

## NEWS RELEASE

**Date: August 19, 2005**

**Subject: WANEP's Executive Director, Emmanuel Bombande,  
Wins Peace Award**

Emmanuel Bombande, Executive Director and co-founder of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), has been awarded the Millennium Excellence Peace Award 2005 at a grand ceremony held at the Accra International Conference Center. Mr. Bombande was given the award in recognition of his dedication "to using peace methods to ensure the co-existence of all in our society".

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, was awarded the Global Excellence award, the highest award in Ghana for his efforts to promote world peace to eliminate poverty and disease.

Receiving the Award, Mr. Bombande said Ghanaians have the alternative choice of non-violence in resolving conflicts. He called on all Ghanaians to work hard to sustain the peace in the country. Mr. Bombande dedicated the Award to the hard working staff of WANEP.

The awarding of the Millennium Excellence Awards is a national event held every five years to honor Ghanaian men and women who have excelled in advancing such causes as peace, gender balance, agriculture, education and science, rural development, and industrial development. The award is bestowed by Ghana's Excellence Awards Foundation, a private institution established in 1999.

The Ceremony is the climax of a process of nomination and short-listing of candidates and voting by eligible Ghanaians who have voter ID numbers. To ensure credibility of the results voter ID numbers were verified by the National Electoral Commission of Ghana. Nominees under the Peace category included Gen. Emmanuel Erskine, Archbishop Palmer Buckle, Dr. Afari Djan, African Security Dialogue and Research, Rev. Dr. Bishop Aboagye Mensah, ACP Kofi Aboagye. Mr. Bombande emerged winner.

Mr. Bombande is a Peacebuilding Practitioner, International Trainer in Conflict Mitigation and Prevention across Africa and beyond with a strong background in conflict analysis. He has contributed relentlessly to conflict prevention and peacebuilding across the sub-region, especially in Ghana. A Ghanaian and a native of

Bawku, he plays a significant role in building capacity for community-based conflict prevention, mitigation, management and resolution. Since the 1990s Mr. Bombande has availed his conflict analytical and medication skills to resolving the Northern Ghana multi-ethnic hostilities, the Bawku Chieftaincy crisis, the Dagbon inter-clan disputes and currently, the Nkonya-Alavanyo conflict.

Beyond numerous contributions through media, Mr. Bombande brings to the policy domain, a civil society perspective and expertise to support government's effort in building peace in conflict-prone communities. He is a member of the Special Committee set up by the Government of Ghana to promote peace in the Northern Region. As his contribution to good governance, he provides objective and insightful analysis on issues of peace and security whenever he is called upon to do so.

Mr. Bombande smoothly blends practice and academia as he teaches at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC), Legon Center for International Affairs (LECIA), the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI), and a member of a team of experts conducting training in peacebuilding world with Caritas International. He holds a Masters Degree in Conflict Transformation from the Eastern Mennonite University, USA.

Emmanuel's recognition is an affirmation of the significant contribution of civil organizations for peacebuilding in Ghana and across the sub-region.

Victoria Kunbour and Jacob Enoh-Eben  
WANEP