

Terms of Reference: Assessment of Democratic Transition Countries in West Africa A Review of the Transition Process in Mali

1.0 Overview

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) is seeking the services of a short-term consultant to undertake political assessment of countries undergoing democratic transitions in West Africa - namely, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali.

This assessment is targeted specifically at the ongoing transition process in Mali. The study is expected to review efforts and interventions including the roadmap and transition charter deployed by regional and national level stakeholders to restore democracy in the country following the overthrow of the constitution by the military.

2.0 Background

Majority of Africans express dissatisfaction with the processes and outcomes of democratic governance, notwithstanding the overwhelming support for democracy as compared with other alternative systems of government. Against popular expectations that democracy would promote the political and economic well-being of ordinary citizens which could not be attained in the three decades of post-independence authoritarian era, democracy still appears to be benefitting a few people on the continent. Today, the rising socio-economic and security challenges and the rapid expansion of jihadism have eroded public confidence in institutions of democratic governance. In some countries, this has galvanized populist or autocratic movements. In west Africa, this has culminated in a spate of coups at a rate unseen even with the adoption of the Lome Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

Since the beginning of 2019, the region has suffered 8 coups (five successful and three failed). Two in Mali (2020 and 2021), one in Guinea (2021), and two in Burkina Faso (January 2022 and September 2022). Most of the coups have been greeted with joy as expressions of dissatisfaction with their governments to deliver good governance and in the hope that the country's military leaders would drive out corruption and put down jihadist attacks that have killed thousands.

ECOWAS, in attempts to restoring democracy and good governance, has introduced knee-jerk reactions against the military juntas in the coup countries, demanding a return or transition to civilian rule as soon as possible. Guinea, Mali, and Burkina Faso's military juntas after several negotiation efforts led by the ECOWAS mediation team, and complemented by civil society and socio-political movements have unveiled transitional timetables, charters, and frameworks to steer these countries back to constitutional order, in accordance with the ECOWAS and African Union protocols and decisions.

WADEMOS, a transitional civil society pro-democracy support network seeks to undertake situational analysis of countries in transition in West Africa. The assessment will inform WADEMOS' advocacy and engagement within the countries concerned and further support transition efforts with a special focus on constitutional and electoral reforms.

3.0 Scope of Work

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network is engaging, on a short-term consulting basis, a renowned governance expert who has extensive knowledge on the practice of democracy

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and good governance within the ECOWAS region. The expert will examine the general state of transitional governance in Mali, and review the current transitional charter/framework and processes used by the junta in accordance with ECOWAS and AU protocols on democracy and good governance and other international standards and best practices.

The consultant will specifically be required to:

- Review the current transitional governance in Mali with emphasis on the inclusion of women, youth, and other minority groups in the composition of the transitional government and processes; inclusion of national-level stakeholder consultation in the drafting and implementation of the transitional charter/framework and transitional timetable; assess Mali's foreign relations with sub-regional, regional and international bodies.
- Examine the patterns and gaps in the transitional processes that might derail achieving the goal for the return to civilian rule. Identify the effectiveness and weaknesses in the transitional charter or framework including issues of transparency and accountability in restructuring democratic norms in accordance with regional frameworks or protocols and international best practices.
- Review regional frameworks or guidelines for managing democratic transitions in Africa including institutional (ECOWAS) response and propose measures that will inform reforms targeted at the various regional/ continental intergovernmental institutions.
- Make recommendations for transition efforts, in particular constitutional and electoral reforms.

4.0 Timelines

The consultant is expected to share the first draft of the report with WADEMOS by February 13, 2023, for comments, and send the final version within a week after receiving the feedback.

Activity	Timelines
Consultant to submit first draft of the report to WADEMOS	February 13, 2023
Consultant to receive feedback and comments from WADEMOS	February 20, 2023
Consultant to submit the final full report and an executive brief to WADEMOS secretariat	March 3, 2023

5.0 Expected Qualifications and Required Skills

- A higher degree in Political Science, International Relations, International Development, African Studies with focus on African politics or related discipline.
- At least 15 years of experience conducting research and writing on democracy and governance in Africa. Out of the years stated, at least 5 years should be related to experience working in academia, international organization, or research institutions

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with proven experience in conducting similar studies. Relevant publications in reputable journals would be most desirable.

- Demonstrated familiarity with the evolution of democracy globally, particularly in West Africa. Familiarity with the literature on military coups and democratic transitions in West Africa.
- Must have a strong focus on democratic governance preferably in the areas of political affairs, peace and security, human rights, civil society, media, and gender issues in West Africa.

6.0 Deliverables

- The Consultant shall produce a report based on the issues stated in the scope and the specific tasks assigned
- Draft and final reports should be submitted in electronic Microsoft Word format (Arial font, 12 font size, and 1.5 space) to info@wademosnetwork.org
- Produce an executive summary of the report.
- Consultant will be expected to debrief the WADEMOS project management unit (PMU) on report findings upon completion.

7.0 Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Consultants meeting the above criteria are invited to submit an expression of interest detailing the approach and other relevant information including the proposed structure of the report by email to: info@wademosnetwork.org not later than **January 09, 2023**.

All EOIs should be referenced or titled: “*Consultant: A Review of the Transition Process in Mali*” in the subject of the email.

Expressions of interest should include:

- a. CV of the consultant outlining previous research experiences related to this assignment, including a list of two references.
- b. Sample of research work conducted, preferably similar to this assignment.

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About WADEMOS Network

WADEMOS is a non-partisan, independent civil society-led transnational democracy solidarity network. The WADEMOS Network consists of over 30 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) located in 15 countries in West Africa. WADEMOS mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities within the West African Region to advance, defend, and reinvigorate democracy and promote democratic norms and reforms in the sub-region. The Project Management Unit (PMU) or secretariat of WADEMOS is located at CDD-Ghana’s office in Accra, Ghana.

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