



## **WANEP Commemorates International Women's Day**

Women's voices from around West Africa: ***Women As the "BEDROCK" of Families, Societies and the World.***

Through its fifteen national networks across the West African sub-region, WANEP marks this year's International Women's Day through multiple activities including peace marches in Senegal and Togo; round table discussions on reconciliation issues in Liberia; political participation of women in Ghana, and many other peaceful actions in Sierra Leone, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, the Gambia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

WANEP dedicates this day to The Women of West Africa who have lost their lives in conflicts in the sub-region simply for demanding peace and respect of their rights and dignity. We dedicate this day to our women who have proven that they can be entrusted with responsibilities and discharge their duties with dedication, commitment and passion. We commend those who have made enormous contributions in shaping families, touching lives, building communities, developing societies and promoting world peace.

Today WANEP celebrates the efforts of African women in reaching out within and without to fight against neglect and discrimination. WANEP celebrates African women who are the bedrock of the family, community and society!

We call on state and non-state actors throughout West Africa to recognize the efforts of women, especially rural women who often bear the brunt of conflicts and give them the support they need to be able to reach their full potential.

Today, we remind governments of their commitment to mainstream the full participation of women in decision-making at all levels; to make provision through policies to empower women and young girls, protect and develop them, create opportunities for them to become leaders.

The women of West Africa will continue to build upon the gains made so far to have an all-inclusive society where women are equal actors in decision-making and have a say in their future!

WANEP, through its Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET) programme will continue to work in ensuring that women are no more a target of violence in war and peace time but Agents of Peace and Sustainable Development.