

The African Union (AU) recognises the peacebuilding efforts of WANEP as the leading Civil Society Organisation in West Africa

“I am happy WANEP has been and remains a leading civil society actor that has a track record that speaks for itself. WANEP’s partnership for Conflict Prevention with ECOWAS entered into since 2002 is exemplary, unique and worth emulating by other CSOs. You have changed the perception of civil society in Africa. You have demonstrated that Africa belongs to all of us and that your role of complementing Governments is indispensable. The AU is aware of your success stories and we are proud that you have even groomed one of our staff who is proving his worth at the level of the Commission. That is WANEP’s legacy and contribution to African peace and stability. By focusing on National Early Warning Systems (NEWS), you have filled the gap that has always existed in building strategies for prevention. My wish is that through this initiative, Governments and national actors would take the issue of prevention of violent conflicts seriously. I need not say that prevention is better and cheaper than cure. Africa is losing millions to conflicts, money that would have been channelled to development efforts and creation of employment for the budding and growing youth population”, said the Special Guest, H.E. Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security, at the 2011 General Assembly of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Accra, Ghana on January 25, 2011.

Download file to read full speech