



## ECOWAS, WANEP Mark 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in partnership with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) convened a meeting to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. The meeting with the theme; "15 Years of Implementing UNSCR 1325 in West Africa: Looking Back and Looking Forward" held from October 20 to 21, 2015 in Accra and was hosted by the Ghana Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

In his welcome remarks, WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze reaffirmed the critical role of women in promoting peaceful co-existence adding; "it is obvious that there can be no security where women are exposed to violence and no peace where they are ignored."



The Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection Honorable Nana Oye Lithur, represented by the Deputy Minister, Honorable John A. Ackon, delivered the keynote address which detailed the role of Ghanaian women in peace building, especially their contribution to the Nkonya/Alavanyo peace process. Honorable Nana Oye Lithur who later declared the meeting closed, also reiterated the commitment of the Government of Ghana through her Ministry to promoting the women, peace and security agenda. She expressed optimism that gender equality in the region can be achieved through the collective efforts of all stakeholders and urged the participants to adopt outcomes of the deliberations as a call to action in fast-tracking the implementation of 1325 in their countries.

**W**ANEP News is a quarterly E-Newsletter of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, (WANEP). It provides substantive information on our work in a breezy yet informative style, detailing the communities we serve, the principles underpinning our work and our key achievements. **WANEP News** is a platform to keep our key partners and major stakeholders abreast with our intervention strategies towards promoting a peaceful environment in the region and beyond and the key lessons from the field.

As always with our tradition and in the spirit of partnership, networking and community ownership, **WANEP News** will also feature collaborative efforts with tactical partners in achieving peaceful co-existence as an avenue for experience sharing and best practices. We will also highlight WANEP's social events and Teambuilding strategies in both narrative and pictorial formats.

In a nutshell, **WANEP News** is telling our story our own way! Happy Reading!

## WANEP Takes Center Stage At African Union



In continuation of activities to mark the 15th Anniversary of the UN Resolution 1325, WANEP took center stage at the African Union Commission to share its contributions to the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) towards the implementation of the Resolution.

WANEP Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah in her presentation informed the August gathering that the partnership between WANEP/ECOWAS and its member states' contributed significantly to the great milestones the region has achieved in the implementation of UNSCR 1325. "I make bold to say that no region on the continent has developed NAPs more than West Africa and in fact, the knowledge and application of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa is gradually becoming the norm rather than the exception," she said. WANEP through the Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET) programme has been promoting the women peace and security agenda using UNSCR 1325 and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework as guide and reference.

## TALKING PEACE

**“...there can be no security where women are exposed to violence and no peace where they are ignored” - WANEP ED**

From the outset, I want to underscore the value we attach to our partnership with various directorates in ECOWAS and specifically the Gender Directorate on this particular vision of localizing UNSCR 1325 in West Africa. ECOWAS continues to convince those of us from CSO of its keenness and willingness to truly transform itself to an ECOWAS of the people.

Fifteen years ago, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) and National Action Plans (NAPs) to articulate the vision and ambition of countries to advance the protection, participation and empowerment of women and girls in different contexts. The Resolution marked formal international recognition, at the highest institutional level, of the importance of women to peacebuilding and of the necessity of adopting a gender sensitive approach to conflict resolution in order to meet women's needs.

Your Excellences, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen: Fifteen years into the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa, we are offered the opportunity to assess to what extent the resolution has made a difference in the lives of women across the region and how policies, processes and laws reflect a level of this positive change. “It is obvious that there can be no security where women are exposed to violence and no peace where they are ignored.” Many women in our region still face real and immediate threats to their security and struggle for survival. And you don't have to look far away for an example. Look at the plight of the women and young girls in Sierra Leone over rape, think about the over 200 girls held hostage by insurgents in Nigeria, reflect on the effects of Ebola and the dire post effects on the women of MRU, imagine the percentages of women in governance in our respective countries, I can go on and on.

There must be a sustained leadership by a dedicated team to drive and coordinate the implementation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans as well as leadership and commitment from individual sectors and stakeholders to deliver success. I thank you all!

