



**WEST AFRICA NETWORK  
FOR PEACEBUILDING**

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE



THEME: TRANSCENDING NEW FRONTIERS IN  
**PEACEBUILDING**

ANNUAL  
**REPORT '19**

# A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION WORKING ON COLLABORATIVE PEACEBUILDING





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## Our Networks



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# ACRONYMS

<b>ADR</b>	Alternative Dispute Resolution
<b>APF</b>	African Peace Fellow
<b>APSA</b>	AU Peace and Security Architecture
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>CAPCR</b>	Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution
<b>CEWS</b>	Continental Early Warning System
<b>CFR</b>	Council on Foreign Relations
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CVE</b>	Countering Violent Extremism
<b>DDG</b>	Danish Demining Group
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>ECOSOCC</b>	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
<b>ECOWARN</b>	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>ECPF</b>	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
<b>EMAM</b>	Election Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation
<b>ESR</b>	Election Situation Room
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GIZ</b>	German Society for International Cooperation
<b>GOSCE</b>	Grupo das Organizações da Sociedade Civil para as Eleições
<b>GPPAC</b>	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
<b>HTP</b>	Harmful Traditional Practices
<b>IDP</b>	International Day of Peace
<b>IGO</b>	International Governmental Organizations
<b>ISS</b>	Institute for Security Studies
<b>IWD</b>	International Women's Day
<b>IYD</b>	International Youth Day
<b>JAES</b>	Joint Africa European Strategy
<b>JFA</b>	Joint Financing Agreement
<b>JSD</b>	Justice and Security Dialogue
<b>KA IPTC</b>	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
<b>LCBC</b>	Lake Chad Basin Commission
<b>MARAC</b>	Central African Early Warning Mechanism

<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NAPs</b>	National Action Plans
<b>NERG</b>	National Election Response Group
<b>NEWS</b>	National Early Warning Systems
<b>NNC</b>	National Network Coordinator
<b>NPC</b>	National Peace Council
<b>PAPS</b>	Political Affairs Peace and Security
<b>PPS</b>	Promotion of Peace in the Sahel
<b>PRAPs</b>	Participatory Review and Analysis Processes
<b>PSD</b>	Peace and Security Division
<b>PVE</b>	Preventing Violent Extremism
<b>PVE</b>	Preventing Violent Extremism
<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Council
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender Based-Violence
<b>SH</b>	Sexual Harassment
<b>SSF</b>	Small Scale Farmers
<b>SSR</b>	Security Sector Reforms
<b>SSRG</b>	Security Sector Reforms and Governance
<b>SVNP</b>	Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding
<b>TRRC</b>	Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Project
<b>UNOWAS</b>	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WACSI</b>	West Africa Civil Society Institute
<b>WANEP</b>	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
<b>WAPeF</b>	West Africa Peacebuilding Fellows
<b>WAPI</b>	West Africa Peacebuilding Institute
<b>WGWYPS-WA</b>	Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security- West Africa
<b>WIPNET</b>	Women in Peacebuilding Network
<b>WODI</b>	WANEP Organizational Development Index
<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security Agenda

## ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is the leading regional civil society organization in conflict prevention and peacebuilding conceived in 1996, and officially launched in 1998 in response to the civil wars, instabilities and humanitarian crises that plagued West Africa in the 1990s. WANEP has succeeded in establishing strong National Networks in every Member State of ECOWAS, with over 500 member organizations working in peace and security across West Africa. WANEP has credibility and a wide recognition both internationally and locally due to its outstanding work in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the ECOWAS region. It is a key player in major global peacebuilding efforts.

In 2002, WANEP entered into a historic partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the implementation of a regional early warning and response system referred to as ECOWARN. A standing Memorandum of Understanding signed between WANEP and ECOWAS in 2004 guides this partnership and constitutes a major strategic achievement for WANEP and West Africa civil society as it offers the much-desired opportunity to contribute to Track I response to conflicts and policy debates.

In August 2015, WANEP signed an MOU with the African Union Commission to provide support to the Commission's Peace and Security Department in the implementation of the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) including the gender mainstreaming of the architecture. WANEP is also a member of the Peace and Security cluster of the African Union's (AU) Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and the ECOSOCC Adviser on Civil Society relations with African Governments and the Focal Point for Africa CSOs on the AU-EU Joint

Strategy (JAES). At international level, WANEP has a Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is the West Africa Regional Representative of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). WANEP provides professional courses in conflict prevention and peacebuilding informed by several years of practical experience to governments, businesses, and practitioners throughout the region and beyond. Underlying its work is a commitment to professionalism and a dedication to a world of mutual respect, tolerance and peace.

WANEP's vision is 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".

**Vision:** "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".

**Mission:** To enable and facilitate mechanisms for cooperation among civil society-based peacebuilding practitioners and organizations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses with State actors to address the root causes of violent conflicts; providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions regularly exchange experiences and information on issues and influence policy on peacebuilding and conflict transformation; and promoting West Africa's social and cultural values as resources for peacebuilding.

### Operating Principles and Values

- Belief in mutual respect for one another;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Gender equality and zero tolerance to discrimination (sex, tribe/ethnicity, race, HIV-AIDS status, etc.);
- Collegiality, teamwork and dedication to duty;
- Tolerance and respect for diversity;
- Justice for all;
- Quality delivery;
- Collaboration and consultation

### Our Approach

WANEP is a Think Tank, training and research-based advocacy organization with the undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding. Instead of adopting an activist approach, WANEP functions as a professional partner of state, interstate and international actors to develop, implement and evaluate peacebuilding and conflict prevention approaches and instruments.

### What We Do

**WARN** seeks to enhance human security in the region by monitoring and reporting on socio-political situations that could degenerate into violent conflicts.

**The NAPE** program seeks to promote a culture of non-violence as a platform for achieving sustainable peace in the region. It is specifically focused on children and youth in-school and in informal sector.

**WPS program** is articulated through the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) program. It is a platform to support women and build their capacity in the promotion of peace and human security in the region using international instruments including the UNSCR 1325, African Union gender



mainstreaming instruments and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) as guide and reference

**The CSDG** Program provides a platform to engage with diverse stakeholders in promoting peaceful democratic transitions, and partner with other civil society organizations to monitor and mitigate election-related conflicts, promote dialogue towards the attainment of peaceful elections.

**Responding to conflict through Dialogue and Mediation** enables WANEP involvement in the search for a peaceful settlement of crisis especially at its nascent stage, promote inter and intra communal dialogue, enhance and mediate capacities of communities and other relevant state and inter government bodies.

**WAPI** seeks to increase the knowledge base and enhance the expertise and skills of individuals, organizations and businesses in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also seeks to increase the number of competent, active peacebuilding practitioners in West Africa.

In addition to WANEP core programs, there are other cross cutting programs that respond to context-specific peace and security issues across the region and continent. WANEP is providing to the EECAS in the operationalization of CSO components of MARAC.



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

**AVM Christian Edem Dovlo (Rtd)**

Regional Board chair

In 2019, WANEP commemorated twenty years of its existence and operations. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a unique occasion to celebrate our major achievements in the last two decades as well as the significant contributions of our partners to peace and security in our region. At a time when our region is confronted with a myriad of threats of both national and regional character, the climax of the anniversary presented a rare opportunity for bringing together multiple stakeholders from community, national, regional, continental, global, state and non-state levels to reflect and strategize on integrated and multidimensional preventive approaches.

Celebrated under the theme “WANEP @ 20: Twenty Years of Peacebuilding Practice in West Africa”, it provided a space and opportunity to showcase some of the major outcomes of WANEP’s work across the entire region and to appreciate the essential and pivotal role of civil society in peace and security. The crowning moment, which was the inauguration of the West Africa Peacebuilding Fellows (WAPeF), was a truly inspiring event as it portrayed the practical expression of integrated and inclusive peacebuilding.

As a Board, we have been extremely proud of the numerous WANEP success stories and testimonies shared by regional, continental and global institutions and icons during the anniversary. We continue to be inspired by the unrelenting efforts to remain professional and achieve results across all arms of the institution as was amply demonstrated during the General Assembly which immediately followed the highlight event of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and which included for the first time, the participation of some WANEP member organizations from Nigeria and Togo.

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In the face of a global funding crunch especially for Civil Society Organizations, we continue to witness the drive from the Management and staff to break into new funding grounds and to broaden the range of partnerships. In this regard, the Regional Office signed a new partnership with the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund to support the strengthening of a gender sensitive Early Warning and Response Mechanism for West and Central Africa. This initial one-year partnership becomes fully operational in 2020 and will further consolidate our collaboration with ECCAS. Across the national networks, several agreements were signed with various Development Partners for funding support in various thematic areas including Violent Extremism, Election Management Support, Youth Empowerment, Community Resilience Building, Women, Peace and Security and Security Sector Reforms.

In spite of a shrinking civic space, our partnership portfolios with State and inter-governmental institutions remains constructive and continues to grow. Under the leadership of our staff at the AUC, we experienced an increase in our collaborative engagements with the AU throughout the year. Likewise, with ECOWAS, our Liaison Office continues to enjoy support from across the Commission to further the consolidation of the globally renowned ECOWAS-CSO partnership. Through our National Networks, we have successfully collaborated with State institutions in ECOWAS Member States to implement programs.

