



WANEP BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

NEWS RELEASE

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Subject: WANEP Leads West African Delegation to UN Conference

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), is leading a 20-member delegation from across West Africa to New York, to participate in the United Nations Global Conference for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, holding from July 19-21, 2005. The conference, which is organized under the theme: **"From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Conflict and Build Peace,"** will be opened by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan.

As the West African regional initiator for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), WANEP will present the West African Regional Action Agenda to the Conference. The Regional Agenda recognizes the magnitude of destruction caused by violent conflicts in the sub-region and recommends proactive solutions for civil society organizations, governments and the international community, to mitigate and resolve violent conflicts. The agenda, together with others from 14 regions around the world, form the basis of the Global Action Agenda for the prevention of Armed Conflict. The Global Action Agenda is a call by civil society for a profound and fundamental change of approach by governments towards conflict: to acknowledge civil society contribution to conflict prevention and to work with them in building a safer and more peaceful world.

The GPPAC process was initiated by the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), in response to Recommendation 27 of the Secretary General's Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict. The West African Agenda was adopted in Accra last August 30 - September 2, 2004 during a regional conference held under the theme, **"Consolidating the Role of Civil Society in Promoting Good Governance and Preventing Violent Conflicts."** Each of the fourteen (14) countries that participated at the Accra regional meeting will form part of the West African delegation.

The Executive Director of WANEP, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande will lead the delegation. Ghana's Deputy Minister for Lands Mines and Forestry, Mrs. Theresa Tagoe, is also part of the delegation.

Established in 1998, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, is a sub-regional organisation based in Accra, Ghana, with National Offices in 12 across West Africa countries, and a network of over 387 member organisations spread out in West Africa including Cameroon.

For further information on this conference, please visit GPPAC online at www.conflict-prevention.net and WANEP at www.wanep.org, or contact the WANEP Regional Secretariat located at Ampomah House, 37-Dzorwulu Road Accra.

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