

WADEMOS BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network



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Message from Prof. HK Prempeh, WADEMOS Project Director

I bring you greetings from the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS Network). This year's overarching goal has been the formation and co-creation of the Network, as well as the establishment of the Secretariat. I am happy to say that this has been largely achieved. Despite being in its early stages, the Network has succeeded in achieving some milestones and setting a good foundation for a great takeoff.

The Network was formed out of concerns about the increasing rate of unconstitutional changes, coups d'états, and democratic decline in the ECOWAS sub-region. The idea was to create a transnational organization led by civil society organizations that will collaborate, engage, share information, and partner to deal with the threats to democracy. On September 15 this year, after months of engagement, over 35 CSOs from all 15 West African countries came together in Accra to successfully launch the Network.

WADEMOS' work would require close collaboration and engagement with regional institutions such as ECOWAS. Your presence during the launch of the Network is indicative of your support for the initiative and provides an avenue for future engagements, partnerships, and collaborations to deal with the decline of democracy in the sub-region and the continent as a whole. We look forward to a more fruitful cooperation in 2023, especially in executing our mandate as a Network.



Prof. H. Kwasi Prempeh, WADEMOS Project Director

In 2023, the Network intends to proactively engage stakeholders in the sub-region on key issues of concern, such as term limits and the ECOWAS protocols, in a bid to build consensus and forge a common path that will result in the citizens of the region reaping better benefits from democratic governance.

The kind financial assistance of Sida has made the WADEMOS Network project possible. Sida has committed funds for the project's activities for the next three (3) years, and I wish to thank them for their generosity. Additionally, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to OSIWA for their contribution to the organization of the Democracy Conference during the launch of the Network.

I am encouraged by the progress made and the promise of greater milestones to be chalked; this is possible due to the commitment of the Steering Committee, the hardworking staff at the WADEMOS Secretariat in Accra, and the dedicated Network members.

May the new year bring us fulfillment, success, peace, and strength to surmount the challenges that lie ahead.

Best wishes!!

Message from Kop'ep Dabugat, WADEMOS Network Coordinator

Dear Members and Partners,

As we bid this year, 2022, farewell and usher in the new year, 2023, on behalf of the Secretariat, I wish to extend our gratitude to you for pledging to be part of the Network and dedicating yourselves to the promotion of democracy in our sub-region.

The task of promoting democracy in our sub-region has certainly been a very challenging one, but I am confident that with the collective effort and passion with which we have started, we have made considerable progress in the process of entrenching democratic values in West Africa.

The idea of creating a transnational democracy solidarity organization came to life at the start of this year, 2022, and the focus thus far has been to set up the secretariat and co-create the Network. Key among our accomplishments in 2022 was the official launch of the Network in September of this year. We also organized the International Conference on Countering Threats to Democracy in order to commemorate the International Democracy Day and partnered with the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) to host a regional conference on democracy and press freedom. Going forward into the new year, we wish to foster such partnerships with our stakeholders, harness and leverage our collective expertise and experiences, in further projecting our demand for a democratic West Africa.

We are proud of the great start we have made, and I assure you that we will not relent in our quest to address the trend of democratic recession confronting our sub-region.



Kop'ep Dabugat, WADEMOS Network Coordinator



Kop'ep Dabugat, WADEMOS Network Coordinator

We wish our friends in Nigeria, Liberia, and Sierra Leone well as they prepare for their national elections in 2023. As a Network, we will be a part of these processes to ensure that democracy continues to thrive in West Africa.

To our friends in the countries transitioning back to Democracy; Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali, we renew our solidarity and commitment to support the effective implementation of their various transition programs. Our hope is for a smooth return to democratic governance in the shortest possible time.

To all our members, I say a big thank you for your dedication, commitment, and hard work, and I wish you, your organizations, your friends, families, and your loved ones the very best of the season's compliments.

Best regards,
Kop'ep Dabugat
Coordinator, WADEMOS Network



WADEMOS Pays a Courtesy Call on ECOWAS Commission Representative in Ghana

On May 16, 2022, a team from Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) led by Prof. H. Kwasi Prempeh, Executive Director, paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Baba Gana Wakil, Resident Representative of ECOWAS Commission in Ghana.

