

NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 26, 2004

**Subject: West Africa Civil Society Hold Conference on
Good Governance and Conflict Prevention**

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, **WANEP**, is organising a four-day Sub-Regional Civil Society conference on the theme; "**Civil Society Promoting Good Governance and Preventing Violent Conflicts**". The main aim of the conference is to stimulate discussions among civil society organizations to identify the challenges they encounter in preventing conflicts, in order to develop strategies for an integrated and coherent approach to conflict prevention thereby strengthening civil society's participation in good governance.

The conference that holds from the **Monday 30th August to Thursday 2nd September, 2004**, at the **Hotel Royal Ravico, Accra, Ghana**, will bring together participants from all the member countries of ECOWAS. The United Nations Office in West Africa, ECOWAS as well as Peacebuilding partners from Europe will attend. **Ghana's Minister for Regional Integration and NEPAD, Dr. Konadu Apraku will open the conference at 10: am on Monday 30th August**. Apart from bringing together Civil Society actors to share experiences and contribute to the West Africa Civil Society Forum activities supported by ECOWAS, the conference will develop a regional action agenda as part of the process of the Global partnership for Conflict Prevention (GPPAC).

Established since 1998, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, is a sub-regional organisation based Accra, Ghana, with National

Offices in 12 West Africa countries, with a membership of over 300 member organisations spread out in West Africa including Cameroon. For the past two years WANEP with a support grant from the United States Agency for International Development - West Africa Regional Program (USAID-WARP) and a strategic partnership with the Catholic Relief Services - West Africa Regional Office (CRS-WARO) have been working closely with ECOWAS on capacity building program for Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Good Governance.

For further information on this conference, please visit our website at www.wanep.org or contact the WANEP Regional Secretariat located at Ampomah House on the 37-Dzowulu Road Accra.

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