



# WANEP News

An in-house publication of WANEP-Regional

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## WANEP News

**W**elcome to WANEP News, a quarterly E-Newsletter of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, (WANEP). It will provide 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. WANEP News is telling our story our own way!

Happy Reading!

## WANEP Presents Continental Report at AU Peace Commission

In recognition of its role as the leading peacebuilding organization in West Africa, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP was nominated to present the consolidated report of the regional consultations carried out across Africa in commemoration of the African Union 50th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of the Peace and Security Council. WANEP Program Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze made the presentation at the opening session of the African Union Peace and Security Commission, (PSC) held on May 25, 2014 at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The report will inform the participation of CSOs and other non-state actors in the implementation of Africa Peace and Security Architecture, (APSA) in the next decade. WANEP is a member of the Standing Committee and the Peace and Security Cluster of the AU ECOSOC.

As part of activities to commemorate the event, WANEP was mandated to hold a regional consultative meeting which brought together non-state actors across the West Africa region to review the African Peace and Security Architecture, APSA of the African Union with a view to improving its implementation process in order to ensure a more peaceful and prosperous Africa.

In a speech at the consultative meeting, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze said; "an enhanced civil society involvement in the implementation of the AU protocols and normative frameworks reinforces peoples participation and collaborative action ... to address development and human security challenges caused by poverty, and limited access to the rich resources prevalent in the continent." Similar consultations were held in other

regions of Africa culminating into a continental report which was presented at the AU PSC.



*Top; WANEP staff and CSO representatives at the Regional Consultative Meeting.*

*Above; the ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake;.*

*Pic Right; Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Takwa Suifon, of AU and a former WANEP staff (middle) and Vasu Gouden ACCORD Executive Director sharing in the anniversary cake*



**Mr. Emmanuel Bombande,  
Executive Director, WANEP**

As part of efforts to enhance peacebuilding practice, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP participated in the first Peacebuilding Forum hosted by the Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt), which held in Berlin from May 7 to 8, 2014 under the theme “Seizing Opportunities: Peacebuilding in a Complex World”. The forum aimed to stimulate fresh and future-oriented ideas to improve peacebuilding, increase the visibility and status of the peacebuilding thematic area, and assess the role of Germany in its “new responsibility” in a complex world. WANEP Executive Director and Chair of the Global was interviewed on the margins of the Forum. Below are excerpts from the interview.

**What are you working on right now and where do you see major obstacles for building sustainable peace from your working experience?**

In West Africa and particularly from WANEP, one of the major activities we are working on is the West Africa Early Warning Mechanism, ECOWARN in partnership with ECOWAS. It is based in all the 15 ECOWAS member states with the objective of developing indigenous capacities to detect and anticipate conflicts and explore measures to prevent the outbreak of violent conflict. The major obstacles are working with

the member states of ECOWAS to improve and ensure the effectiveness of the system. This also enables West Africans to tell their own story in its own space without interference.

**Thinking ten years ahead: how has the peacebuilding field evolved?**

An evolution in the peacebuilding field has permeated all sectors of our human endeavor to develop at all levels including economic, political or social levels respectively. Peacebuilding occupies a center stage where there is a constant effort to reconcile differences in order to pursue other human endeavors. This is a response to the changing nature of the evolution of conflicts from inter-state to intra-state wars.

**What would you expect of Germany’s “new responsibility” with regard to peacebuilding?**

In my view, Germany has a responsibility that has been well exercised. However, she must continue to be the voice of the voiceless, given the fact that she has been able to bring its weights to bare in all international politics, which is very critical for the advancement of peacebuilding. Germany is supporting the Africa Union to build its Peace and Security Centre. She has also supported national capacities such as the building of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana. Germany should continue to do this in solidarity with the less developed world, and advocate for the voiceless in social justice, equity and for the development of all humanity regardless of a nation's economic status.

