



TRIBUTE TO H.E. KOFI ANNAN – FORMER UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Board, Management and entire staff of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) joins the global community to commiserate with the people and Government of the Republic of Ghana and indeed all Africans on the death of His Excellency, Dr. Kofi Annan former UN Secretary General. WANEP expresses its profound condolences to the immediate family of our worthy hero while praying for guidance and the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

As the world mourn the celebrated diplomat and global peace ambassador, WANEP wishes to use this opportunity to reflect on its unique relationship with His Excellency Dr. Kofi Annan and his great impact on the organization. H.E. Kofi Annan opened the doors for active CSO engagement with the UN at all levels. He encouraged and inspired CSOs and WANEP in particular in this effort. In 2005, through the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts, CSOs held a major conference in the General Assembly of the UN in which WANEP played a leading role and since then, the UN seeks active Partnerships with Civil Society Organisations across the world. Subsequently His Excellency recommended WANEP to receive funding from John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur - MacArthur Foundation that Supported Civil Society Collaboration for Conflict Prevention and the Promotion of Human Security in West Africa in line with his conviction about the roles of CSOs in peace and security.

As we mourn the death of this worthy son of Africa, we cannot help but reminisce on his great contributions to the world in the realization and attainment of global peace, a feat which earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001. We recall Dr. Annan's bold and audacious reforms of the United Nations soon after his appointment, which have been encapsulated in the report titled: *Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform*. No doubt, these reforms paved the way for the United Nations of the future leading the organization to attain groundbreaking achievements such as the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals and many more accolades too numerous to mention.

H.E. was a rare Pan-African, a global icon and a master thinker. His loss has left a yawning gap in the global peacebuilding arena; a gap too deep to fill. But we are comforted in the legacies he left behind. We celebrate his achievements, awards and recognitions but most of all his powerful and impactful speeches which will remain evergreen in the annals of our history.

WANEP will remain seized of these legacies of Dr. Anna especially his conviction on the efficacy of conflict prevention and his emphasis on the impact and gains of collaboration between CSOs and intergovernmental organization.