



WANEP CONGRATULATES LEYMAH GBOWEE FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS AND WINNING OF THE 2011 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) rejoices with the people of Liberia and particularly President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ms. Leymah Gbowee on the remarkable achievement of winning the Nobel Peace Prize for 2011. The significance of this year's Nobel Peace Prize is in the recognition of the courage and leadership role of the Women of Liberia in their collective efforts to work for peace in Liberia and contribute to the reconstruction of their war devastated country. It is truly gratifying that it is the women of Liberia who lived the trauma and ravages of the Liberian civil war who are recognised today for their achievement of building peace and not an outside leader or expert who contributed to the peace. The achievement of President Johnson Sirleaf and Ms Leymah Gbowee mark a new trend; that peace can be achieved and sustained by the toil and efforts of those who have experienced violence and yet have the courage to stand up and build bridges, reconcile communities and construct a new vision for divided communities.

In expressing our joy, WANEP makes special mention of Ms Leymah Gbowee in this heart-warming message of congratulations. Ms Gbowee played a significant role in the leadership of WANEP in Liberia. In her capacity as the Liberia Coordinator of the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) program of WANEP, she demonstrated the courage and sense of purpose with the support of several women leaders in the mass movement of women for peace in Liberia. This effort of the mobilisation of women for peace significantly contributed to the political will from all protagonists in the Liberian civil war to engage in dialogue in Accra and eventually the commitments of the Accra Peace Accord which returned peace to Liberia. During the peace talks, the advocacy role of the women of Liberia was sustained throughout under the coordinating role of Ms Gbowee.

WANEP takes pride in the achievements of its former staff; Ms Leymah Gbowee. In her continuing efforts of building peace, WANEP wishes Ms Gbowee continued success especially in the work of the new organisation she founded; the Women Peace and Security Network (WIPSEN)

With our Heartfelt Congratulations and Best wishes

Emmanuel Bombande

WANEP Executive Director