## **Excerpts of a keynote Address by Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Program Director at WANEP Nigeria Annual General Meeting – 28th to 29th April 2014**



**Chukwuemeka B. Eze  
Program Director - WANEP**

This is the first AGM of WANEP Nigeria I am attending since 2009 following my appointment as the Program Director by our regional board. This AGM and its participants is characterized by what I will describe as the mixture of the old and new wines in one bottle. I continue to be inspired in what we have collectively built and shared over the years. In this room are people who are as old as WANEP Nigeria and with fantastic memories and yet I am seeing new and vibrant faces with a lot of enthusiasm and gusto. My dear friends and colleagues, I want you to take pride in what we have achieved together in just 15 years of operations. Today more than ever in history, we are no longer pushover in the arena of peace and security. Indigenous expertise in peace and security in our region and continent is increasing just like external actors are more and more becoming secondary sources and references. This did not come without the sacrifice and steadfastness of most of you here.

Now, I have been asked to lead us in a reflection on the theme of this AGM “Consolidating National Early Warning System and National Architecture for Peace.” The importance of this theme within the current peace and security challenges of Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. Given the strategic importance and role of Civil Society Organisations and particularly WANEP to the realization of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework and other protocols, I consider this theme not only tactical in consolidating our strategic plan from national to regional but also an opportunity to learn from your

innovative mechanisms especially how NEWS revives to addressing the numerous challenges in our country.

The current exigencies of peace and security in Nigeria and the influence of the countries in the Sahel region on the stability of the country require holistic and systematic approach in order to address them. Security challenges in the country in the wake of emergent phenomenon of ethnic cum political and religious violence, extremism, cultism, armed robbery, disrespect and general erosion of cultural values are all pointers to the need for comprehensive long term strategies. I will propose that this AGM among other issues initiate discussions and propose the processes and structure of Nigeria’s infrastructure for Peace and an action plan to realize it. This is the way most countries are going about the institutionalization of their peace and security architecture and it is in tandem with the overall WANEP Strategic direction (2015 to 2020) as well as the Accra declaration on I4P, which the Minister of Interior of Nigeria consented to on behalf of the Nigerian government late last year. Let me on behalf of WANEP Management commit to supporting you in this direction, welcome you once more to this beautiful state where for no effort of mine I happen to be an indigene and wish you very resourceful AGM.





## CONFLICT PREVENTION IN PRACTICE

**W**ANEP Program Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze was invited by Joy News channel based in Accra, Ghana to discuss sundry issues bordering on peace and security in the West African Region. Mr. Eze spoke on the increasing incidences of terrorism in the region especially activities of Boko Haram insurgents in Nigeria, proliferation of arms and shared practical experiences on WANEP's work in the field of peacebuilding.

## WANEP HONOURED

**T**he West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, has been recognized as a Top Defense and National Security Think Tank by the University of Pennsylvania under its Think Tank and Civil Society Program. The recognition was contained in the Institutions' 2013 Global Think Tank Index Report released recently. This honour has once again reaffirmed WANEP's position as a leading peacebuilding civil society organization in West Africa and its contributions to the promotion of peace and security in the region. WANEP's cardinal goal is to build sustainable peace, thereby creating an enabling environment for development in West Africa.

## ...CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION AGAINST ARMS

**T**he West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) marked the 2014 International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, (IWDPD) with a call on nations and governments to take urgent action against nuclear weapons and the arms race. This was contained in a press release to mark the IWDPD on May 24, 2014. The release noted that nuclear weapons and arms race especially in the face of increasing acts of terrorism poses serious threats to regional peace and stability and therefore urged governments to expedite action in the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security as well as the norm of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P).

## WANEP AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**A**s part of its contribution to the peaceful and sustainable resolution of the Malian crisis, Regional Representative and Board Member of WANEP Mali, Ms Oulie Keita represented the organisation at a panel debate on Human Security at the UN General Assembly on June 18, 2014.

Her paper was on the role of the Malian civil society. The debate and re-emphasized WANEP's support to addressing issues of human security in Mali through gathering data and conducting root-cause analysis through its regional early warning mechanism, which is incorporated into the region's official multilateral early warning system, implemented in partnership with ECOWAS.

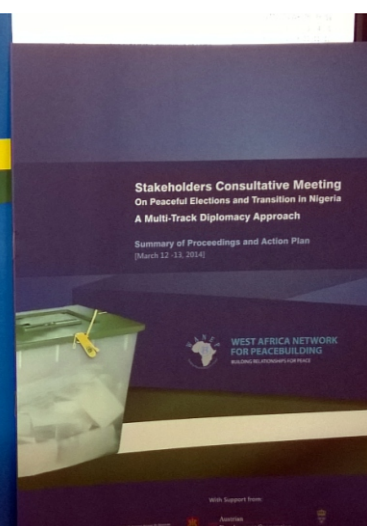
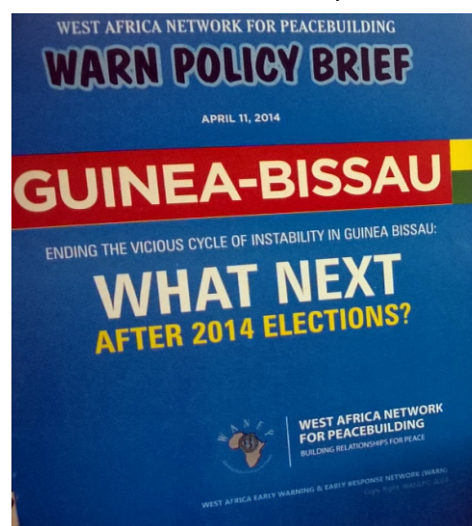


WANEP in collaboration with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC) of which WANEP is the West Africa Regional Representative and the Human Security Collective (HSC) is currently implementing a project on Human Security in Mali. The project coordinated by the WANEP Regional Secretariat is a timely civil society intervention in the Mali crisis with a regional perspective as the crisis is a regional one involving other countries in the Sahel region.

## NEW RESOURCES

New resources were added to the stable of WANEP publications in the quarter to enrich. The new resources were as follows; Policy Briefs;

- Ending the Vicious Cycle of Instability in Guinea Bissau: What Next After the 2014 Elections?
- Nigeria's 2015 General Elections: Crumbling or Consolidating Democracy?
- Correction de la Liste Electorale Permanente Informatisée (LEPI): les germes d'une nouvelle "polémique attentatoire" à la démocratie Béninoise.
- Proceedings of the Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on Peaceful Elections in Nigeria
- Gender Conflict Analysis Tools







Picture above, Hon. Benita Okita-Duah, Ghana Deputy Minister for Gender, children and social protection stressing a point during the experience sharing conference with Prof Donli, first left. Picture below, participants at the WANEP/KAIPTC M & E training for selected women on UNSCR 1325.



## GENDER EXPERTS BRAINSTORM ON UNSCR 1325

**G**ender experts drawn from gender ministries and civil society organizations in the 15 ECOWAS member states including the Ghana Deputy Minister for Gender, children and social protection, Hon Benita Okita-Duah came together to share experiences on the implementation and/or development of UNSCR 1325 and the status of women in mediation in their various countries. The occasion was the annual experience sharing conference organized by WANEP under the Women in Peacebuilding Network Program (WIPNET). The theme for this year's conference which held in April in Nigeria was: "UNSCR 1325 in West Africa: Women in Dialogue and Mediation." In recognition of women's victimization and exclusion from formal peace processes, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 in 2000 to specifically address the situation of women in armed conflict and their participation at all levels of decision-making including in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. However, almost 15 years after, the implementation of UNSCR 1325 has been very slow.

Findings from two surveys conducted by WANEP in collaboration with ECOWAS on the status of women mediators in West Africa and the status of the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 revealed inadequate funding, logistics and the absence of a monitoring and evaluation plan as some of the challenges hindering the effective implementation of the resolution. The findings which were presented at the experience sharing conference also showed that only 10 countries in the region have developed their national action plans for the implementation of 1325 although some of them are yet to be launched.

Following on this meeting, WANEP and the Kofi Anan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, KAIPTC held a three-day training on Monitoring and Evaluation for participants from the 15, ECOWAS member states, as part of concerted efforts to ensure effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in West Africa. The training which focused on the imperatives of women participation and involvement in formal peace and decision making processes was aimed at equipping participants with basic M & E skills needed for the effective monitoring of the progress and status of 1325 in their respective countries and was facilitated by Ms Levinia Addae-Mensah, Director Programs, KAIPTC and Mr. Vincent Azumah, WANEP M & E Coordinator.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PEACEBUILDING STRESSED

**I**n line with WANEP's mandate of building local capacities for peace and conflict mitigation, the organization brought together eminent personalities drawn from the ten regions of Ghana to share their experiences, lessons and challenges during the 2012 Ghana elections and proffer key strategies and recommendations that will guarantee a peaceful environment in preparation for the 2016 elections. The meeting which took place in April 2014 comprised Chiefs and Queen Mothers, representatives of Faith Based Organisations, Ghana Police Service, National Peace Council, Electoral Commission and Civil Society Organizations.



The WANEP Regional Coordinator Network Development, Mr. Alimou Diallo in an opening remark at the meeting said "WANEP believes that peace building has to be locally grounded because what local people bring cannot be exchanged or replaced by any foreign or expert views." Mr. Diallo maintained that any preparation without the involvement of all stakeholders especially those directly on ground cannot succeed because peace begins with individuals or groups. Also speaking, COP Rose Bio Atinga, Director General Administration, Ghana Police Service said; "elections are very critical and democracy cannot prevail without peaceful and credible elections."

The eminent persons who were trained by WANEP prior to the 2012 elections played key roles in maintaining peace in their communities. They also carried out several advocacy activities to ensure women are represented in the District and Regional Peace Councils of the National Peace Council.



## CONFLICT ANALYSTS, COMMUNITY MONITORS GET MORE TRAINING

**R**ecognizing the strategic role of early warning for conflict prevention and mitigation, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, brought together National Analysts and Community monitors from its 15 networks to further enhance their knowledge and skills on the elements, processes and dimensions of conflict prevention and mitigation. The retraining was also to strengthen the capacity of NEWS Managers on data collection and reporting for effective operationalization of NEWS and ECOWARN, identify problems associated with the current NEWS Portal and explore options to enhance the system for quality and effective analysis of conflicts in their respective countries and in support of the ECOWAS early warning system, ECOWARN. This is to ensure that the quality of early warning products submitted to the President of ECOWAS Commission has National ownership.

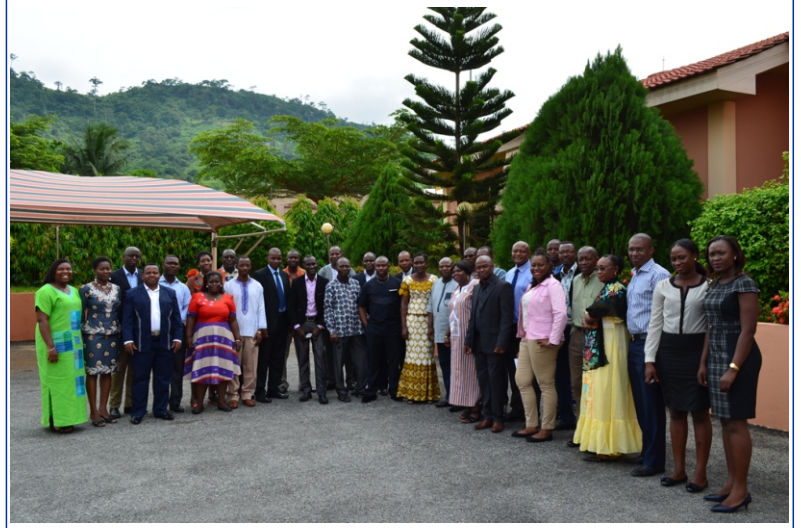
A key challenge with early warning is the slow or lack of immediate corresponding response due to inadequate information or data hence this training. Speaking at the occasion, Mr Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP Program Director contended that WANEP is more than positioned to provide quality and credible early warning data because of its human resource and spread in the communities, which gives WANEP a deeper understanding of the prevailing community dynamics. He confirmed that WANEP's MOU with ECOWAS is a consequence of this impact and understanding.

In his goodwill message, Mr Claude Kondor, an analysts in the ECOWAS Early Warning Department, EWD, lauded WANEP's strategic role in conflict prevention via in-depth analysis and articulation of policy briefs and her relentless efforts in capacity building. He stated that this meeting is very crucial

especially in view of the ECOWAS Vision 2020 of moving from an "ECOWAS of States to an ECOWAS of People;" and emphasized the vital role of the analysts and NEWS Managers towards actualizing this vision.



**Images from the retraining of National Analysts and Community NEWS monitors. Picture above, ECOWAS Analysts Mr Claude Kondor who represented ECOWAS at the meeting making his presentation. Below, group picture of Community NEWS monitors and WANEP staff**



## WANEP SHARES EXPERIENCE IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

**T**he West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, participated in the 8th Annual International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) in her capacity as a member of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Education Working Group of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Conflict (GPPAC). The conference was hosted by The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, USA from June 11 to 16, 2014.

The Conference provides a platform for experience sharing among key international organisations from governments, civil society as well as academic institutions on interdisciplinary collaboration and research including development of infrastructure in CRE, global citizenship, and civic engagement. WANEP was represented by the Communications and External Relations Officer, Mr. Francis Acquah-Aikins

Aikins

He spoke on WANEP's experiences especially its works and the impact it is making in West Africa especially through the development of strategic training resources in conflict resolution and transformation such as training manuals on peace education and conflict management, election dispute management practice guide, political dialogue and mediation practice guide among others. It also discussed the role of the WANEP's West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) in training peacebuilding and development practitioners, state institutions, intergovernmental organisations, corporate institutions and the academia on key peacebuilding concepts such as early warning, peace education, human security and gender and peacebuilding. This year's conference brought together a total of 400 participants from around the globe.



## FOUR WANEP STAFF ATTEND PEACEBUILDING COURSE IN SWEDEN

In line with WANEP goal of building staff capacity towards achieving organizational objectives, four staff of WANEP took part in the Peace and Security in Africa (PASA) Programme, at Uppsala University Sweden from May 3 to 24, 2014.

The participants include the Francis Acquah-Aikins; Communication and External Relations Officer, Mfrekeobong Ukanah; Program Assistant Peace Monitoring Centre, from WANEP Regional. Others are; Programme Manager-WIPNET-Sierra Leone Yeama Caulker-Robinson and NNC-Cote d'Ivoire, Coulibaly Tiohozon.

The training was highly engaging with participation from AU, ECOWAS, IGAD and other CSOs within the continent excluding North Africa. Participants are now working on their change projects in diverse mentoring groups. The Phase IV of the training is scheduled for November 2014 in South Africa.



**Happy Birthdays to all the staff who marked their birthdays this quarter;**

<b>Raymond Darko</b>	<b>May 7</b>
<b>Gisele</b>	<b>May 8</b>
<b>Michael Darko</b>	<b>May 8</b>
<b>Elizabeth Gozo</b>	<b>May 20</b>
<b>Diana Akpene-Adodo</b>	<b>June 11</b>
<b>Emmanuel Bombande</b>	<b>June 12</b>

## 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 and Social Council –ECOSOCC representing West Africa and also has a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). WANEP is the Regional Initiator and the current Chair of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (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.