

PRESS RELEASE



Date: 11th July, 2006

Subject: *Civil Society Consultation on UN Peacebuilding Commission
Freetown, Sierra Leone*

A two-day Civil Society Consultation on the UN Peacebuilding Commission, with a focus on Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Sierra Leone will take place at the Hill Valley Guest House Auditorium from Wednesday July 19th to Thursday July 20th.

The goal of the consultation is to provide space for civil society actors in peacebuilding to discuss and create synergies among various initiatives to sustain peace and promote development in Sierra Leone. Local knowledge, ownership and infrastructure for this engagement exist through the WANEP National Network - Network for Collaborative Peacebuilding - Sierra Leone (NCP-SL).

About thirty participants will be drawn from some civil society organizations especially from women and youth groups. Representatives from governments, TRC, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, UN Country Team - UNIOSIL, and other International Agencies will participate.

This consultation also falls within the framework of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), where in the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is a Regional Initiator for West Africa.

It would be recalled that in July 2005, WANEP led a 20-member delegation including a representative from Sierra Leone to the Global Civil Society Conference on the Prevention of Armed Conflict that took place the UN

Headquarters in New York. Following that Conference national consultations are being organized in nine countries in West Africa to enhance collaboration among Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and between CSOs and Policy Makers (Governments). The national consultation comes at a time when Sierra Leone has been selected as a pilot country for renewed UN efforts on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding.

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