

NEWS RELEASE

Date: January 31st, 2005

Subject: WANEP Holds 7th AGM on the theme:
‘Consolidating the WANEP restructuring process’

The West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) held its seventh annual general meeting in January 24-28, at the Regency Hotel in Accra, Ghana. About forty (40) delegates participated, representing WANEP’s twelve national networks, staff, and partner organizations.

Opening the meeting WANEP’s Board Chairperson, Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Anyambod, stated that, *“as it is customary with every organization, its growth and continuous success is based on its ability to continually evaluate itself, restructure in order to consolidate its resources for better performance and meeting up with new challenges.”*

Rev. Dr. Anyambod explained that the theme for the meeting, **“Consolidating the WANEP restructuring process,”** was the peak of the restructuring process WANEP embarked upon in 2004 to reflect its rapid growth, in size and in program, and its visibility in the sub-region and beyond. At the 2004 AGM, a new organizational structure was adopted while a new board was elected. The organisation’s preoccupation during the year was to implement the new structure as well as ensure the functioning of institutional systems and procedures from the national level to the regional secretariat. According to the Board Chairman the restructuring process signified WANEP’s commitment to efficient and effective re-organization in order to play a constructive role in peace, security, good governance and democratization issues.

Re-echoing this commitment, WANEP’s Executive Director, Emmanuel Bombande, emphasized that managing WANEP’s growth is critical in sustaining and improving on its achievement. Mentioning a few of the accomplishments, the Director said, WANEP has 12 national offices out of the 15 West African countries; it’s the lead agency in peace and security in the emerging West Africa Civil Society Forum; it’s the West Africa Regional Initiator for the Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC); it has a wide, vibrant and influential network of women in peacebuilding across the sub-region. In addition, WANEP has signed an MOU with ECOWAS to provide technical assistance in the *“Operationalisation of the ECOWAS conflict prevention and Early Warning Mechanism.”*

The Executive Director recognized and appreciated the support and collaboration of partners to enable WANEP to achieve its noble mission.

By the end of the AGM it was agreed to develop five-year Business, Financial and Strategic plans for WANEP. This followed a 3-day working session that preceded the AGM. The Business plan would facilitate the execution of the strategic and operational plans. The WANEP regional strategic plan is informed by those of the national networks. Meanwhile, the general assembly began the task of categorizing the WANEP national networks according to their context realities. The annual gathering ended with the assembly embarking on a book publishing project: “**WANEP and the Challenge of Peacebuilding in West Africa**”.

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