



[The Report: - Institutional Capacities for the Implementation of R2P in West Africa: A Case Study of Ghana - PDF\[1.05MB\]](#)

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) has held a one day workshop to disseminate the report on the research “**Institutional Capacities for the Implementation of R2P in West Africa: A Case Study of Ghana**” in Accra, March 25, 2016.

The year-long research which studied Ghana’s institutional capacity in the implementation of the R2P norm and also assessed public knowledge and perceptions on R2P crimes, was supported by DANIDA



Dr. Philip Attuquayefio, a Research Fellow at the Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), in the keynote address, “**The Place Of R2p In The Current Peace And Security Environment Of West Africa**” noted that, the 2005 UN “Summit arguably set the tone for the cooptation of R2P into global humanitarian narratives yet for Africa and indeed West Africa, the process of infusing responsibility in governance had started much earlier” with examples from the response by the Ministerial Meeting of the ECOWAS Standby Mediation Committee which deployed a ceasefire-monitoring group (ECOMOG) to Liberia.

He noted that that the security dynamics of Africa and arguably one of its challenged regions (in terms of conflicts) West Africa, “have perennially provided veritable case studies for the

application of international norms such as R2P. To wit, Africa is the traditional family home of R2P and West Africa, its room”

An analysis of West Africa’s current peace and security environment, Dr. Attuquayefio said, points to challenges with the potential of instigating conditions for the perpetration of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and therefore called on all relevant institutions to support the implementation of mechanisms and processes that can prevent R2P crimes not only in Ghana but in the region.



Mr. Peter Eilschow Olesen, Deputy head of Mission and Head of Cooperation of the Danish Embassy in Ghana, traced the important role Denmark and Ghana have played over the years in establishing the R2P Focal Points in a number of countries across the globe. He said, the research is not only ground breaking but also confirms the good work of WANEP/DANIDA partnership over the years.

Mr. Olesen noted, that “the best way to protect is to prevent” and therefore called for the strengthening of mechanism that would identify risk factors and prevent those risks from degenerating to R2P offenses.



Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director of WANEP in his opening address said, West Africa is arguably the most turbulent region in Africa; from the civil wars of Liberia and Sierra Leone to the political disputes in Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Mali; the region has hosted the highest numbers of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions with mixed results.

Mr. Eze bemoaned the experience of ECOWAS Commission and its member States who

have grappled with measures to ensure human protection occasioned by levels of violent conflicts within the last two decades. “These measures, he said, have sapped enormous energy and resources, meant for economic development and regional integration”

Mr. Eze was hopeful, the research findings will contribute to on-going efforts at “building up the institutions that can promote human rights, protect human lives and prevent mass atrocities – be it at the level of state or non-state actors and also promote accountability on how the state acts or does not act during such times”



In a discussion moderated by Dr. Vladimir Antwi-Danso, a renowned International Relations and Security Expert, the discussant, Nana Asantewa Afadzinu, Executive Director of the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) noted that whilst Ghana might be seen as playing a leading role in R2P and working to prevent R2P crimes, the work of relevant state agencies has largely not been felt practically.



Nana Afadzinu said the media have been used to commit R2P crimes in some jurisdictions contrary to their agreed and respected role of education, information and entertaining aimed at seeking the general good and development of mankind. She therefore called on the Ghanaian media to become more proactive and sensitive in their reportage to prevent conflict, which may lead to R2P crimes.

WANEP will hold similar dissemination workshops in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and a number of its Network secretariats in the West Africa region.