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In terms of institutional development, governance and accountability mechanisms continue to remain strong and are used by development partners as a reference and benchmark for assessing institutional capacity for funding of other organizations. Using the WANEP Organizational Development Index (WODI), we saw significant growth across all our Networks particularly in the areas of stakeholder engagements and resource mobilization. The Regional Board wishes to express its utmost appreciation to the National Boards for their leadership and support in this regard.

On the Human Resource front, a number of re-assignments and new appointments were made at the Regional Office to align with the organization's strategic direction and current dynamics in the field of Peace and Security on the continent. We upscaled our Women, Peace and Security agenda by appointing a Regional Coordinator to lead in this area. We also created a substantive Youth, Peace and Security desk to complement our long-standing Peace Education program and to coordinate the numerous youth-related initiatives across all our Networks. Given the growth in our National Networks, we also now have a Program Officer to support in the areas of Network Development and Monitoring and Evaluation. The ICT unit was also strengthened with the appointment of a Senior ICT Officer. Beyond enhancing the scope and impact of our operations, these new appointments also brought with its additional value of diversity in terms of nationality and language capabilities for the organization.

The year under review also focused on various internal assessment exercises and preparatory processes for the development of a new Strategic Plan in 2020. To this end, a Strategic Plan Working Committee was launched at the Regional office and has been leading the process of developing the new Plan with support from an external facilitator. The core components of

the new Plan will be crystalized during the 2020 Participatory Review and analysis Processes (PRAPS) where all our National Networks will be present.

We ended the year having implemented over 90% of planned activities in spite of significant funding gaps and have achieved some remarkable results including contributions to mitigation of electoral violence and successful electoral processes, prevention of violent extremism especially through the enhanced roles of women at community level and to the development of regional, continental and global policies on peace and security. All these have been achieved as a result of the dedicated professionalism, creativity and collective hard work of all staff at the Regional Office with staunch support from the Liaison and National Offices.

The Regional Board therefore commends the efforts of the Management and staff at all levels, National Boards and extends its sincere appreciation to all our partners. We look forward with optimism to a challenging but results-filled 2020. We wish all in the WANEP family, the very best during the seasonal celebrations ahead and look forward to the New Year with hope.



**WANEP Regional Board Members:** Clockwise; Board Chair - AVM C. E. Dovlo (Rtd); Madame Antoinette Yawavi Mbrou – Vice Board Chair; Professor Oumar Ndongo, Mrs. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, Rev John Nkum, Professor Patricia Donli and Madame Mariam Dao Gabala



## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze**

Executive Director

This year (2019), WANEP marked and celebrated its 20 years of peacebuilding practice in Africa. It was an occasion to reminisce on WANEP's experience as an institution and chart a future that consolidates its vision. In the last two decades, WANEP has evolved to meet changing and challenging dynamics of conflicts in Africa and positioned itself to deliver on the expectations of African Union, ECOWAS, African States and Communities as well as the United Nations through UNOWAS. We have witnessed exciting progress reflecting our mission, vision and strategy, despite facing difficult political and financial environment as well as staff turnover.

2019 has been a challenging year for many peacebuilding organizations especially those in West Africa as the technology and tactics applied in violent conflicts continue to change and, in many instances, retrogress the gains already made in peace and human security. WANEP is however, inspired by the positive impact it made in the year and take pride in its support and influence within the Africa peace and security arena. Our focus on pro-ventive<sup>1</sup> peacebuilding as a strategy for addressing structural drivers of insecurity has over the years proven to be a good approach given the historical and multifaceted dimension of the conflicts in our region. Prevention through early warning and rebuilding through post conflict reconstruction allows us to support communities and victims of violence going through a healing process within the 20 years of the Institution's existence. This has saved lives, minimized immense losses to human and economic capital, and safeguarded development gains in West Africa and the

<sup>1</sup> *Pro-ventive is used by WANEP to depict proactive conflict prevention strategy*

Continent. Despite these considerable progress, apparent structural deficiencies continue to be pervasive and reinforce the vulnerability of the region to emerging peace and security threats. Prevention requires innovative approaches and novel partnerships to meet new threats in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

The next decade will no doubt present increased security challenges for our communities, states and intergovernmental organisations. Amid extraordinary growth and availability of information communication technologies (ICTs) and the knack for interaction through social media, the critical question for African governments, and Civil Society Organizations is how it will leverage on ICT to improve the efficiency of conflict prevention.

The maiden edition of WANEP Fellows lecture series took place on the margins of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and was entitled “the future and features of Peacebuilding Practice in West Africa”. The Body of Fellows of WANEP were inaugurated by His Excellency, the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, (represented by the Vice President, Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia) and seeks to harness and leverage the skills of peacebuilding practitioners in support of WANEP, ECOWAS and AU Member States’ intervention for conflict transformation in Africa. The fellowship further support research, teaching, publication, and practical field experience on issues of peace, causes of conflict, and Africa’s development; inspiring people to build relationships for a culture of tolerance and peace while enhancing their capacity, knowledge, and skill through interactions and exchanges.

WANEP’s proven expertise and experience in election management and observation was again recognized with the signing of a three-year contract with European Union (EU) to implement a project on election monitoring, analysis and management in seven West African countries. This was a milestone for WANEP as it marked the first time it received direct funding from the EU to support ECOWAS member states in its quest to institutionalize credible electoral processes and transition in the region. The project compliments a similar project supported by USAID from February 2015 to July 2019 on Mitigating Election Violence through National Early Warning Systems.

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The partnership between WANEP, AU and ECOWAS continued to gain traction in the year under review. Our three institutions collaborated to implement strategic programs that responds to the peace and security dynamics of the continent and region. Under this partnership, the three organizations collaborated in implementing the election support structure, EMAM in Nigeria, marking the first of such tripartite collaboration. The AU and WANEP supported peaceful political transition in Mali through the joint conduct of pre-election fact-finding mission, the setup of a national election response platform and the joint establishment of an Election Situation Room. WANEP and the AU-CEWS also produced a publication detailing our partnership with CEWS and our election intervention experiences in Nigeria and Mali. WANEP employed its expertise and facilities to conduct gender-specific analysis training for staff and personnel of the AU Peace and Security Department. Also, we partnered with AU in facilitating an experience sharing and learning of its practice and support to the Continental Early Warning System with other CSOs across the continent.

WANEP continues to consolidate its unique partnership with ECOWAS through joint debriefing and thematic sessions to the ECOWAS Ambassadors on Peace Security, which facilitates response strategies at track 1 level. The new ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations project highlights WANEP as core CSO beneficiary and is a testimony of level of partnership and success story within its MoU with ECOWAS. This 20 million Euros project supported by EU and GIZ, consolidates the implementation of National Early Warning and Response Mechanism as well as the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework in Member States. Our unique experience and expertise in West Africa have led us to explore new frontiers of partnership through a new WANEP support to ECCAS through a one-year project to strengthen gender sensitive early warning and response mechanism for West and Central Africa. We are optimistic that at the end of the project in September 2020, the capacities of civil society organizations in ECCAS member states would have been built using the WANEP model, which will enhance their partnership with ECCAS for the effective function of early warning system referred to as MARAC.

In a bid to leverage the nexus between theory and practice, WANEP partnered with research institutions and the academia such as the Africa Network for Peacebuilding and the Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies Ibadan to organise a Continental Conference on Mediation and Natural Resource Conflict in Africa which sought to bridge the gap between mediation theory and practice. Additional landmarks were achieved through the partnership with the Institute for Peace, Conflict and Development Studies of Enugu State University of Science and Technology to offer its expertise for the award of post graduate degrees in peace and security. We also continue to expand and strengthen our West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) through organising specialised courses and in-country capacity building initiatives. WANEP in collaboration with Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) developed a curriculum on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) as a strategy to engage students and young people in response to regional threats of violent extremism and also led the Voluntary National Reviews in Ghana to track progress of the implementation of the SDG 16+.

Within the year under review we engendered our indicators by integrating women and youth peace and security agenda to the WANEP early warning system. This is imperative and lends

“Within the year under review we engendered our indicators by integrating women and youth peace and security agenda to the WANEP early warning system. This is imperative and lends credence to our belief that a gender sensitive early warning and response increases the understanding of contemporary security threats, improves analysis and the formulation of effective response options.”

credence to our belief that a gender sensitive early warning and response increases the understanding of contemporary security threats, improves analysis and the formulation of effective response options. WANEP took a step further in this direction by addressing the gender component of the persistent farmer/herder conflict through a stakeholders’ consultative meeting, which provided a platform to harness the voices of women and youth in mitigating the harmful effects of this conflict in the region. Our Early Warning operations was further strengthened through the deliberate training and retraining of community conflict monitors and analysts and NEWS Managers to report and provide quality, accurate, evidenced-based data on current peace and security dynamics across the region. As West Africa continue to grapple with heightened insecurity, WANEP has increased the number of community monitors for wider coverage and has added new features to its national early warning system

platforms to make it more user friendly and easily accessible. WANEP NEWS outputs continues to provide development partners, the academia and other CSOs with appropriate analysis for informed responses at various levels.

