

## **FORUM ON DEMOCRACY IN WEST AFRICA AND ITS SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS: THE ROLE OF THE DIASPORA**

### **Synopsis for Panel Discussion: Responding to the Proposed Exit and Restoration of Democracy in the Sahel: The Role of the Diaspora**

The Sahel region in West Africa, comprising Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, is undergoing significant challenges including the rise in insecurity and jihadist insurgencies, extreme poverty, food crises, poor governance, corruption, and the geopolitical shifts. The recent announcement of the Alliance of Sahel States' withdrawal from the ECOWAS bloc and its possible implications underscores the urgency of addressing the democratic recession in the region. This panel discussion will explore the multifaceted role of the diaspora in responding to these challenges and restoring democratic governance in the Sahel.

#### **Key Areas for Panel Discussion:**

1. Strategies for leveraging diaspora communities to influence policy and advocate for democratic principles.
2. The importance of coordinated efforts between diaspora groups and local civil society organizations. Amplifying local voices through diaspora-driven platforms to counter decisions like the withdrawal from ECOWAS.
3. The role of remittances and investment in economic growth and the threats to economic stability posed by the withdrawal from ECOWAS.
4. Diaspora involvement in monitoring human rights abuses and providing legal aid to victims of political repression.
5. Advocacy for international intervention and support based on documented human rights issues.

Through this panel, WADEMOS seek to harness the collective power of the diaspora to influence positive change and ensure a reintegration of the Alliance of Sahelian states into the ECOWAS bloc.

The Moderator is at liberty to explore other areas of worthy for discussion.