



For immediate release

WANEP, ECOWAS AND UNDP LAUNCH A NOVEL PORTAL OF WOMEN INFLUENCERS TO PROMOTE THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN THE SAHEL AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Bamako, 12 November 2021 – 60 participants joined the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mali to launch the Women's Influencers Portal (WIP) at the Radisson Collection Hotel. The launch was performed by Mme Sylla Fatoumata Sylla, a representative of the Malian Minister for the Promotion of Family and Children. Also in attendance were Mr. Abdalah Yattara, a representative of the Mayor of Bamako, representatives of the Transitional Council, representatives of the Network of African Women in Conflict, Prevention and Mediation (FEMWISE), the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWECO) and other dignitaries.

The portal is an innovative and a unique platform which seeks to enhance the visibility of women at National and community levels and their contributions to the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the Sahel and Cote d'Ivoire. The unique selling point and relevance of the portal lies in its deliberate design along the African Union Continental Results Framework (CRF) indicators and aligned to the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs). This innovative feature marks the first time a portal is designed along the CRF indicators and is geared towards tracking progress made in reporting on the UNSCR 1325 as well as assessing individual and organizational growth and advancement in the attainment of the WPS Agenda.



Cross-section of participants at the launch of the Women Influencers Portal (WIP) in Bamako, Mali

In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of WANEP, Dr Chukwuemeka Eze, stated that the launch of the portal is a milestone in the history of the struggle for gender equity and equality.

While addressing participants, Mr. Abdalah Yattara, Representative of the Mayor of Bamako applauded WANEP and its partners for the initiative. He also reiterated his unflinching support for the initiative.

This event marks the official launch of the phase II of the project titled "Building an Inclusive Post COVID-19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel and in Côte d'Ivoire," being implemented by WANEP and ECOWAS with support from the UNDP Regional Programme for Africa. The phase II, which covers the period of October to December 2021 builds on the gains of the phase I (from October to December 2020) and seeks to consolidate efforts for sustainable peace in the region founded on sound socio-economic provisions and reforms. It is expected to make further inroads into "hard to reach" communities and accentuate strategies for creating safe spaces for at-risk women to ensure inclusivity in rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

Phase I focused on reinforcing governance systems and structures for empowering women at the local and national levels as critical stakeholders in political transitions, governance, peace, security and development, in four countries, namely Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. The implementation of the project facilitated the creation of women's platforms to effectively engage in responses to COVID-19; leadership capacity development and inter-generational dialogues in the four countries.