The team introduced Ambassador Wakil to the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network and discussed areas of collaboration and support that would help the Network achieve its mandate and make it a success.

WADEMOS Steering Committee Holds Inception Meeting in Accra

On Tuesday, June 21, 2022, our Steering Committee members met for the first time in Accra to deliberate on the by-laws, operational structures, and sustainability of the Network. Discussions held included the implementation of the project and ways to sustain the Network beyond the 3-year project duration.

Institutions that formed the founding Steering Committee Members are; The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), WANEP-Ghana, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), West Africa Civil Society Initiative (WACSI), Center for Democracy and Development (CDD-West Africa), Center for Democratic Governance, Stat View International.





WADEMOS Pays a Courtesy Call on Ghana's Foreign Affairs Minister

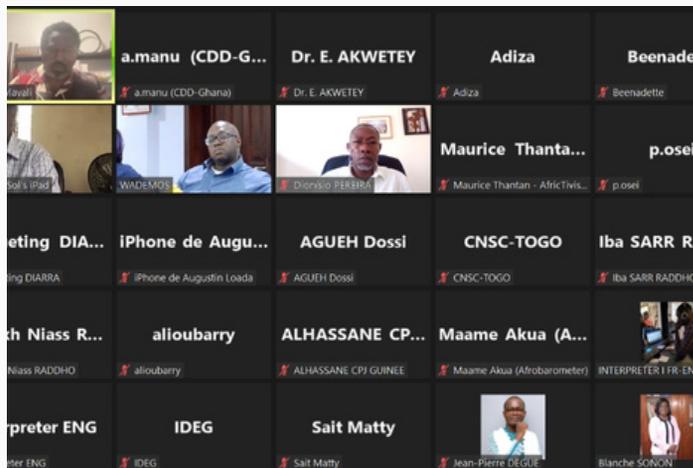
A delegation from the WADEMOS Network on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, paid a courtesy call on Ghana's Foreign Affairs Ministry. The delegation, led by Prof. H Kwesi Prempeh, Executive Director of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), and WADEMOS Network Project Director, was received by the Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Kwaku Apratwum-Sarpong.

The purpose of the visit was to introduce WADEMOS to the Ministry and to explore ways of collaboration and complementing each other's activities in the sub-region.

WADEMOS Network Team Joins WAEON Delegation to Monitor Kenya Elections

A delegation from the WADEMOS Network joined the West Africa Election Observation Network (WAEON) to monitor and observe the Kenya Elections that took place in August 2022.

The WAEON team, made up of young and mid-level professionals working with domestic election observer organizations across West Africa, were embedded into the observation structure of the Nairobi-based Elections Observation Group (ELOG) throughout their stay. The visit also aimed to improve civil society election observations to strengthen electoral integrity in West Africa.



Over 30 CSOs Participate in WADEMOS' Maiden Network Members Meeting

The inception meeting of our Network members took place on Thursday, August 18, 2022, with over 30 civil society and pro-democracy organizations from across West Africa present. Top on the agenda was a discussion on the progress of implementation of the initiative and reflections on the 2023 elections in West Africa.

Network Members from Nigeria and Sierra Leone briefed the participants on recent happenings in their countries and proposed avenues WADEMOS could explore to make the desired impact. Participants were upbeat about the progress made in setting up the initiative and discussed ways to improve communication, collaboration and partnerships.

Journalists Urged to Join the Efforts Towards Reversing the Decline of Democracy in West Africa

The WADEMOS Network charged media organizations and journalists to support the work of pro-democracy actors in halting the decline of democracy within the West Africa sub-region.

Addressing journalists from across West Africa, during a virtual press briefing on Friday, September 2, 2022, Kevin Kop'ep Dabugat, Coordinator of the WADEMOS Network, extended a hand of invitation to the media and underscored the need for them to partner with the cause of advancing democratic norms in the sub-region.