In line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, WANEP partnered with the Baywood Foundation, GIZ, ECOWAS and AU to carry out sensitization activities as part of the youth dialogue to increase meaningful involvement of Youth in peace and security in the Region and Continent. WANEP supported the establishment of a national youth platform for continuous dialogue as a pathway to the implementation of UNSCR 2250 and the development of National Action Plans. Through these efforts, youth are given a platform to articulate their vision and contributions to the promotion of peace in the region.

Our research and publication received a boost through two key resources; Practice Guide on CSOs Engagement with IGOs and the Election Monitoring Analysis and Management in West Africa (EMAM) publications. The Practice Guide is based on our sustained relationship with ECOWAS and AU and provides a framework for understanding how Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) engage with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the field of international peace and global security. The EMAM publication, on the other hand, documents WANEP's experiences and efforts in managing election disputes in the region and continent as well as its contribution to the ECOWAS and AU's effort to entrench free, fair and credible elections in Africa.

As we look forward to another decade of peacebuilding practice and begin the process of developing a new five-year strategic plan (2021 – 2025), we will tweak our operational procedures and programs to reflect the new conflict dynamics in the region and continent. In this regard, the strategic plan will deepen our response and consider the emerging conflict dynamics in areas such as organized crime, farmer/herder conflicts, environmental, gender-based and natural resource violence.



**WANEP Regional Management Team:** (Left to Right);  
Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze - Executive Director; Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah – Deputy Executive Director/Program Director; Mr. Raymond Darko – Finance Manager; Mrs. Esther Gordon-Mensah – HR/Administrative Manager

## 1.0. NATIONAL EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS ARE FUNCTIONAL IN ALL MEMBER STATES AND LINKED TO ECOWAS EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE SYSTEM

### 1.1. Contributing to peaceful electoral processes in the region

WANEP's efforts in managing election disputes in West Africa is encapsulated in its Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) program. The EMAM program continues to garner recognition across the region, attracting new partners and expanding collaborations with existing partners. In the review period, the five-year (2015-2019) USAID project on 'Mitigating Election Violence in West Africa through National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) successfully closed out while WANEP commenced a three-year European Union (EU) funded project on Election Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation in seven targeted countries of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Senegal and Togo from 2018-2021. Implementation of the EMAM program is complemented by support from the Governments of Sweden and Austria through a Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA). WANEP's interventions in the electoral process is achieved through deliberate planned and analyzed actions as detailed below;

**1.1.1. USAID-WANEP NEWS Project Close-out:** The five-year USAID funded project on Mitigating Election Violence in West Africa through National Early Warning Systems (NEWS), successfully closed-out in the review period. The project was an integral part of the overall Strategic Plan/framework of WANEP, which seeks to enhance the capacity of civil society and relevant State institutions for the promotion of human security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in West Africa. The project was an opportunity for WANEP to upscale and strengthen its NEWS platform with special focus on monitoring, analyzing and reporting electoral violence indicators within the broader framework of the ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism (ECOWARN) and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). Five West African countries of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger and Sierra Leone whose elections took place between 2015 and 2018 were the project beneficiaries. In closing out the project, the USAID Senior Governance Advisor who provided oversight to the implementation of the project expressed appreciation to WANEP 'for the partnership and the work you have done over the last years in supporting USAID West Africa's objectives in the region.' Major outcomes of the project were the institutionalization of national early warning and response platforms comprised of key stakeholders who consistently engage in preventive and shuttle diplomacy in the promotion of peace in the project countries. Gains of the project

were succinctly documented in reports, success stories and documentaries with testimonies from the targeted beneficiaries.

**1.1.2. Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM):** The EU-WANEP EMAM project is significant as it marked the first time WANEP is assessing direct funds from the European Union. This EMAM project was designed as a collaborative initiative between WANEP, ECOWAS and UNOWAS and seeks to consolidate the gains of the USAID-WANEP NEWS project in responding to threats to peaceful elections in West Africa. It also aimed at enhancing the capacity of CSOs and relevant State institutions to promote human security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding to complement the broader framework of the ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism (ECOWARN) and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). The activities under this project carried out in the review period included an official launch in Guinea, Togo, Senegal and Guinea Bissau, which was a platform to publicly present the Project to the media and other key stakeholders in order to increase awareness and ensure local ownership. Capacity building initiatives were conducted for the civil society beneficiaries of the project to strengthen their skills in project management, financial accountability and report writing. WANEP’s efforts in this regard was recognized at a national lessons’ learnt workshop held in Senegal where key partners commended WANEP national office in Senegal for the progress made in the implementation of the project so far, particularly its contribution to the peaceful conduct of the 2019 presidential election in the country.



**Above:** members of the high table at launch of EMAM in Togo;

**Left:** in the spirit of partnership; WANEP Deputy Executive Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah flanked by Dr. Remi Ajobe, Director Political Affairs-ECOWAS (right) and Gen Yusuf of ECOWAS Standby Force, at the EMAM launch in Guinea Bissau

## 1.2. Election Management Intervention Strategy

**1.2.1. Community Platforms for Election Monitoring and Response:** A key aspect of WANEP's election management strategy is to create community platforms for early warning and response in countries undergoing elections within the period. Before the conduct of elections, WANEP in collaboration with key stakeholders conduct mapping of hotspots and conflict areas, review and validate election-related indicators to ensure that the indicators are gender-sensitive and respond to current peace and security dynamics. WANEP also facilitated the establishment of National Election Response Groups (NERG) in Senegal and Guinea Bissau for elections in 2019 as well as for Togo and Guinea for the 2020 elections. In each of these countries, the Group comprised of eminent and influential persons with the mandate to devise strategies for responding to election violence based on recommendations from the analyzed reports from the structured community early warning monitoring systems. Members of the Group regularly engaged in preventive diplomacy before, during and after the elections, intervening in disputes arising within the electoral process to forestall violence.

**1.2.2. Training/retraining and deployment of Election Monitors:** Under the EMAM project, WANEP worked with other Civil Society Organizations to train and deploy community monitors and election observers in Senegal and Guinea Bissau prior to the elections in the respective countries. Consistent with WANEP's strategy of retraining community monitors for increased reporting efficiency, an estimated 200 community monitors and focal points were retrained in Niger, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Guinea. Furthermore, 150 observers in Senegal, 200 in Guinea Bissau and 114 in Nigeria were trained and deployed to monitor elections in those countries. The observers and monitors were trained on the use of the ArcGIS software. The trained monitors now provide quality and timely report of political, social and economic issues in their countries while these trainings have led to improved quality, timely and reliable early warning outputs to State and non-State actors for response. NEWS Managers regularly undergo trainings to improve their supervisory and analytical skills.



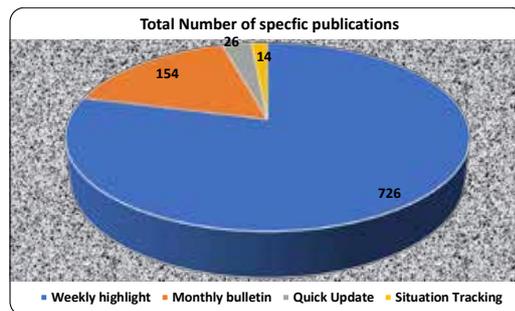
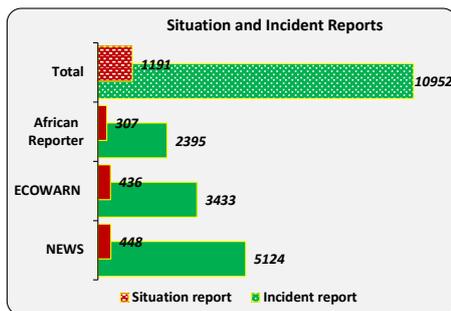
Training session for community monitors and election observers in Guinea Bissau



WANEP Coordinators Mr. Ifeanyi Okechukwu (right) and Mrs. Bridget Osakwe (left) briefing a visitor to the WANEP Election Situation Room during the 2019 Presidential elections in Nigeria

**1.2.3. Operationalizing the Election Situation Room (ESR):** WANEP operated a coordinated Election Situation Room (ESR) in Senegal, Benin, Nigeria and three times in Guinea Bissau during the Parliamentary, first and run-off elections. For better coordination and ease of reporting, the ESR was divided into four sections; viz; data gathering room, analysis room, communication room and the decision room. In Nigeria, the ESR was directly linked to the ECOWAS situation room and provided constant debriefing and sharing of vital information to facilitate response by ECOWAS observation mission in Nigeria while in Guinea Bissau, it was run as a collaboration with UN Women, o *Grupo das Organizações da Sociedade Civil para as Eleições* (GOSCE)<sup>2</sup> and other key stakeholders. The ESR provided critical information for preventive diplomacy, contributed to timely responses to addressing gaps/challenges that could mar the election process among others.

