

WEST AFRICA PEACEBUILDING INSTITUTE (WAPI) 2005

Welcome statement by Francis ACQUAH, WAPI 2005 Coordinator

September 04, 2005 at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre, Accra

The Commandant Major General John Attipoe, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre, the Executive Director of WANEP, Mr Emmanuel Bombande, Members of the High Table, Special Invited Guests, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have gathered here this evening with one common goal and purpose. To gather here in unity and to identify ourselves with those who have never known peace and those who are still struggling to restore human dignity in freedom and justice, and at the same time to also celebrate and consolidate the successes achieved so far. To share and learn new ways of resolving conflicts with **NON-VIOLENCE** as the underlying and directional principle. Moments like this offer us with the unique opportunity to enhance and strengthen our humble but meaningful contribution to the many efforts being made to achieve sustainable peace in our war and poverty-stricken West African sub region and beyond as the crop of our participants are not only from West Africa, but also from other parts of the World.

The Commandant, KAIPTC, WANEP Executive Director, please permit me at this time to welcome in a special way our dear participants who have travelled all the way from their respective countries to Ghana to participate in this year's West Africa Peacebuilding Institute because we share a common goal, that of making our dream of achieving sustainable peace in our world a reality as the Prime Objective of this Institute is to create an Enabling Environment for Peacebuilding Practice.

Dear Participants, you are most welcome. **LET US KEEP THE FAITH AND NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT**

AKWAABA