WADEMOS Network Members' Inception Meeting (In-person)

Over 30 members of WADEMOS Network met in Accra, on September 14, for their first-ever in person meeting ahead of the Network's launch.

The meeting discussed pertinent issues including finalizing the key action points of the Network, the by-laws, setting up of working groups based on thematic areas, among others.

Members also deliberated on the sustainability of the Network and how to cooperate among each other to ensure the mandate of the Network is fulfilled.

WADEMOS Network Launched; Stakeholders Pledge Support to Counter Threats to Democracy in West Africa

WADEMOS Network was formally launched in September this year at a beautiful ceremony held in Accra, Ghana. The Network mobilizes civil society and pro-democracy groups to contribute toward ongoing efforts by regional bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to counter the dangers posed to democracy in the sub-region.

The event was graced by dignitaries from ECOWAS, AU, members of the diplomatic corps in Ghana, CSO partners, pro-democracy actors and creatives from across West Africa, academia, the media and the funders of the Network, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).



Press Release: Recent Developments In Burkina Faso: A Call For Peace And Unity Through Civic Engagement

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) condemned the coup that took place in Burkina Faso, the second since the beginning of this year 2022.

As a network of civil society organizations committed to the peaceful, stable, and democratic development of our West African region, we expressed concern about the coups and counter-coups which served to disrupt and derail the patient efforts already made by the Burkinabe people since the coup of January 2022 to reach a settlement of the security crisis caused by armed terrorist groups and an orderly restoration of democratic and constitutional government in the country.

Read the full release here – <https://bit.ly/3E7SUUj>

WADEMOS Network Partners MFWA to Organize a 2-day Regional Conference on Democracy, Press Freedom and Free Speech

Journalists and Civil Society Organizations working in the media, democracy, and governance landscape in West Africa entreat ECOWAS to prioritize the development of the media in the sub-region.

Participants issued a 5-point address which they hoped will improve the relationship between the Commission and the media and foster the needed development in the sub-region. Dr. Eyesan Okorodudu, Head of Democracy and Good Governance, Political Affairs Directorate, ECOWAS, assured the gathering of his outfit's readiness to strengthen ties with the media.





Prof. H. Kwasi Prempeh, WADEMOS Project Director Attends First Annual Retreat for Special Envoys from ECOWAS and IGAD

Professor H. Kwasi Prempeh, WADEMOS Network Project Director, joined high officials and other stakeholders from ECOWAS and IGAD at the first-ever retreat on unconstitutional changes in government and constitutional transitions in The Gambia.

Among others, stakeholders at the Conference agreed that there is an urgent need to design, develop and implement a comprehensive mechanism to respond to the rapid recurrence of unconstitutional changes in government and constitutional instability on the continent.

WADEMOS Network Project Coordinator Shares Experience at the Annual CSO Meeting Organized by the African Union

Paul Osei-Kufuor, WADEMOS Network Project Coordinator for Anglophone West Africa represented WADEMOS Network at the annual meeting of CSOs organized by the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).

Paul Osei-Kufuor joined a panel session where he shared his experience on the contribution of WADEMOS to peace and security in Africa.



WADEMOS Network Holds Second Steering Committee Meeting

WADEMOS Network held its second Steering Committee in Accra, Ghana. The Steering Committee addressed a wide range of issues including reviewing planned activities and action points for 2023 and adoption of the Network's By-laws.

There were also discussions on expanding the current composition of the Steering Committee and the need to streamline the Network's operations to ensure it doesn't overlap with activities of its members.

WADEMOS Pays Courtesy Call on Former President John Kufuor

WADEMOS Network paid a courtesy call on Former President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. JA Kufuor on Wednesday December 14, 2022. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the Network to the Former President and also seek his support as the Network embarks on a campaign to regionalize national elections of countries within the ECOWAS Sub-region. The team was led by the Network Coordinator, Kop'ep Dabugat and Paul Osei-Kufuor, the Project Coordinator for Anglophone West Africa.

The Former President lauded the initiative and underscored the relevance of having a Network like WADEMOS which is transnational in character. He also recounted his experience as an election observer and commended the Network for embarking on an campaign aimed at deepening democratic governance.





