



## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS COMMUNIQUE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE

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***FREETOWN, 05<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2018***

We, the representatives from twenty-five (25) Civil Society Peacebuilding organisations in Sierra Leone in partnership with West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) held a two-day conference at the Home Suite Hotel, Aberdeen in Freetown from Thursday, 04<sup>th</sup> to Friday 05<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 on enhancing the role of Civil Society organisations in the establishment of a National Infrastructure for Peace in Sierra Leone.

This event which was also attended by representatives from the National Peace Council of Ghana, and civil society organisations from Uganda, Georgia and Vanuatu recognises that the establishment of an infrastructure for peace is a worldwide process that aims at facilitating and developing mechanisms for conflict prevention and management.

Following the commitment of His Excellency The President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Brigadier (Rtd) Julius Maada Bio, on the State Opening of the First Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 on the establishment of an Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, CSOs have made notable progress including in-country consultations and awareness raising sessions with stakeholders.

Civil Society Organisations present deliberated on the following; Understanding the Right to Peace; Understanding infrastructure for Peace: Lessons and best practices; the need for an infrastructure for peace in Sierra Leone; Strategies and roles of CSOs/CBOs to establish national and regional structures on infrastructure for peace; Developing a framework for infrastructure for peace in Sierra Leone and developing follow-up action points and recommendations.

In view of the above, CSOs and partners present agreed on the following underlisted:

- Inclusive and Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion to be established by an Act of Parliament
- Mandate of the Commission to include among others:
  - To promote a culture of peace, national cohesion and non-violent conflict resolution in Sierra Leone
  - To promote healing, reconciliation and peaceful co-existence
- Strategies to include:
  - Advocacy
  - Outreach and networking



- Capacity building and strengthening community initiatives
- Research and publications
  
- Sustainability plan to include:
  - Identifying and mapping strategic partners / donors
  - Establishing link with private sector, individuals and institutions
  - Fundraising through project proposals, peace events, donor conferences, etc.
  - Establishing a national peace fund in accordance with government's laid down financial processes and procedures
  - Government budget allocation for peacebuilding
  - Transparency and zero tolerance policy on corruption

CSOs and international partners present at the conference commit to support and collaborate with the Government of Sierra Leone and its strategic partners to ensure the speedy establishment of the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion as pronounced by the President.

We therefore encourage the Government of Sierra Leone through its various organs, including the House of Parliament to fully incorporate CSOs in the establishment of the aforementioned commission.

**Adopted in Freetown, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**