a success and wished participants safe journey back to their various destinations.

## Appendix

### HARMONIZED GROUP WORK

#### 1. GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How do we Collaborate?
2. What specific action do we engage in to support ongoing regional, national and community initiatives?
3. What is our Time Frame?
4. Who is not in the room?
5. How will it be sustained?

#### 2. GROUP WORK OUTPUT

##### 2.1. COLLABORATION

Members of the platform	Stakeholders	Grassroots
Establish a working group and nurture the platform to grow	Bring together local, national and regional networks	Collaboration with rural citizens through their local leaders
Share information among members and with stakeholders	Map partners engaged in the farmer herder conflict and in gender	NGOs synergies at the local, national and international levels (building trust must be key strategy in bringing NGOs together)
Designate a technical team to collate information from the various groups across the countries to develop projects and interventions	Involve gender specialist to make presentations on gender issues and provide tools to mainstream gender related policies	Using appropriate representative to mobilization of people at the local level
Have periodic sessions for Agenda setting for stakeholders	Attend to local peculiarities and ensure inclusivity; Include representative groups of women, men and youth, professional groups, faith communities, traditional authorities and security agencies involved in addressing the farmer herder issues	Media involvement in all activities to ensure effective communication of programs
	Government involvement in all processes e.g., invite local leaders to NGO meetings, invite ministry of women affairs to local meetings on women issues	Involving philanthropist to assist with funding
		Adopt bottom-up and multidimensional approach in



		our interventions
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## 2.2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND TIMEFRAME

ACTION	TIME FRAME*
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
Share outcome of this meeting with your constituents	Short Term
Organize regular community durbars that involve all stakeholders	Short to Medium Term
Sensitize and educate community women, men and youth on gender issues and communication	Short to Medium Term
Build stakeholder's capacity on UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on WPS and organize a training of trainers on WPS tools	Short to Medium Term
Support income generating activities for community women to empower them economically	Medium to Long term
Mainstream gender in the local community action plan	Medium to Long term
Generate awareness on gender transformation/deconstruction of stereotypes	Long Term
<b>NATIONAL</b>	
Commission baseline assessment	Medium Term
Public enlightenment/sensitization (Development of posters/educational materials)	Short to Medium Term
Build capacity and operationalize the regional mechanisms on gender, women, peace and security	Medium to Long Term
Translate regional policies, protocols and frameworks into programmes	Medium to Long Term
<b>REGIONAL</b>	
Apply Gender parity in all regional meetings	Medium to Long Term
Hold High-level advocacy of key issues	Long term
Organize a bi-annual regional stakeholders conference on Gender and Farmer-Herder conflicts in the region to create platform for key stakeholders to exchange experiences, expertise and lessons learned – involve women and youth	Medium to Long term
Develop and share tools on key thematic issues such as gender, transhumance etc.,	Short to Medium Term
Develop policy recommendations and share with key stakeholders across the region	Medium to Long term
Share relevant information and database on key platforms	Short to Medium to Long Term
Build stakeholders' capacities on key areas	Medium to Long term
Put in place effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Medium to Long term

and action plans	
Document and report key results, milestones and progress	Medium to Long term

\* Short term → 0-3 Months; Medium term → 6-12 Months; Long term → 12 Months and +

### 2.3. **WHO IS NOT IN THE ROOM?**

- ❖ Family heads,
- ❖ Community heads,
- ❖ Local authorities,
- ❖ opinion leaders
- ❖ Teachers
- ❖ Humanitarian Organization/Agencies
- ❖ Media
- ❖ Religious Leaders
- ❖ Traditional and Cultural Associations
- ❖ Ministry of Agriculture
- ❖ National Committee on Agriculture
- ❖ Relevant Research institutions/universities and professional bodies

### 2.4. **SUSTAINABILITY**

- ❖ Members should take self-initiatives to address the issues and find solutions
- ❖ Members link up with the technical team to share issues/progress of their work
- ❖ Members should engage communities to take ownership of the interventions
- ❖ Technical team should monitor and evaluate previous and ongoing interventions of members
- ❖ Sharing of periodic reports to relevant stakeholders
- ❖ Resource Mobilization
- ❖ Gender sensitive Budget to cater for gender issues
- ❖ Sensitization, mobilization, capacity building activities must be a continuous process to ensure sustainability
- ❖ Inclusivity of all stakeholders will ensure sustainability
- ❖ WANEP, ECOWAS, UNWOMEN, UNOWAS as well as regional farmers and herders' organization partnership to support this initiative will be key for sustainability.