### 1.3. Production and Dissemination of Early Warning Outputs



WANEP produced high-quality, evidenced-based early warning outputs from its highly developed National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) platforms. In the review year, a total of 10,952 incident reports, 1,191 situation reports, and 502 situation tracking and quick updates were produced. In addition, seven key policy briefs

<sup>2</sup> Group of Civil Society Organisations for Elections

and other special reports were produced and widely disseminated as shown in the table below;

**Table 1: National Early Warning System (NEWS) Products**

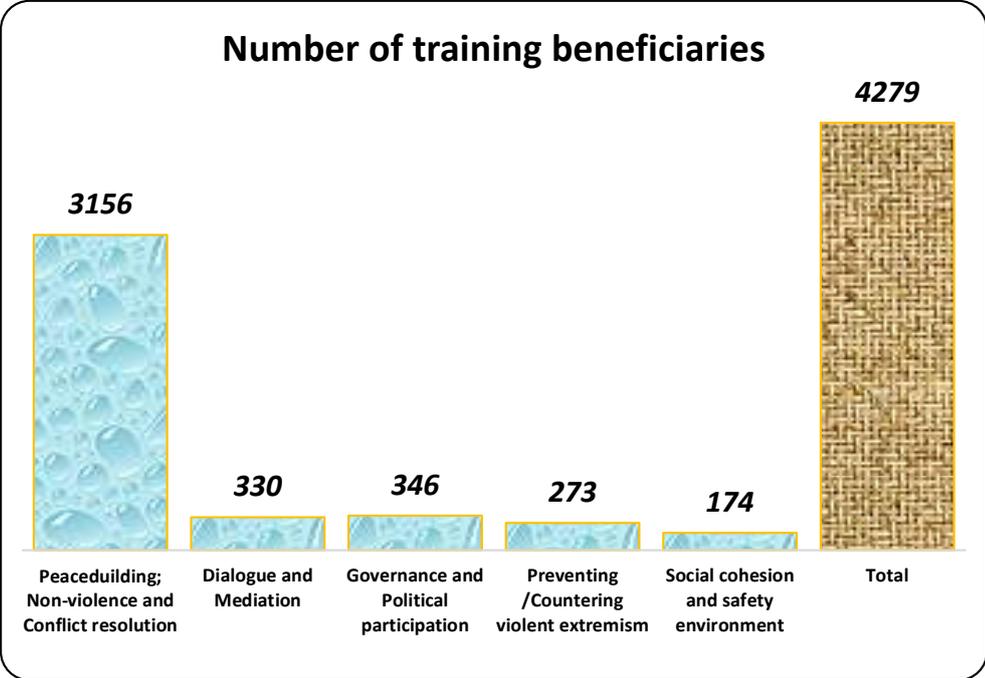
Policy Briefs	Other special reports
<b>Sierra Leone:</b> Polemics of Post-Elections in Sierra Leone: Beyond the Rhetoric	Peace and Security dynamics in West Africa
<b>Nigeria:</b> Ahead of the Nigeria's 2019 General Elections: Dynamics, Vulnerability and Resilience	Current Peace and Security Dynamics in Ghana
<b>Cameroon:</b> Conspiracy of Silence or Feigned Indifference? The crisis in Cameroon and its Security Implications for Nigeria and the International Community	Manifestation du Front National pour la Défense de la Constitution
<b>Guinea Bissau:</b> Les Élections Législatives et Présidentielles à venir, suffiront-elles pour une sortie de crise?	Affrontement Communautaire à Béoumi dans le Centre de la Cote d'Ivoire.
<b>Burkina Faso:</b> Renforcer la cohésion sociale et le processus de réconciliation : une voie pour des élections apaisées en 2020 au Burkina Faso.	Incendie criminel lors d'un conflit domanial à Tabilala dans la préfecture de Beyla
<b>The Gambia:</b> Challenges of a fractured nation in transition: The imperative for social cohesion and stability in the "NEWS GAMBIA"	Situation post électorale tendue au Bénin.
<b>GUINÉE:</b> Les signes de processus électoraux à risques	Conflits électoraux et post-électoraux au Bénin
	Renewed Armed Clashes Between Anufors and Konkombas in Chereponi and Saboba Districts

**These outputs made significant impact across the region as follows;**

- Reports from WANEP-The Gambia were used by Government officials and Development Partners to analyze the security situation in the country.
- The Early Warning outputs by WANEP-Senegal, were the key resources for the establishment of mediation and conflict management committees for maintaining peace and stability in the localities.
- Togo relied on WANEP-Togo's policy recommendations to address the persistent robbery incidents in the country by deploying security patrols in various neighborhoods in Lomé at night to deter the robbers.
- In Cote d'Ivoire, the early warning outputs led to the establishment of dialogue platform to tackle the persistent land disputes in the Kouto locality of Bagoue region.

# 2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

## 2.1. Improving Capacities for effective peacebuilding and conflict prevention



**2.1.1. In the reporting period, WANEP trained and built capacities of 4,279 people comprising participants from other Civil Society Organizations, government agencies, public, private and international organizations in various peacebuilding components.**

A breakdown of this number showed that a whopping 3156 of these beneficiaries were trained on peacebuilding, non-violence and conflict resolution strategies. Other areas of focus included dialogue and mediation (330), governance and political participation (346), preventing/countering violent extremism (273) and social cohesion (174) respectively. In Ghana and Guinea, the beneficiaries are playing active roles in managing communal conflicts using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) skills acquired from the numerous trainings received as follows;



- In Liberia, youth trained on peacebuilding and conflict resolution techniques carried out massive awareness and sensitization of their peers on non-violent conflict resolution in the communities.
- Members of the Peace and Security Committee in Niger are effectively involved in determining priority areas in the budgeting process.
- In The Gambia, the trained beneficiaries have become more involved in mediating communal disputes.
- Trained religious leaders in Togo have been sensitizing their members on the value of peace towards promoting peaceful co-existence in their communities.



Above (Left); 2019 WAPI participants with facilitators display their certificates at the end of the training. (Right); WANEP Regional Coordinator Early Warning facilitating a session

**2.1.2. West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI):** The 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) was a specialized training on Gender and Peacebuilding organized on request from the African Union (AU). The session held from October 21 to 25, 2019 in Accra Ghana with 11 participants comprising 2 males, 9 females drawn from the AU PSD, WANEP regional and national office and the UN PBF in Niger. The goal of the training was to deepen participants' understanding of how systems are reinforcing gender roles, stereotypes and gender expectations as well as examine how gender roles affect peace and security. It is evident from the evaluation report that participants gained substantial knowledge during the training. Feedback from participants reaffirmed the timeliness of the training and commendable manner in which the training was delivered. Overall, the training objectives were met with majority of participants indicating significant improvements in their knowledge level on all modules treated during the training. Six of the participants were sponsored by AU within the framework of the WANEP-AU partnership, while the remaining participants benefitted from the complementary funding provided by WANEP's Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) partners viz; the Governments of Sweden and Austria. WAPI is WANEP's flagship capacity building program established in 2002 and has trained over 680 participants since its inception.

## 2.2. Intensifying Advocacy and Campaigns for Peace

**2.2.1. Global Campaigns and Events:** In the year 2019, WANEP as part of its mandate to promote and advocate for peace, commemorated several global events, which provided the platform to educate and advocate for a just and peaceful world for women and youth.

- **The 2019 International Youth Day** theme: “Transforming education”, highlights efforts to make education more relevant, equitable and inclusive for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves. This was the opportunity for WANEP to raise a banner for inclusive and equitable quality education for all in a peaceful environment with focus on youth in refugee camps who hardly have access to equitable education.



- The **International Day of Peace** with the theme: ‘Climate Action for Peace’ was a platform for WANEP to campaign for gender inclusion in the responses to climate change and conflict prevention for the attainment of sustainable solutions.
- WANEP in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPCT) and the GIZ commemorated the 2019 **International Women’s Day (IWD)** with a Durbar. The 2019 IWD theme: ‘Empowering the Youth to Advocate against Gender Based-Violence (GBV),’ with the hashtag, *#Balance4Better* provided a unified direction to guide and galvanize continuous collective action for accelerating gender parity. The Durbar was a platform to sensitize students and teachers from Basic and Senior High Schools in Accra and its Metropolis and provide them with information to deepen their understanding of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Harassment (SH). The students have now become Student Advocates for the fight against GBV and SH in their respective schools. Across the WANEP Networks, more than 3,000 women, men, boys and girls were sensitized on issues of SGBV and other harmful traditional practices (HTP) through live radio discussions, workshops, peace competitions, rallies and press releases.



**2.2.2. Lobby and advocacy engagements:** WANEP's regular sensitization and awareness initiatives as well as consistent lobbying across the region led to significant progress on increasing women's meaningful participation in politics and leadership, community resilience, peaceful co-existence and trust building in the review period. The following are highlights of key outputs and outcomes emerging from activities undertaken by some of our National Networks:

- In The Gambia, female politicians who benefitted from a mentorship program carried out sensitization and awareness outreaches at the community level to get more women interested in active politics
- Cote d'Ivoire led advocacy and contributed to the passage of the Bill on equal political participation of women and 30% quota for women inclusion in elected assemblies. The Bill was passed on October 7, 2019.
- Motorcycle taxi drivers in Togo who were sensitized on non-violence behaviors have become role models sensitizing their peers to adopt a culture of peace.
- WANEP-Burkina Faso successfully advocated for the inclusion of Peace Education teaching modules in teachers' training school and in the existing school curriculum
- WANEP-Nigeria is actively lobbying Legislators in Lagos State House of Assembly for the passage of a Bill on the inclusion of Peace Education into Schools curriculum in the State. Nigeria also led campaigns for the acceptance of the Farmers Manifesto in three Nigerian States of Bauchi, Kebbi and Gombe, expected to stimulate positive engagement around food security and provide opportunity for capacity development for small-scale farmers (SSF) in the States. Already, key influencers including politicians and traditional rulers in these States signed the Manifesto and are committed to working with WANEP in subsequent agricultural interventions in the State to boost agricultural yield.
- WANEP-Mali was nominated into the National Security Committee in recognition of their advocacy efforts on Security Sector Reforms (SSR), which contributed to the establishment of a functional peace advisory committee.