*Excerpts from a paper presented at the WANEP/ECOWAS Experience Sharing Conference to mark the 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325*



## Program Director's Address at the AU PSC on WANEP's Work on UNSCR 1325

Let me begin by thanking the leadership of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) for this great honor and opportunity to share the WANEP-ECOWAS partnership on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 as an example of a strong CSO-Government-Inter-governmental Organization collaboration. I wish to also express WANEP's appreciation for the privileged space provided by ECOWAS and its Member States for WANEP's engagement through their relevant government institutions. Informed by the success of this kind of partnership, WANEP through a recently signed MOU is in discussion with the AUC to replicate same with other CSOs across the continent.

The WANEP – ECOWAS and its member states' partnership for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 has no doubt contributed to the great milestones the region has chalked. I make bold to say that no region on the continent has developed National Action Plans (NAPs) more than West Africa and in fact, the knowledge and application of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa is gradually becoming the norm rather than the exception.

The systematic engagement has contributed to significant progress made by West Africa on the development of UNSCR 1325 Regional Action Plan and NAPs. Tangible achievements were made in the three pillars, namely prevention, participation, and promotion of the UNSCR 1325 with some countries including additional pillars – protection and prosecution in their NAPs. As a result, there has been increased engagement of women in the national peace infrastructures and mitigation of negative impact of high level of attrition rate within Women's/Gender Ministries. A database of trained women is in place awaiting the operationalization of the Mediation Center of ECOWAS.



*Culled from the paper presented to the AU Commission by WANEP Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah*



# EVENTS... EVENTS... EVENTS

## IPSS Donates 15 Books on Peacebuilding to WANEP

The Director, Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, IPSS of the University of Ibadan in South West Nigeria Professor Isaac Olawale Albert, on behalf of the Institute, donated 15 books to the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). The books were presented to WANEP by a Faculty member, Dr. Nathan Danjibo during the experience Sharing Conference on "Enhancing design and delivery of Peace Education in West African Tertiary Institutions".

The publications covered topics on Peace, Security and Development, Conflict Management, Research Methods in Peace and Conflict Studies, Communicating Peace and Conflict and Challenges of Democratic Governance. Others included four volumes of Peace Studies and Practice: The Journal of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice and two volumes of the Ibadan Journal of Peace and Development.



## Former Executive Director Appointed Special Adviser to Head of UNOWA

Co-founder and former Executive Director of WANEP Mr. Emmanuel Bombande was on October 1, 2015 appointed as the Special Assistant/Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative to West Africa and Head of UNOWA. Mr. Bombande's appointment was greeted with outpouring of encomiums from WANEP team across West Africa. Commenting on this development, incumbent Executive Director Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, said "This is another big one. It is a well-deserved appointment that further adds to the credibility of the WANEP family."

Regional Board Chair, Professor Isaac Albert summarized it all thus; "I heartily congratulate Emmanuel and do wish him the best in office. I have always said that Emmanuel is a 'public property'. This appointment testifies to the fact that he is not a local but a global champion!" Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, Co-founder and immediate past Executive Director of WANEP handed over to Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze in January 2015 after 10 years in that position. Mr. Bombande is highly regarded for his vast knowledge of peace and security issues and dedicated service to humanity.



## ...Regional Board Chair Bags ICMC Fellowship

Current Board Chair of WANEP-Regional, Professor Isaac Olawale Albert was recently conferred with the prestigious fellowship of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC). A professor of African History, Peace and Conflict Studies, Professor Albert is credited with establishing the MA and PhD programmes of the Universities of Ibadan and Ilorin in South West Nigeria and was the UNDP Consultant for the design of the Peace and Development Studies Programme of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana in 2006.

A man of many parts and many accolades, Professor Albert was a co-founder and research Associate to the Center for Research on Inequality and Human Security (CRISE) at the University of Oxford, UK and was the Country Director of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa, IDASA at the Nigeria Office.



