

**Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**THE FACTS:**Peace, stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law are important conduits for sustainable development. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed. High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long standing grievances among communities that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk.

**THE FIGURES:**

- Among the institutions most affected by corruption are the judiciary and police
- Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost some US \$1.26 trillion for developing countries per year; this amount of money could be used to lift those who are living on less than \$1.25 a day above \$1.25 for at least six years
- The rate of children leaving primary school in conflict affected countries reached 50 per cent in 2011, which accounts to 28.5 million children, showing the impact of unstable societies on one of the major goals of the post 2015 agenda: education.

WANEP's vision of a West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction has led to the development of mechanisms for promoting cooperative responses to violent conflicts. Through its undergirding principle of collaborative peacebuilding, WANEP has provided the structure through which peacebuilding practitioners and institutions regularly exchange experience and information on issues of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, social, religious and political reconciliation and promoting West Africa's social cultural values as resources for peacebuilding. The organizations programs especially, NEWS, Peace Education and the Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET) programs are all geared towards preventive peacebuilding and to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.