## 2.3. Promoting and Sustaining Culture of Non-violence and Peace

**2.3.1. Preventing violent extremism through education:** As part of preventive measures towards mitigating the impact of terrorists' attacks on the region, WANEP developed a teaching curriculum on Preventing violent extremism (PVE) in Nigeria, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, as a reference regional tool for preventing violent extremism through education. The curriculum specifically seeks to train and inform primary school students on the challenges, causes and consequences of violent extremism so they can make responsible and informed decisions and adopt appropriate measures for tackling the menace in their environment. The curriculum was validated by critical stakeholders in the course of the year and expected to be piloted in selected schools in the target countries from 2020-2021. Other activities aimed at building resilience included the following:

- A workshop on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) held in May under the auspices of the Promotion of Peace in the Sahel (PPS) Project funded by the EU and implemented in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger provided another avenue for fresh perspectives on CVE. It provided WANEP the platform to share its experiences and contribution to preventing and combating violent extremism with relevant partners and key stakeholders.
- In Togo beneficiaries of various trainings on CVE are using the acquired skills to monitor violent extremism indicators in order to identify potential sources of conflict and security threats in the country.



WANEP and key stakeholders meeting to validate the teaching curriculum on Preventing violent extremism (PVE)

**2.3.2. Inter-generational Dialogue and mentoring:** WANEP Burkina utilized inter-generational dialogue and mentoring as effective approaches to engage with young people in building a culture of non-violence in schools and in their immediate environment. The network created a platform to link past members of its peace clubs (now university students) with the new generation of peace club members. This linkage has helped to nurture positive relationship between the two groups and provided a platform for experience sharing and communication. The initiative has elicited more commitment and willingness from the younger group to follow the footsteps of their seniors in promoting nonviolence and peace in their schools and is a starting point towards establishing peace clubs in universities.



Above: Youth participants at the Inter-generational dialogue meeting in Burkina Faso and (right) practical session during a training of trainers on peace education in Benin



**2.3.3. Reaching out to “out-of-school” youth:** In the review year, WANEP further consolidated its Non-violent peace education program for “out of school” youth who are often most susceptible to manipulation. Guinea with funding support from the USAID facilitated the establishment of a pool of youth dedicated to peace called “Peace Ambassadors”. The Peace Ambassadors with further support from WANEP established seven Community-based organizations through which they have been mobilizing and mentoring their peers on peaceful co-existence thus contributing to the consolidation of peace in Guinea. One of the ambassadors known under the nickname ‘UN CLAN’ for his implication in violent acts within his

community, testified to his transformation after participating in the awareness raising sessions. With his new knowledge, he decided to leave the rank of violent youth to join the young ambassadors of peace to help promote peace. This new adventure has helped to transform 'UN CLAN' into a role-model for other youth in his community. He is now making ends meet in fish marketing in order to keep busy, meet his needs and avoid falling back into his old ways.

## 2.4. Strengthening Community Resilience and Peacebuilding Initiatives

**2.4.1. Promoting culture of peace in communities:** WANEP over the years has been working at the grassroots with communities to develop preventive strategies that leads to peace and stability as detailed below;

- WANEP-Nigeria, under the Justice and Security Dialogue (JSD) Project, facilitated interactions between the security sector and community members and built local capacities to make them more effective, efficient and responsive to the security and justice needs of the community. These interactions have led to improved relationships and trust building between members of conflicting communities and security personnel in Bauchi, Plateau and Nasarawa states of Nigeria where the project was implemented.
- WANEP-Burkina Faso led efforts to promote community cohesion and peaceful co-existence at the community level resulted in significant improvement in the relationship between conflicting communities of Yirgou, Barsalogho and Foubé in the central-north region as well as the Bahn, Kain, Sollé and Thiou communities in the North region.
- WANEP-Guinea in partnership with CRS supported the establishment of seven multi-stakeholder platforms and built capacity of the members. The trained members have successfully intervened and mediated in several community conflicts in Kankan, Siguiri, Kourama, Dinguiraye, Matoto, Matam and Ratoma.
- Community Advisory Committees set up by WANEP-Senegal in four municipalities under the community policing project, initiated reconciliation efforts between relevant security agencies and community members over the provision of essential services in order to improve community safety.
- The Peace and Security Committee set up by WANEP-Nigeria is actively involved in determining priority areas in the budgeting process in their communities. Hitherto, ineffective budgeting has been at the root cause of some communal conflicts in the area.
- WANEP- Ghana working in collaboration with the Regional Peace Council (RPC) and other CSOs, facilitated the formal end of hostilities between two hostile ethnic groups; Chokosis and Konkombas with the signing of a peace agreement. Additionally, there was significant reduction in the tension between two conflicting mining companies operating in the mining

community while the key players in the Dagbon community chieftaincy tussle committed to dialogue so as to prevent further violence.

**2.4.2. Reinforcing social cohesion, peace and security:** WANEP in collaboration with relevant stakeholders has been making significant contributions to Security Sector Reforms and Governance (SSRG) processes across the region. WANEP-The Gambia trained CSO representatives on the SSRG processes to position them for effective participation and promote independent civilian oversight of security sector institutions. The trained CSOs were able to advocate successfully for the establishment of a transitional justice process launched in January 2019 with the hearings of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). This process is supporting the consolidation of national unity and democracy. A Taskforce was also set up to develop a roadmap for strengthening local and national capacities for building resilience and preventing violent conflicts.

## SO3: RESEARCH RESULTS ARE UTILIZED IN POLICY ADVOCACY TO PROMOTE PEACE AND SECURITY

### 3.1. Influencing Policy Discourse and Advocacy

Consistent with its function as a Think-Tank and Research Advocacy resource in the region, WANEP undertakes evidenced-based research on key thematic areas of peacebuilding in partnership with major partners and relevant stakeholders. Some of these initiatives are reported below;



- WANEP's perspectives to regional peace and security was included in the on-going Postgraduate research project at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).
- WANEP-Benin with funding support from GIZ, published a resource on sexuality education titled; *PARLONS TABOU*. The publication is a tool for sensitizing young boys and girls on sexuality education aimed at ensuring that they receive appropriate and accurate information on the topic.
- WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire contributed to a study conducted by CERAP in collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Barkley University on "Preventing Violence Against Civilians and Promoting Peaceful Elections in 2020".
- WANEP-Ghana, GPPAC and WAN-Cameroun jointly produced a Policy Brief titled; *Peaceful Societies- the orphaned SDG target: Local progress towards SDG 16+ peaceful, just and inclusive societies and what comes next*,

and a research report. The two publications were derived from the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the SDG 16+ and related goals in Ghana and Cameroun carried out earlier in the year. The civil society led VNR was facilitated by WANEP and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) under the Influencing Policy Working Group. The validated research report was presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in Rome in May and in New York in July.

- WANEP-The Gambia produced and disseminated a Security Sector Needs assessment report detailing strengths and weaknesses of CSO's in performing

SSR oversight. The Network further reviewed and updated the 2018 Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) report. The CDA is informing United Nations and Government's peacebuilding initiatives and interventions in The Gambia. Based on the findings of the CDA, UNDP will be working with WANEP-The Gambia to resolve land disputes in five regions.

- WANEP-Togo contributed to the development of an Analytical Document on the process of the Implementation of the ECOWAS roadmap.

## 3.2. Enhancing Policy Advocacy through Evidence-based Publications

WANEP in the reporting year produced and disseminated over 10 publications covering various thematic areas including electoral violence, human security, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), life-skills education, dialogue and mediation and violent extremism. Cross-cutting issues of gender, youth and women participation were also highlighted as captured below;

**3.2.1. Practice Guide on CSOs Engagement with IGOs:** WANEP'S experiences in partnership with ECOWAS and AU have been succinctly captured in a Publication titled; *Practice Guide on CSOs Engagement with IGOs*. The Guide provides a deeper understanding of WANEP's engagement with these two institutions in their collaboration in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding. It is a framework for understanding how Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) engage with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the field of international peace and global security, focusing on the rationale, methods, and outcomes. Programme designers, managers, academic institutions and a wide range of stakeholders will find the resource a relevant tool for improving relations between CSOs and IGOs.

**3.2.2. Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) in West Africa:** WANEP's efforts in managing election disputes and its contribution to the ECOWAS and AU's effort in entrenching free, fair and credible elections in Africa was encapsulated in a publication aptly titled; *Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) in West Africa*. The publication also documents WANEP's experience in implementing its flagship program, the WANEP Early Warning and Response Network (WARN) program. An early warning outlook report highlighting the key human security challenges in West Africa for 2018 and projections of flashpoints of each ECOWAS member States for 2019 also debuted early in the year. The report has been informing and guiding monitoring and early intervention strategies for various stakeholders. It also informs WANEP program planning design and implementation as part of its contribution to responding to peace and security threats across the region.