Professor Isaac Albert at the award conferment ceremony

## WANEP Burkina Board Chair Receives National Award

The Board Chair of WANEP Burkina Faso, Mr. Arouna SAVADOGO was elevated to the rank of Commander of the Order of Merit on December 11 on the occasion of the commemoration of the Independence celebration of Burkina Faso. This is the third national award for Mr. SAVADOGO. His other awards include Knight of the Order of Merit and Officer of the Order of Merit.

This latest award was in honour of his activism, dedication and commitment to the national cause and for being at the frontline to oppose the amendment of Article 37 and the aborted putsch of September 2015. He also took an active part in the implementation of the charter of the transition period after the insurrection of October 2014. In accepting the award, Mr. SAVADOGO said it is in recognition of the resilience of the people of Burkina and the invaluable contribution of WANEP Burkina for the promotion and preservation of the culture of peace in the country.



WANEP-Burkina staff with Mr. Arouna SAVADOGO (standing 3rd left) during their visit to congratulate him



## FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...



### Dr. Ibn Chambas Visits Election Situation Room

#### ...Commends WANEP

His Excellency Dr. Ibn Chambas, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) has commended the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP for its efforts in supporting non-violent electoral processes in West Africa. The commendation came during Dr. Chambas' visit to the WANEP Election Situation Room in Conakry, Guinea on Guinean Election Day, October 11.

Dr. Chambas during the visit, encouraged WANEP to "keep up the good work of supporting non-violent electoral process through its election monitoring system." The WANEP Election Situation Room forms part of a larger civil society platform for monitoring the 2015 Elections in Guinea. WANEP was also part of the team of women in the UNOWA situation room while the regional staff at the WANEP Peace Monitoring Center, PMC followed keenly the voting process and provided regular updates on the WANEP social media platforms.

Dr Chambas also visited the WANEP Election Room in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso during the elections on November 29.



Above and middle; Dr. Ibn Chambas meet with WANEP staff during his visit to the WANEP Election Situation Room in Guinea. Below, WANEP's WIPNET Programme Officer, Bijoue Birch at the UNOWA Situation Room



### WANEP At GPPAC

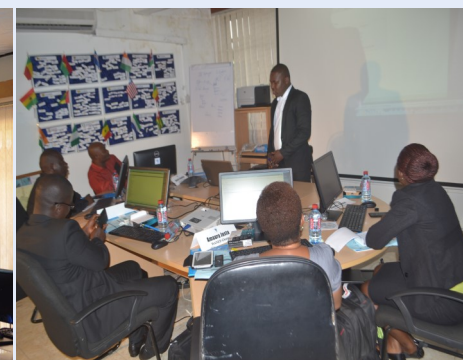
In its capacity as the Regional Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC), WANEP participated in several meetings hosted by GPPAC in the last quarter of the year. The Board Chair of WANEP-Mali Oulie Keita represented WANEP at a GPPAC meeting on "Preparing a New Generation of Civil-Military Police Coordination for Human Security" attended by about 70 representatives from peacebuilding civil society groups, UN, NATO, military and police training centers.

WANEP also participated in the GPPAC Working Group meeting on November 19 and 20, 2015 at the Hague. The meeting was to discuss the strategic context of peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the post-2015 period and identify opportunities for future co-operation and exchange.

### Account Officers Trained On Financial Management Systems

A 2-day training on Financial Management Systems to enhance the capacity of Account Officers from all the WANEP national networks except Cape Verde, took place on October 14, 2015. The purpose of the training was to enhance WANEP's Probity and Accountability within the network offices and to harmonize one accounting software in both WANEP Regional and Network offices.

The training provided participants with the skills on the accounting software (Tally) and enabled them to prepare Entries, Print reports, Create Vouchers, Create Chart of Accounts among others. At the end of the training participants were expected to use the software to improve the Accounting and Administrative Department of their networks. The uniformed accounting software, Tally, enables effective supervision of the national offices accounts to ensure probity at all times. The training has led to improved financial regulations, timely reports and enhanced donor confidence in WANEP.



