



**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A 2 DAY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON
ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA HELD AT THE PARKVIEW HOTELS, ABUJA
BETWEEN THE 12TH AND 13TH OF NOVEMBER 2010**

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding and its members selected across the states and geo political zones of Nigeria; representative of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), at the end of a 2 day consultative meeting on electoral violence in Nigeria supported by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) explored the major causes of electoral violence in Nigeria; its impact on the democratization process; peace and stability of the country and entire sub region and ways of preventing the menace.

The Stakeholders identified the major causes of electoral violence in Nigeria as follows:

- Pervading poverty
- Unemployment especially among the youths
- Ignorance of the effect and secondary outcome of electoral violence
- Inadequate security network and lack of professionalism amongst the security personnel
- Economic/Gains associated with electoral violence
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons
- Use of State resources by incumbents during campaigns
- Unequal access to State media by political actors
- Weak Governance practices and pervasive Corruption
- Ethnicization and Regionalisation of political affiliations
- Lack of confidence in the Institutions that manage the elections
- Massive vote rigging
- Discrimination against women and other vulnerable groups

The Stakeholders further observed the impact of electoral violence in Nigeria as follows:

- Generalized insecurity and panic
- Increased spending on internal security operations and the use of resources to repair damaged infrastructure rather than invest in development projects.

- Negative perception of the country in the comity of nations
- Limited direct foreign investments due to investor's fear of the stability of the country
- Propagation of a cycle of violence
- Lack of credible leadership and provision of good governance
- Poor growth of democratic institutions

The Stakeholders therefore recommended the following as measures to prevent electoral violence in Nigeria:

- An effective real time election monitoring process linked to a response mechanism at various levels of the community
- Enactment of Laws that ensure transparent and credible elections especially as opined by the Uwais panel
- Civic orientation/reorientation of the psyche of the Nigerian masses
- Stringent Measures against electoral violence perpetrators
- Review of policies and laws in line with current realities and especially with a view to establishing special courts to try offenders
- Equal participation of all citizens and emphasis on women and youth
- Local/Community economic empowerment through employment, skills acquisition, micro financing etc
- Provision of infrastructural facilities like schools, health facilities, water, markets, roads, electricity etc

In conclusion; WANEP and its members resolved to remain committed to monitoring, analysing and forming a critical response network towards ensuring a violence free and fair elections in Nigeria in 2011

Dated: November 13 2010 in Abuja Nigeria

For further inquiries on this communiqué, contact the National Network Coordinator of WANEP Nigeria via phone: 08038306615 or email: iokchukwu@wanepnigeria.org