**3.2.3. Online database of WANEP resources:** An online database of all WANEP resources was created to serve all 14 WANEP National Network Secretariats and the Regional Secretariat. It is a knowledge and resource sharing platform created to enhance institutional capacity and sustainability. The database will be regularly populated with relevant materials, which will serve as a resource for the organisation.

## 4.0. ENHANCING GENDER AND WOMEN'S CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

### 4.1. PROMOTING GENDER-SENSITIVE AWARENESS AND APPROACHES TO PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

In the review period, WANEP carried out concrete actions to advance gender equality in peacebuilding and conflict prevention interventions at all levels in order to address the peculiar needs of women in conflict, promote and protect women's human rights and eliminate discrimination against women. Several initiatives were therefore carried out within the year in this regard.

**4.1.1. Enhancing Gender Inclusive Response to the Farmer-Herder conflict:** Evidenced-based research has revealed that a key hinderance to finding lasting solutions to the persistent farmer/herder conflict raging across West Africa and the Sahel is the absence of women's voices. Towards addressing this gap, WANEP under the Women Peace and Security (WPS) program met with relevant stakeholders to harness women's experiences in community dispute management that can be incorporated into response strategies to mitigate the phenomenon of Farmer-Herder conflict.



Participants with staff of WANEP at the stakeholders meeting on Enhancing Gender Inclusive Response to the Farmer-Herder conflict

A Stakeholders' Consultative meeting held in October brought together 30 key players in the farmer-herder discourse including researchers, Civil Society Organizations, representatives of cattle breeders' associations and farmer associations, academia, women, youth, community and religious leaders, and development partners. It was aimed at establishing mechanisms for women and youth-inclusive participation as well as identify possible entry points for them to participate in formal peace negotiations. A viable platform was created for sharing experiences and lessons from different perspectives in the efforts to mitigate the impact of the conflict. This platform will leverage on existing platforms in order to achieve a coordinated and holistic approach to mitigating the conflict.

**4.1.2. Improving Access to Gender Equality:** In its capacity as member of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Working Group, WANEP was a panelist at the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW63) side event held in New York in March 2019. This year, the priority theme for the CSW was "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls." The Side-Event attended by over 30 delegates was co-hosted by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) and GPPAC working in partnership within the Prevention Up Front (PuF) Alliance. The interactive panel was a platform to share experiences on how inclusive social systems can be a veritable tool for conflict prevention. Robust engagements with the media was proffered as critical to heightening women's visibility in conflict and post conflict areas.

**4.3.3. Achieving Reduction in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (GBV):** Several advocacy campaigns were embarked upon in the reporting year as part of efforts to contribute to reduction in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and other Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) against women. Consistent efforts by WANEP Nigeria to mainstream gender into the security sector led to the establishment and launch of a Police gender desk at Nasarawa Gwong Police Division in Plateau State Police Command. A live Radio program aired weekly has increased reporting of SGBV through toll-free hot-lines and is helping to improve management and specialized care for the survivors in Jos, North LGA. Trained members of the WANEP-Liberia facilitated Peace Huts have been providing psychosocial support services to SGBV survivors and victims' including monitoring SGBV and rape cases in courts. Community Radio programs are also being utilized in Liberia and Togo to draw attention to the harmful impact of SGBV in the communities and seek collaborative redress. WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire worked with relevant partners and key stakeholders to develop IEC Gender Strategy that will aid the passage of the Gender Laws in the country while carrying out several advocacy sessions with parliamentarians to solicit their support for the passage of the law.

## 4.2. FACILITATING DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 NAPs

**4.2.1. Boosting UNSCR 1325 Implementation:** Over the years, WANEP through its WIPNET program has consistently supported the development and implementation of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs) with tangible results. In the review year, WANEP provided technical support to the review and validation of the NAPs in Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Mali and Senegal. In Nigeria, WANEP trained 80 Journalists in Abuja, Gombe and Bauchi states to Sensitize them on the Resolution and enhance reportage of women participation in peace and security in the country. Following on this, a Technical Working Group emerged in Bauchi and a Steering Committee in Gombe to drive the UNSCR 1325 implementation process and fast-track the development of the Local Action Plans.

**4.2.2. Open Day on UNSCR 1325:** WANEP utilized various platforms to share its experiences and interventions in promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325. As the convener of the Ghana Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security – West Africa (GWYPS-WA), the WANEP WPS Coordinator made a presentation on the status of women in Ghana at the Open day on I325 held in Banjul, The Gambia. WANEP, represented by the WANEP-Nigeria National Network Coordinator (NNC), Ms. Bridget Osakwe participated in the 19th Open Debate on UNSCR 1325 during the WPS week (October 26 to November 2) in New York in commemoration of the 19th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325. Ms. Osakwe was part of the GPPAC delegation to the event and made a presentation on “WPS Early Warning for Conflict Prevention.” A 10th Security Council Resolution on WPS - UNSCR 2493 was adopted during this period. These events improved WANEP’s visibility and capacity in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also was an avenue for WANEP to demonstrate its strength and position in Africa.



WANEP participated at the UNSCR 1325 Open Day held in Banjul, Gambia. Group picture of participants with H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the UN Special Representative to the Sec-Gen and Head of UNOWAS, (sitting 4th left) and Madame Minata Samate-Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union (sitting 3rd left)

### 4.3. WOMEN'S INCLUSION AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

WANEP's deliberate interventions geared towards increasing women's participation include mentorship programs, empowering and building women's capacity in small-scale enterprises, trainings in leadership, dialogue and mediation and supporting regional women platforms. Below are key highlights in this regard.

**4.3.1. Women and Leadership:** Three WANEP National Secretariats of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso in collaboration with the Danish Demining Group (DDG) is implementing a three-year EU funded Women's Leadership Project for Inclusive Security Governance in the Sahel. The project, which was launched in the pilot countries in the review period is aimed at increasing women's meaningful participation in leadership, peacebuilding, politics and decision-making processes. Under this project, 18 women beneficiaries (six per country) have been identified as role models for the project. The women are expected to continue with the project after the end of the funding for sustainability. In order to prepare them for this role, the women have been receiving trainings in several areas including advocacy and mobilization strategies, UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, dialogue and mediation, conflict resolution among others.

**4.3.2. Increasing Women's participation in politics:** Towards increasing women's effective and meaningful participation in politics and the electoral process, WANEP-Côte d'Ivoire played a significant role in the passing of the Bill on equal political participation of women in the review year, marking the first time that Côte d'Ivoire adopted a bill for women's political participation. The Network followed up this milestone with increased advocacy and sensitization activities under the platform of Women Leaders in Cote d'Ivoire supported by UN Women and UNDP to raise women's participation in politics. Similarly, advocacy activities and lobby by WANEP Senegal and other key partners has resulted in achieving 30% quota for women in the newly constituted Community Consultative Committee. As part of efforts to increase the number of female political aspirants for the 2021-2023 electoral cycle, WANEP-The Gambia conducted a nine-month Mentorship Program for 50 female politicians in the country. Since participating in the program, the female politicians have become mentors and role models for other women political aspirants.



**4.3.3. Women Peace Platforms:** WANEP utilizes various platforms to actualize its women, peace and security agenda in line with its principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding. WANEP is an active player in these platforms and is the convener of the UNOWAS Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel (WGWYPS-WAS) in Ghana. The Group seeks to increase awareness on the contributions of women and youth collaboration in peacebuilding in West Africa and the Sahel. In the review period, the group developed a directory and database of women peacebuilders and organizations working in the fields of women and youth to serve as resources for researchers, academics, development partners etc. Across the region, WANEP Networks are utilizing this platform to engage the media in projecting efforts of women and youth, advocate for the adoption of NAPs and solicit for national budgets for the implementation of the WPS agenda. Further, the Group holds quarterly Thematic Sessions to draw attention to women's concerns and ensure that these concerns are put on the front burner.

## 5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1. WANEP Governance and Institutional Strengthening



Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker, H.E. Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice-President of Ghana, congratulating the West Africa Peacebuilding Fellows shortly after the inauguration

**5.1.1. Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence in Peacebuilding Practice:** 2019 was a significant year for WANEP as the institution marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 26, 2019 with high profile dignitaries from across the globe in attendance. This milestone was celebrated at the TANG Palace Hotel, Accra-Ghana with the Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia representing H.E. the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker. In his Keynote Address titled; *The Future of Peace and Security in Democratic societies: The Complementary Role of Civil Society Organizations*, Dr. Bawumia duly acknowledged that WANEP's partnership with ECOWAS shows the possibilities and prospects for improved civil society engagements with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and urged ECOWAS member states to consider providing budgetary allocation for capacity enhancement of CSOs for productive engagement.

- The event was laced with thought-provoking speeches by the high-profile guests, which included H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and head of UNOWAS, Gen. Francis Behanzin, ECOWAS Commissioner Political

Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS), H.E. Desire Ouedraogo, Former President of ECOWAS and Former Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, and Madame Minata Samate-Cessouma, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs. Others included the Commandant of KAIPTC, AVM Griffiths Evans and the Co-Founders of WANEP; Dr. Sam Gbaydee Doe and Hon. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande. WANEP Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze used the occasion to pay special tribute to the founders “for sowing and nurturing the mustard seed that is celebrated today...” Major partners of WANEP including representatives from ACCORD, GIZ, KAIPTC, AU, GPPAC, ADA and Swedish Embassy all paid tribute to the organization’s phenomenal growth and achievements over the years.