WANEP Accounts Officers from Francophone and Anglophone countries at the Training



## FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...

### Stakeholders Hold National Dialogue for Peaceful Elections in Burkina Faso

As the leading civil society organization for peace and security in West Africa, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP has been monitoring and analyzing elections and electoral processes in West Africa for over a decade. WANEP operates under the undergirding philosophy of collaborative approaches to Peacebuilding, which is aimed at creating an enabling electoral environment before, during and after the elections.

In preparation for the November 29, 2015 general elections in Burkina, WANEP set up a Situation Room where the electoral proceedings were effectively monitored, analysed and reported. Prior to the elections, WANEP held a national dialogue with over 50 stakeholders in partnership



with the National Commission for Reconciliation and Reforms (CNRR) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso aimed at promoting peaceful and credible elections in the country. The dialogue served as a forum for all stakeholders involved in the electoral process to discuss and proffer solutions to ensure the peaceful conduct of the presidential and legislative elections as well as foster national reconciliation in the country.

### AU-WANEP Hold Working Session

**W**ANEP and the African Union Commission in November 2015 signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in support of the Commission's peace and security agenda as enshrined in the Africa Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The MOU provides WANEP and CSOs the platform to support and contribute to peace and security debate on the continent. In this regard, the two organizations held a meeting in the Commission's office on the operationalization of the MOU.

This is in line with the principles of the Livingstone Formula as well as the aspirations within the WANEP 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. A key outcome of this MOU is the request by the Commission for WANEP to assign a Liaison Officer to the African Union Commission tailored along the WANEP Liaison Officer to ECOWAS. WANEP is also working with the Commission to explore and exploit the contribution of the Business Community to peace and security on the continent.

### ...Courtesy Visits to Key Stakeholders

In preparation for the November 29 elections in Burkina, the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) team paid courtesy visits to key stakeholders in the country to solicit their support for the Election Situation Room set up to monitor, analyze and share up-to-date information on the November 29 elections.

The NEWS team paid a visit to his eminence Cardinal Philippe Ouedraogo, the archbishop of Ouagadougou at the Catholic Diocese to discuss the NEWS analysis and recommendations and the relevance of the church in responding to emerging risks and threats for peaceful conduct of the elections. The representative of the cardinal currently sits as the chair of the NEWS Steering Committee. It was also an opportunity to seek his acceptance to chair the WANEP Situation Room for the election of November 29. The Catholic Church is the current chair of the Inter religious council in Burkina.



In another development, the NEWS team and representatives of USAID visited the Honorable Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, Youssouf Ouattara, at his office to present the analysis and recommendation from the NEWS reports. It was also to brief him on the Situation Room for the election.



The team also visited the *Mogho Naba Baongo II* with the CNRR team to seek the chief's support for peaceful conduct of elections in the country. The chief is an influential traditional ruler of Ouagadougou.



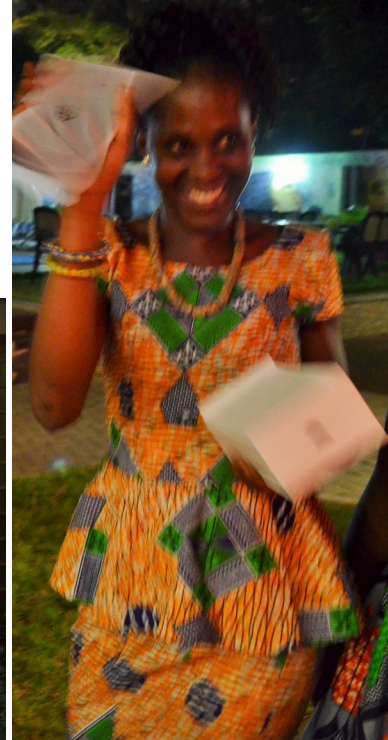
## ***FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...***



### ***WANEP Celebrates!***

**A**fter a very productive year, the WANEP Staff end-of-year party held amidst pomp and pageantry on December 11, 2015. This year's planning committee headed by Mrs. Bijoue Birch (pictured above right) went the extra mile to ensure that staff and their family and friends had a fun filled night and an event to remember. There was the usual exchange of gifts, awards to deserving staff and a new category on Special Awards.

