

NEWS RELEASE

WANEP/NR/001/04

Date: February 19, 2004

Subject: ECOWAS signs Memorandum of Understanding with WANEP to cooperate on Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacebuilding and Good Governance

A Memorandum of Understanding has recently been signed between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), “to cooperate regularly on matters of conflict prevention, management, resolution, peacebuilding and good governance.”

The Memorandum of Understanding whose strategic objective aims at achieving a Capacity Building in Conflict Prevention and Good Governance for ECOWAS and Civil Society Organizations in West Africa, was signed at the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria, between the Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mr. Samuel Gbaydee Doe, Executive Director of the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP).

During the signing ceremony witnessed by the funding partners, the United State Agency for Development, the Catholic Relief Services, high-ranking diplomats of the international community represented in Abuja,... the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, expressed his satisfaction at such an historic event in the life of ECOWAS in furthering Inter-Governmental and Civil Society cooperation. He said, “.....”

The ECOWAS Protocol of 10th December 1999, relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security and the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good

Governance endorsed by the Heads of State on 21st December 2001, was in recognition of the growing socio-political instability expressed as violent conflicts and their negative impact on regional cooperation and economic development.

Therefore the ECOWAS engagement with WANEP is equally in recognition of the pivotal roles Civil Society organizations and groups are playing in addressing peace and security issues, good governance as well as social and economic development in its Member countries.

On his part, Mr. Samuel Gbaydee Doe, Executive Director of WANEP, hailed.....

In order to achieve the strategic objective aimed at, “Improving early detection and response mechanisms of ECOWAS and enhance the capacity of regional Civil Society groups to detect and response to conflict,” a two-year award was grant to the Catholic Relief Services – West Africa Regional Office and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, by the United States Government, through its Agency for International Development (USAID).

WANEP is has over 300 member organizations operating through national networks of organizations active in conflict resolution, management, resolution, peacebuilding, and human rights monitoring and advocacy in 12 ECOWAS member countries. Its secretariat is based in Accra Ghana.

Zebulon TAKWA SUIFON
WANEP ECOWAS
Liaison Officer