Press Release: Recent Developments in the Gambia on the Alleged Coup Attempt

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network expressed deep concerns about the attempts by certain members of The Gambia Armed Forces to overthrow the constitutionally elected Government of the Republic of The Gambia.

As a Network of Civil Society Organizations committed to the peaceful, stable, and democratic development of our West African region, we categorically condemned this attempt to usurp the constitutional and democratic mandate of the people upon which The Gambia Government stands.

We take due cognizance of earlier statements released by The Gambia Civil Society and the ECOWAS condemning this development.

Read the full statement below: <https://bit.ly/3vsLqGr>

INSIGHTS INTO WADEMOS 2023 ACTIVITIES

Elections



WADEMOS will liaise and collaborate with Network members to embark on pre-election visits, observer missions and undertake post-election monitoring surveys in countries that will be conducting their elections in 2023.

February 25, 2023

Nigeria election

June 24, 2023

Sierra Leone election

October 10, 2023

Liberia election



Call for Contributions



NEWSLETTER

WADEMOS Network is set to commence its quarterly newsletter from first quarter next year. We will dedicate a section of the newsletter to publishing activities of the member CSOs and pro-democracy actors. Please send us news, stories about your activities, upcoming events, pictures from your events, seminars, feedback and suggestions.

These activities should be related to the key action points of WADEMOS or our thematic areas. All submissions are to be sent at least two (2) weeks before the publication of the quarter's newsletter. All submissions can be sent to info@wademosnetwork.org or to the Communications Officer, Jonah Eledi, via j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org.

Knowledge Products & Convenings



WADEMOS will be issuing a number of research, analytical and communication pieces such as newsletters, reports, publications, among others

The Research Hub at the Secretariat will also issue knowledge products that will form the basis of regional convenings and campaigns.

The reports and research will focus on topics like term limits, unconstitutional changes, transitional countries and ECOWAS Protocols.



WADEMOS has presence on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Flickr. We have grown impressively over the past year. We aim to be bigger. Follow us today!

Twitter - @WADEMOSnetwork

YouTube - @Wademosnetwork

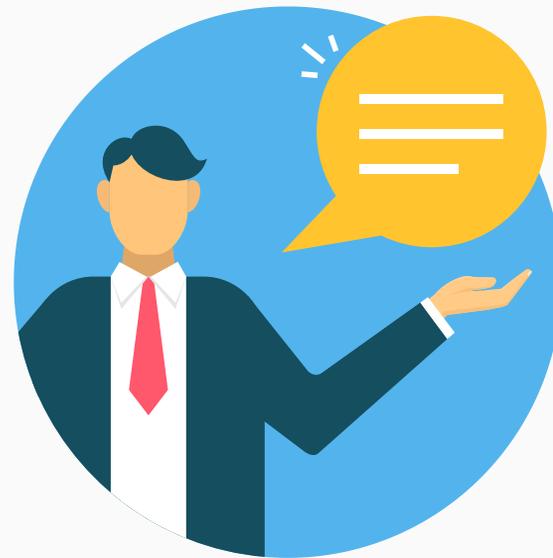
Facebook - West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (@WADEMOS)

Instagram - @WADEMOSnetwork

Flickr - @Wademosnetwork

LinkedIn - West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (@Wademos)

Call for Consultants



WADEMOS Network is seeking to recruit experienced and highly skilled consultants to undertake an assessment of transition countries in West Africa.

Consultants are needed to undertake:

- 1.A Review of the Transition Process in Guinea
- 2.A Review of the Transition Process in Mali
- 3.A Review of the Transition Process in Burkina Faso

Qualification & Required Skill:

- a .A higher degree in Political Science, International Relations, International Development, African Studies with focus on African politics or related discipline.
- b. 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 with proven experience in conducting similar studies. Relevant publications in reputable journals would be most desirable.
- c .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.
- d. 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.

Visit - www.wademosnetwork.org for more details on the role including the scope of work, activities and timelines and mode of application.

For enquiries, please send an email to info@wademosnetwork.org