

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **#INTERNATIONALDEMOCRACYDAY: WADEMOS SUPPORT CALLS FOR EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION**

The WADEMOS Network recognizes the efforts by democracy actors, defenders, activists, and the rest of the world as we mark this year's International Day of Democracy. We solidarize with people across the globe in the hope of living in a world of unity, peace, and prosperity.

It is reassuring to know that this hope remains alive in a world that continues to strive for democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. It presents an opportune occasion for us all to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by people from all walks of life in service and defense of freedom, justice, and equality.

As we celebrate this day, we attest to the challenges confronting democracy at all levels of governance—global, regional, and national. As a network focused on building democratic resilience in West Africa, we are highly concerned about the spread of insecurity with the proliferation of jihadist insurgencies and the resurgence of unconstitutional changes in government in the sub-region. It remains crucial for all stakeholders to collaborate and work together to collectively reverse these challenges and enhance the safety and security of the sub-region, especially for young people.

In line with the theme for this year's International Day of Democracy, "Empowering the Next Generation", we would like to remind the sub-region and the world that the struggle for democracy remains a worthy cause and a valuable legacy that must be passed on to the younger generations to enable them to meet their aspirations. Young people must be encouraged and supported with the right policies and institutions to use their skills and energy in service of humanity and in defense of justice, equality, and democracy.

Afrobarometer survey suggests a worrisome trend of young people increasingly expressing disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the prevailing quality of democracy offered by governments on the continent and the world over. Hence, it is the duty of society and the state to ensure development policies and programs are inclusive, sustainable, and, most importantly, intergenerational. Society must instill in them pro-democracy values and norms that would enable them to contribute meaningfully and positively to their communities and engage them constructively in decision-making at all levels.

As we commemorate #InternationalDemocracyDay, let us remain committed to the ideals of freedom, dignity of all persons, and the prospect of a better quality of governance across the world.

**-END-**

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Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) | Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Ghana | West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Ghana  
WANEP | Center for Democracy and Development-West Africa, Nigeria | StatView International, Guinea | Center for Democratic Governance (CDG), Burkina Faso



## About WADEMOS Network

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity (WADEMOS) Network is a non-partisan, independent civil society-led transnational democracy solidarity network consisting of over thirty-five (35) civil society organizations located in 15 countries in West Africa. The purpose of the WADEMOS Network is to mobilize, coordinate, and leverage 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.

### For more information, please contact:

**Name:** Jonah Eledi

**Designation:** Communications and Digital Platforms Officer

**Email:** [j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org](mailto:j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org)

**Phone Number:** +233 26 373 5330

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#95 Nortei Ababio Loop,  
North Airport Residential Area,  
Accra - Ghana

+233(0) 302 776142/784293  
+233(0) 302 784294  
+233 302 763028/9

P. O. Box: LG 404, Legon-Accra  
[info@wademosnetwork.org](mailto:info@wademosnetwork.org)  
[www.wademosnetwork.org](http://www.wademosnetwork.org)

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