- Major highlights of the event included the inauguration of 20 exceptional West African citizens into the Body of the West Africa Peacebuilding Fellows (WAPeF) by the Guest of Honor, Dr. Bawumia. Given the various dynamics of peace and security issues in Africa, the Body of Fellows will provide guidance and direction in formulating WANEP’s strategic plan. They are expected to utilize their expertise and professionalism to add value to WANEP’s peacebuilding profile. The event was also used to launch WANEP’s publication on Election Monitoring Analysis and Management (EMAM). WANEP’s key partners, past and present staff of WANEP were also duly recognized for their contribution to the growth and sustenance of WANEP over the years.



WANEP co-founders; Dr. Sam Doe (middle) and Hon Emmanuel Bombande (right) in a warm handshake with Professor Oumar Ndongo, WANEP Regional Board member



Guests including major partners and key stakeholders from the region and beyond were in attendance to felicitate with WANEP at the 20th Anniversary celebrations

**5.1.2. Inaugural Lecture of Fellows:** An Inaugural Lecture of the newly instituted Fellows was held as part of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations under the theme: **FEATURES AND FUTURE OF PEACEBUILDING PRACTICE IN WEST AFRICA.** This lecture was moderated by Professor Isaac Olawale Albert, the immediate past WANEP-Regional Board Chair and Pioneer Director, Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan. Speakers at the Lecture comprised H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, UN Special Representative and Head of UNOWAS; Ms. Comfort Lamptey, Country Representative, UN Women, Nigeria; and General Francis Behanzin, ECOWAS Commissioner, Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS). Others were; Dr. Sam Doe, Country Representative, UNDP Sierra Leone, Hon. Emmanuel Bombande, Senior Mediation Advisor, UN DPPA and Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo, UN Resident Representative for Kyrgyzstan.



The newly inaugurated maiden West Africa Peacebuilding Fellows (WAPeFellows)



Participants at the General Assembly comprising WANEP Board and staff and strategic partners

**5.1.3. Biennial General Assembly:** The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of WANEP and holds every two years as part of strengthening its institutional and governance structure. The 2019 Biennial General Assembly was held from March 27 to 28, at Best Western Hotel, Accra-Ghana under the theme: **WANEP @ 20: TWENTY YEARS OF PEACEBUILDING PRACTICE IN WEST AFRICA.** The GA is an opportunity for WANEP to take stock of activities in the previous years, evaluate its strategies for tackling emerging threats and provide stewardship to its constituency and stakeholders. Key outcomes of this year's GA included the ratification and adoption of the action points from the 2018 Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPs) and approval of Board Resolutions. A Framework for the development of the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan was also presented at the meeting. 90 Participants included NNCs, National Board Chairs, Regional Board, Staff of the Regional Office, Coordinators of ECOWAS/AU Liaison offices, Member organizations, reps of African Union, GPPAC, ACCORD and other strategic partners attended the Assembly.

**5.1.4. Statutory Board Meetings:** The Board is the second highest decision-making organ of WANEP after the General Assembly and is charged with the responsibility of providing governance and general oversight on behalf of the General Assembly and in line with the principles of transparency and accountability. The Board held its statutory meetings in March and October during which strategic policy decisions were made. The Board in the year under review successfully steered the planning and celebrations of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, particularly, the identification and selection of the West Africa Peacebuilding Fellows (WAPeF).

**5.1.5. Increased visibility and Recognition:** WANEP continued to blaze the trail in peacebuilding with a rising profile in the public domain. WANEP staff participated in several media engagements and utilized the print, electronic and social media platforms to make significant contributions to issues of human security thus increasing its visibility in the public domain. This recognition translated into awards and honors in appreciation of the organizations' ardent commitment and contribution to a peaceful and just West African community. Some of these laurels garnered in the review period included;

- Award of excellence from the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators in recognition of WANEP's promotion of the use of mediation and conciliation in conflict resolution and commitment to peace and stability in Nigeria



- Cote d'Ivoire NNC was honored "Officer of the Order of Merit of Solidarity, Social Cohesion and the Fight against Poverty" at the National Day of Peace on November 15, 2019.
- WANEP Mali received award on July 2<sup>nd</sup> by UTIL (Union of Tunisian Independents for Freedom)
- "Best Peacebuilding Network,' award for WANEP-Nigeria
- The Board Chair of WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire was selected as the civil society representative to the country's newly re-constituted Independent Electoral Commission.

## 5.2. Ensuring Network Efficiency and Effectiveness

**5.2.1. Strengthening National Capacity:** WANEP's transformation from project to vision-based institution is sustained by continuously strengthening the capacity of staff and network members to position them for efficient delivery of organizational goals. In this dispensation, over 30 WANEP staff and network members benefitted from several training sessions covering a wide range of topics including human rights, gender, dialogue, mediation, negotiation, early warning and community engagements. Skills were also strengthened on strategies for preventing violent extremism, peace education and project management. As a result, the networks recorded improved financial management procedures, project monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning among others, enabling them to meet up with liquidation, documentation and project monitoring.

As part of activities under the WANEP/EU funded EMAM project in the target countries of Senegal and Guinea Bissau, finance staff from these Network Secretariats benefitted from training enhancing understanding of the EU and WANEP regulations on financial management and reporting. The training on grant management was primarily targeted at WANEP sub-grantees in the two countries to enable them to strengthen their capacity for sound financial management.

**5.2.2. Network Development and Sustainability:** A key strategy for ensuring effectiveness and efficiency of the National Networks is the quarterly monitoring visits undertaken by the Regional Coordinator for Network Development. These visits provide the platform to learn about the Networks' efforts as well as share experiences on their challenges and constraints. These regular monitoring visits has led to improved relationship between the networks and regional office as well as greater functionality of the networks and the understanding of the WANEP Organizational Development Index (WODI).

**5.2.3. Staff Hires and Reassignments:** As part of strategies to cope with the expanding program portfolio, WANEP recruits new staff to fill up existing gaps. The appointments align with the WANEP Strategic direction and current dynamics in the field of Peace and Security on the continent. In this dispensation, the following staff were hired in the year in review;

- Mr. Romaric Samson - Programme Officer - M & E and Network Development desks
- Mr. Lawrence Ofori-Som - Senior ICT Officer
- Ms. Josiane Sombo - Programme Officer- Youth and Peace Education

The following staff were re-assigned in the period;

- Mr. Osei Baffour Frimpong, who was formerly Regional Analyst- Environment was appointed Regional Researcher
- Mrs. Queeneth Tawo, erstwhile Regional Coordinator, Corporate Communication and Capacity Building was reassigned to occupy the new position of Regional Coordinator- Women, Peace and Security as
- Ms. Beatrice Brew, formerly Programme Officer, Research and Capacity Building, was also re-assigned to occupy the position of Programme Officer- Corporate Communications and Capacity building
- A total of 28 new staff were recruited in 2019 across the national offices including two National Network Coordinators for Mali and Guinea Bissau and two NEWS Managers for Mali and Senegal. This testifies to the phenomenal growth and expansion of WANEP in its 20 years of existence.

#### **5.2.4. Mentoring Young Peacebuilders through Internship Program:**

WANEP has instituted a robust internship program as a deliberate policy to support the mentoring and development of young academics and prospective peacebuilding practitioners. WANEP also accepts fresh graduates who chose the organization for their one-year National Service program. In the review year, WANEP regional office bid farewell to two interns, Mr. Ibrahima Conde and Ms. Adelaide Yiriyelleh and welcomed two more, Mr. Keith Bah and Mr. Andrews Amartey whose tenure will end in 2020. One of the interns Ms. Adelaide Yiriyelleh summarized her experience in WANEP thus; “overall, WANEP provided an opportunity for personal and professional development. It broadened my knowledge and experience in the security spectrum as well. Working under the various departments at WANEP provided me leverage to tackle various aspects in the peace and security discourse.” Acceptance of interns and volunteers is an ongoing practice across the national networks.