The event tagged; 'a touch of culture,' saw staff decked out in various cultural attires as shown in the pictures. It was indeed a night to remember and well appreciated by staff as they tore through their gifts. The pictures say it all!





## ***FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD... FROM THE FIELD...***



### **And the Winners are...**

**A** high point of the WANEP 2015 end-of-year celebration was the introduction of the Special Award category in addition to the usual staff awards. The award was specifically to honour staff for their distinguished service to the organization over the years. Recipients of this maiden award were; Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director (above left) in recognition of his progression in the organization. Mr. Eze served in several categories in the organization and rose to become the Executive Director.

The Administrative Manager, Mrs. Esther Gordon-Mensah (above right) received the award for her dedication and long-service. She was the first staff to be employed in the organization. The third recipient, Mr. Bismark Berglah, the Expediter was awarded for his dedication and to motivate him to greater heights in his service to the organization. Mr. Berglah was unavoidably absent but the award was received on his behalf by a member of staff. Congratulations to all the awardees!

**WINNERS ALL!** Edwige Mensah, best staff 2015 and most dependable staff (above); below left: Diana—most pragmatic staff and Mfreke—most friendly/most resourceful staff; Middle: Ifeanyi, best dressed staff, male and Vincent, most inspirational staff; Right, Beatrice voted best dressed staff female receives her award from the Regional Coordinator Communications. The most punctual staff award went to Mr. Raymond Darko for the second time!

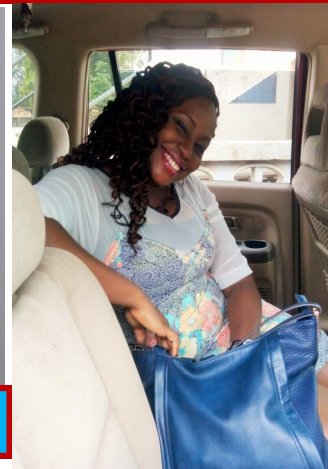




# WANEP SOCIALS



Above left: Birthday mates; Anowa (left) and Program Director, Levinia (Right), October 6. Above Right, WANEP Executive Director, Chukwuemeka cutting his birthday cake on October 9th supported by staff



Bijoue, (Nov 16 )

Francis (Dec 16)

Samassy Souare (Dec 29) and Mfreke Dec 31

## WHO WE ARE

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) was conceived in 1996 but formally launched in 1998. Unlike other activist organisations, WANEP strategically chose to engage major actors, particularly government actors in a bid to establish a platform for dialogue, experience sharing and learning, thereby, complementing efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and development.

WANEP is a member of the Peace and Security cluster of the African Union's (AU) Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), the ECOSOCC Adviser on Civil Society relations with African Governments and the Focal Point for Africa CSOs on the AU-EU Joint Strategy (JAES). At the international level, WANEP has a Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is the West Africa Regional Representative of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC).

## OUR GOAL

WANEP's cardinal goal is to build sustainable peace, thereby creating an enabling environment for development in West Africa.

## WHAT WE DO

WANEP work covers eight critical areas of intervention including;

- ◆ The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI)
- ◆ West Africa Early Warning and Response Network, (WARN)
- ◆ Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET)
- ◆ Non-violence and Peace Education, (NAPE)
- ◆ Civil Society Coordination and Democratic Governance Program, (CSDG)
- ◆ Responding to Conflicts through Dialogue

## WHERE WE WORK

WANEP's growth and influence has been phenomenal. After 15 years of peacebuilding practice, WANEP has grown to become a household name in West Africa with national offices in all the ECOWAS Member countries, and over 500 member organisations spread all over WA.