



TRANSFORMING WEST AFRICA'S PROTRACTED CONFLICT: TENDENCIES AND TENSIONS OF THE CASAMANCE CONFLICT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Casamance province in Southern Region of Senegal with close proximity to Guinea Bissau and The Gambia has experienced protracted civil war between the Government of Senegal and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MDFC) since 1982.

On December 26, 2002, the region in Casamance erupted in a pro-independence demonstration, which

into refuge in neighboring Guinea-Bissau and The Gambia.¹

Several ceasefire agreements were reached in the 1990s, notably in May 1991, June 1993 and January 1999 respectively for a negotiated settlement and peace continues to be elusive in the region. On 26th January 2003, the conflicting parties, the Government of Senegal and MDFC, once again signed the 1999 Peace

This policy brief emanates from the proceedings of a consultative meeting on "Revisiting the Dynamics of the Casamance Conflict: New-entrance Perspectives" convened by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP in Accra, Ghana from August 29 to 31, 2012. The meeting was designed to develop new strategies and operational techniques, building ideas for a new level of partnership between state agencies and CSOs, which will contribute to the peace and security

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