Former Interns:  
Ibrahima Conde and Ms  
Adelaide Yiriyelleh

### 5.3. Improving Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships

**5.3.1. Support to ECOWAS and AU Peace and Security Architecture:** WANEP has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ECOWAS and the African Union Commission (AUC), which allows it to maintain a liaison office in the Early Warning Department (EWD) of ECOWAS and the Early Warning Unit of AUC. WANEP is the civil society partner to ECOWAS in the operationalization of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Mechanism (ECOWARN). WANEP's continuous partnership with the two institutions has greatly improved CSO-REC relationship as WANEP brings the CSO perspectives on peacebuilding and conflict resolution into the union. On the strength of this partnership, the three institutions regularly designed, collaborated and carried out joint activities aimed at strengthening peacebuilding policy and conflict transformation across the region. In 2019, WANEP supported, facilitated and contributed to the implementation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) and the African Union framework through joint initiatives, projects and activities as highlighted below;

- WANEP and ECOWAS jointly designed and developed an ArcGIS Early Warning platform for the observation of the 2019 Presidential election in Nigeria. This collaboration further strengthened WANEP-ECOWAS joint initiatives in the design and implementation of early warning interventions in seven West African countries under the Election Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project (2018–2021) supported by the European Union.
- WANEP was the lead facilitator at the ECOWAS meeting themed: A Decade of Operationalization of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework held in May. The meeting was organized by the Directorate of Political Affairs and the Secretariat for the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) and was an opportunity to assess the achievements, challenges and lessons learned from ECOWAS conflict prevention initiatives over the past 10 years.
- WANEP provided support to AUC PSD to identify women/youth led CSOs and CBOs active in the Lake Chad Basin under the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS) for the eight areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram.
- WANEP also played a key role and provided professional insights in the analysis of human security threats in the region through the Early Warning Unit of AUC and participated in the review of the curriculum on gender mainstreaming in peace and security, organized by the AU Peace and Security Department (PSD).
- WANEP in collaboration with the Baywood Foundation, ECOWAS, AU and with financial support from GIZ and the European Union convened a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue tagged; 'Reinventing Youth Energies and Capacities for Peace and Nation Building in Nigeria'. The forum aimed to interrogate the underlying factors of violent conflicts and harness youth capacities to transform the conflicts. Major output of the meeting included the development of a position paper and the creation of a Youth, Peace and Security platform to advance implementation of the Resolution 2250 agenda.



**Above left:** WANEP in partnership with the Political Affairs Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission held Thematic briefing sessions for ECOWAS Member States' Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives. **Right:** WANEP and ECOWAS representatives during the briefing session

- WANEP with support from AU facilitated a refresher training for its NEWS Managers on the AU Africa Reporter, held experience sharing meeting on the early warning system with AU CSO partners and facilitated training on gender analysis for staff of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) of AU.
- WANEP in partnership with the Political Affairs Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission held two Thematic briefing sessions for ECOWAS Member States' Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives. In these sessions, themed "West Africa Peace and Security Outlook for 2019" held in April 2019; and "Election and Stability in West Africa: 2020 Outlook" held in November 2019, WANEP shared CSO contributions to key peace and security dynamics in West Africa and made recommendations for response options to threats of violence.
- WANEP provided technical support to AU for the preparation and organization of two workshops under the AU Gender, Peace and Security Programme. The first was the inception meeting for the development of a continental guideline on developing and Implementing National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions. The second was a workshop on experience sharing by organizations working on Women, Peace and Security. It also provided the platform to enhance CSO interaction with ECOSOCC.

**5.3.2. Strategic Partnerships:** WANEP continued to maintain, sustain and initiate strategic partnerships in the course of the year. In the review year, WANEP regional and national offices hosted numerous partners and relevant stakeholders who sought to discuss key areas of interest, explore opportunities for collaboration and strengthen existing partnerships. Some of the engagements were as follows;

- Delegates from the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Ghana; representatives from the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) office in Accra and the Danish Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs. Dove Degnbol visited WANEP regional office to explore areas of mutual interest and future collaboration.



**Strategic Partnerships:** Above Left; Delegates from the Council of Relations, Ghana and right; the Danish Ambassador to Ghana Mrs. Dove Dengbol all visited the regional office in the review period

- WANEP hosted Professor Ernest Uwazie, Director of the Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR), University of California who used the opportunity to intimate WANEP on the African Peace Fellow (APF) Initiative of CAPCR. The Fellowship program is one area of commonality with WANEP as WANEP has also established a Body of West African Peacebuilding Fellows (WAPeF). Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP Executive Director, is a member of the International Advisory Board of APF.
- On the basis of WANEP's partnership with the Southern Voices Network Peacebuilding (SVNP), the Regional Researcher, Mr. Osei Baffour Frimpong has been offered a three-month research fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars, Washington DC.
- WANEP held an **Interactive Partners Forum** on the margins of the 2019 General Assembly to discuss the WANEP Strategic Plan, strengthen relationships and explore avenues for new collaborations.



WANEP strategic partners listen intently to the presentation on 2019 human security outlook

- Two strategic partners of WANEP viz; Dr. Vasu Gouden of ACCORD and Darynell Rodriguez of GPPAC, spoke on the topic: Reflections on Partnerships and the Future of Peacebuilding in West Africa, at the Biennial General Assembly.
- On the basis of WANEP's expertise in promoting and sustaining a culture of peace, WANEP-Guinea provided technical support to Search for Common Ground in the establishment of ten peace clubs across universities in Guinea.

## 6.0. CONCLUSION

Overall, WANEP achieved many successes in 2019 in spite of the challenging peace and security terrain and global funding crunch. Having been in existence for 20 years, the organisation continues to blaze the trail for Civil Society's significant contributions to Regional, Continental and Global peacebuilding. The effective partnerships with ECOWAS, Africa Union, United Nations and Development Partners have been vital to the growth and sustenance of the Institution over the years. As 2020 marks the last year of the implementation of WANEP's current Strategic Plan, the organisation will have the opportunity to extensively review its operations particularly over the last five years and will project key strategic directions as it transcends new frontiers in peacebuilding.



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- |  |   |
|--|---|
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| 01. Maryse Glele Ahanhanzo - NNC WANEP - Benin             | 09. Boubacar Thera - NNC WANEP - Mali                     |
| 02. Boris Some - NNC WANEP - Burkina Faso                  | 10. Clement K. Gbedey - NNC WANEP - Niger                 |
| 03. Kamara D. Mylène Epse SORO - NNC WANEP - Cote d'Ivoire | 11. Chief Bridget Osakwe - NNC WANEP - Nigeria            |
| 04. Salama Njie - NNC WANEP - The Gambia                   | 12. Alfred GOMIS - NNC WANEP - Senegal                    |
| 05. Albert Yelyang - NNC WANEP - Ghana                     | 13. Isata Mahoi. PhD - NNC WANEP - Sierra Leone           |
| 06. François Fadoua Tolno - NNC WANEP - Guinea             | 14. Amedzenu-Noviekou P. Da-do Y. Nora - NNC WANEP - Togo |
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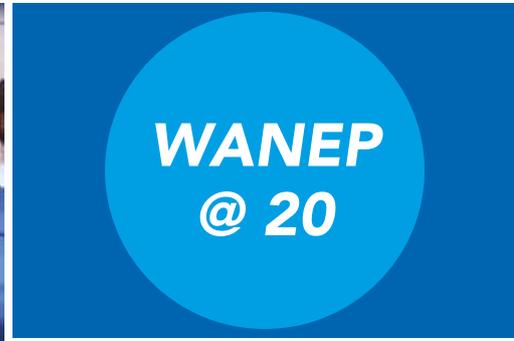
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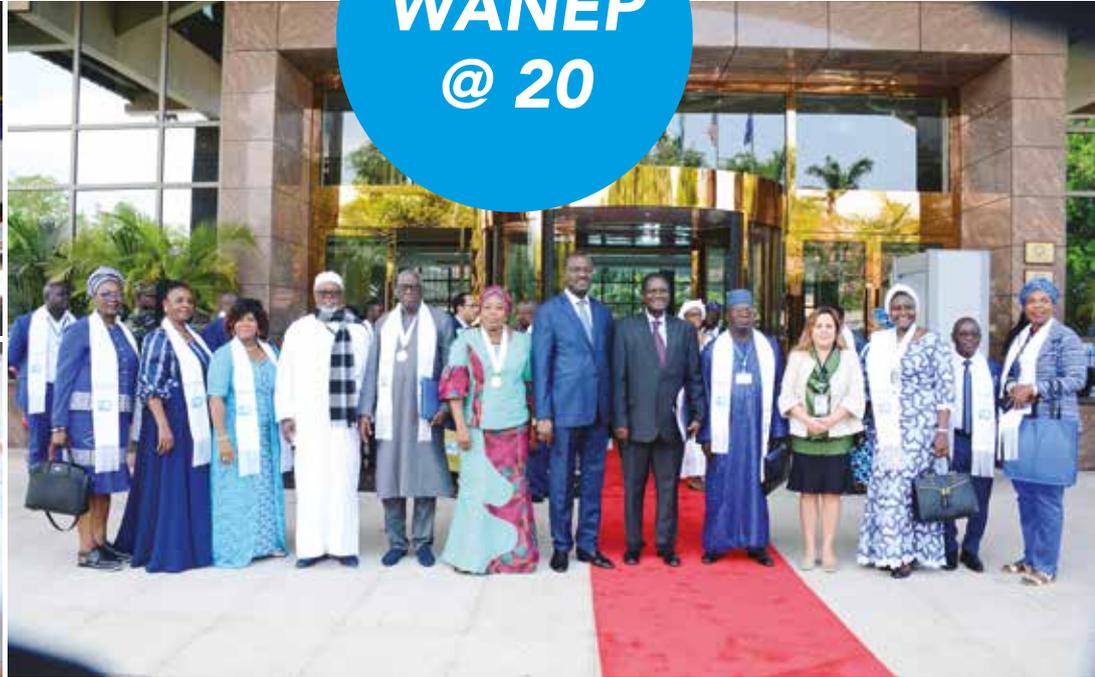
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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE