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# [Test] WADEMOS Newsletter - September 2024

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Fri, Sep 27, 2024 at 5:24 PM

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The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network is an independent and non-partisan network of CSOs and pro-democracy actors working to promote and defend democracy, good governance and inclusive development in the West African region.

September Updates

International Democracy Day:  
 WADEMOS Launches Report on the  
 State of Human Rights Defenders

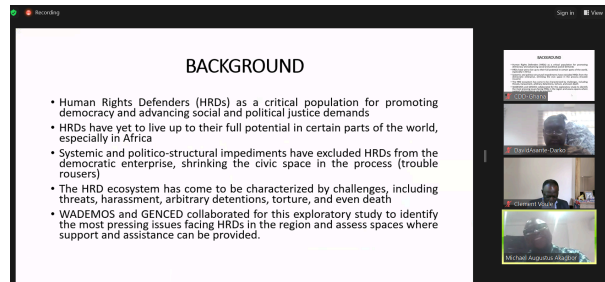
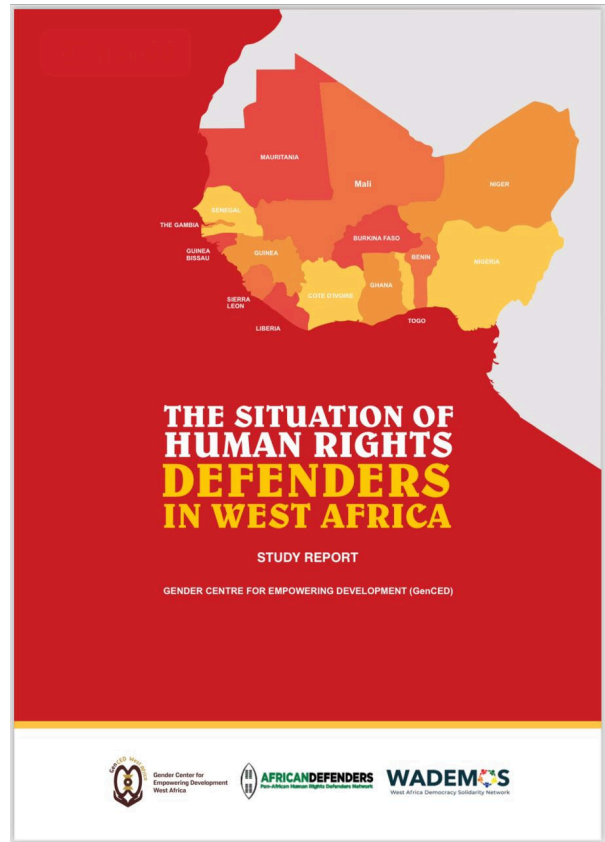
The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) organized a webinar on September 17, 2024, to mark this year's International Democracy Day, with a focus on human rights violations in the sub-region.

At the event, the Network launched its report on the state of human rights defenders in West Africa.

The Gender Center for Empowering Development (GenCED) prepared the report, titled "The Situation of Human Rights Defenders in West Africa," with funding from WADEMOS' DEMOS Fund.

The report gives an insight into the work and challenges of human rights defenders within the prevailing context in West Africa and also explores the opportunities and makes actionable recommendations to improve human rights and the plight of human rights defenders across West Africa.

[Download the Report here](#)



### Revisit: WADEMOS Webinar on International Democracy Day



The webinar by the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network on September 17, 2024, was to inform policy decisions, interventions, and activism.

The theme was “Empowering the Next Generation: Experiences and Reflections on the Deteriorating Environment for HRDs and Activists in West Africa.”

It brought together experts, human rights activists, CSOs, and the media, among others.

[Click to read the presentation](#)

### WADEMOS Joins Stakeholders in The Gambia for a Symposium on Peace and Security



The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network participated in a symposium on “Security, Governance, and Development in The Gambia: Prospects and Challenges” from September 1-5.

At the event, the Network Coordinator, Paul Osei-Kuffour, joined a panel in the opening session to discuss "Deepening Democratic Governance in the Gambia."

Paul Osei-Kuffour also delivered a presentation at the event.

[Click to read the presentation](#)

## August Updates

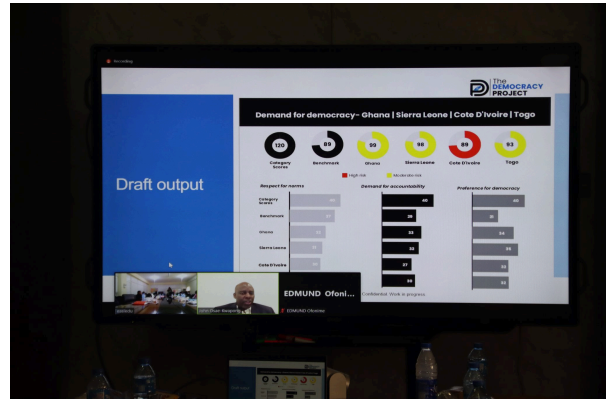
### ECOWAS, WADEMOS Hold Consultative meeting in Abuja, Nigeria

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network and the ECOWAS held productive deliberations in Abuja, Nigeria, when the former paid a working visit to the regional body.



The deliberations focused on how the two institutions can collaborate to strengthen democracy and governance in West Africa.

Additionally, Dr. John Osae-Kwapong, a Democracy and Development Fellow at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), on behalf of the Network, presented findings of a sub-regional democracy risk assessment during the engagement. The assessment forms part of a proposed mechanism to build a strong early warning system. The assessment used data from credible sources, including [Afrobarometer](#), to develop trends and determine the state of democracy in West Africa.



### Goodluck Jonathan Foundation Hosts WADEMOS in Abuja, Nigeria



### WADEMOS Participates in the Third West African Citizen Summit on Good Governance and Democracy



The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network had the pleasure of participating in the Third West African Citizen Summit (SCOA) on good governance, alternation, and democracy, which was held in Accra, Ghana, from August 26-27, on the theme, "Diagnosis of Coups d'état in



West Africa: Contextual analysis and solution approach.”

Organized by Tournons la Page, the event brought together civil society actors from the ECOWAS Commission and the Sahel Member States, who, while calling for reforms, strongly affirmed their commitment to promoting democracy, stability, sustainable development, and the rule of law in our region at the end of the event.



Our research analyst, Emmanuel Yeboah, did a presentation on the political situation in the Sahel and the likely implications of the exit of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger from the ECOWAS.

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network paid a courtesy call on the GoodLuck Jonathan Foundation to extend solidarity and discuss matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was also an opportunity for the two entities to better understand how the respective organizations operate, share experiences and lessons from working in the sub-region, and exchange information on the state of democracy.

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## Regional Campaigns

# Citizens of Alliance of Sahelian States' in the Diaspora Express Worry Over Impact of Their Countries' Exit from ECOWAS on Them

WADEMOS Network, in collaboration with CDD-Ghana, organized the second of three diaspora outreaches in Abuja, Nigeria.

The outreaches seek to court the support, views, and inclusion of diasporans from Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso to advance interventions by the Network, ECOWAS, CSOs, and other pro-democracy actors towards peaceful political transitions in West Africa and a unified sub-region.

Concerned about the implications of the Alliance of Sahel States exit from ECOWAS on their economic and social lives, stakeholders committed to contribute to ongoing efforts by WADEMOS Network, ECOWAS, and other regional bodies.

The first of the initial outreaches took place in Cote d'Ivoire.



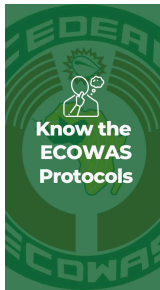
## Withdrawal of Niger, Mali & Burkina Faso from ECOWAS Security & Political Implications

- RISE IN INSECURITY**  
The exit of the C5 Sahel, the withdrawal of the Barkhane military operations, Canadian forces, and US military bases in Niger, the termination of the UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and the EU missions in the Sahel have led to an increase in attacks by violent extremists.
- CUT IN ECOWAS FUNDS**  
The February 24 communiqué released by ECOWAS Heads of State indicated that the three countries benefited from \$100 million mobilized by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) within the ECOWAS Plan of Action against terrorism.
- INTELLIGENCE SHARING & COOPERATION**  
The withdrawal will affect security cooperation regarding sharing intelligence and participation in regional counter-terrorism initiatives, such as the Accra Initiative and the Multinational Joint Task Force.
- STRAINED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS**  
The withdrawal may result in diplomatic and political isolation on the international stage. This includes their inability to garner support for their candidates or candidacies for international positions within the African Union, the United Nations, and other organizations.
- CLOSURE OF ECOWAS INSTITUTIONS**  
The withdrawal will also lead to the closure of ECOWAS' four regional institutions in Burkina Faso, two regional bodies in Mali, and one regional office in Niger. It will also affect the job security of some 130 ECOWAS staff who are citizens of the three countries: 77 from Burkina Faso, 23 from Mali, and 32 from Niger.



## Withdrawal of Niger, Mali & Burkina Faso from ECOWAS Social & Economic Implications

- PRICE HIKES & ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES**  
Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso's imports from leading economies such as Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal totaled \$2.8 billion in 2021. These imports included electricity, refined petroleum, cement, palm oil, wheat flour, and tobacco. Conversely, the combined exports from the trio to Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal in 2021 amounted to \$353 million. This indicates that leaving ECOWAS will raise the cost of trade for the Sahelian states and trigger price increases in their respective countries.
- RE-INTRODUCTION OF TRADE BARRIERS**  
The Sahelian countries, all landlocked, heavily rely on imports and trade routes through coastal ECOWAS member states. Withdrawing from ECOWAS will result in the reintroduction of tariffs and other trade barriers, as well as increase transaction costs, raise import prices, and make exports like onions, fish, and minerals less competitive.
- IMPACT ON FREE MOVEMENT**  
The withdrawal will affect the status of their citizens, as they may be required to obtain a visa to travel around the region. Their citizens may also not be eligible to reside or set up businesses under the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement and Trade. Citizens from the three countries will cease to use ECOWAS passports, ECOWAS Identity Cards, and "ECOWAS Brown Card" vehicle insurance.
- CUT IN DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**  
The withdrawal of the three states could halt some development projects worth more than US\$500 million. These include the Regional Food Security Reserve (which hosts about 52% of the regional stock), the World Bank-funded Regional Support Program for Pastoralism in the Sahel, the Sahel Regional Irrigation Support Program, the Regional Food System Resilience Support Program, and the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market project.
- REDUCTION IN MARKET SIZE**  
The three-member states represent 17.4% of the region's 425 million population. Even though they collectively contribute 10% of the region's GDP, their departure will constitute a reduction in the market size of ECOWAS.



1. Member States shall guarantee children's rights and give them access to basic education.
2. Special laws shall be enacted in each Member State and at the level of the Community against child trafficking and child prostitution.

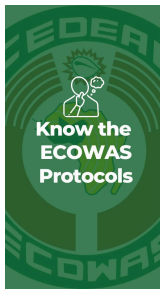
Article 41, ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance



Africa boasts of having a youthful population. In the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, West African states consented to implementing legislation to prevent juvenile delinquency and for the training and development of their youth.

Do you think your country is doing enough to train and develop its youth? What are some of the interventions put in place by your country for youth development and training?

Did you know that all West African countries are obligated to guarantee children's rights and protect children against child prostitution and trafficking? Let us hear from you in your response to this email!



1. Member States shall agree on rules to be adopted for the training and development of the youth.
2. Uniform laws shall be adopted within the Community to prevent and handle cases of juvenile delinquency.

Article 42, ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance




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## Network Members Corner



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

September 4, 2024

### **COMMUNIQUE OF THE WEST AFRICA ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK (WAEON) GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

#### **Introduction**

The West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON), comprising 13-member organisations from West African countries, convened a two-day General Assembly and Executive Council meeting from August 26 - 27, 2024. The meeting was to foster solidarity among member organisations to address the growing threats to electoral integrity and domestic election observers in the region. WAEON also used this opportunity to assess the pressing issues concerning democracy, governance, and the socio-political landscape in West Africa.

#### **Challenges to Democracy and Election Observation in West Africa**

Although West Africa spearheaded the continent's third wave of democratisation and one time led best practices on the African continent, democratic norms have been deteriorating recently. Democratic backsliding in the sub-region is a serious setback and a subject of great concern for the region and its people.

As WAEON, we have observed a disturbing trend of coup d'etats (in Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger), constitutional manipulations, electoral irregularities, abuse of incumbency, worsening insecurity (particularly in the Sahel region) and weakened democratic institutions. Democracy has been defaced with impunity, corruption and misuse of power for personal gain. This decline is gradually undermining the people's confidence in their governments and their electoral processes, disintegrating the region (with the intended withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from the ECOWAS bloc), while threatening the overall stability of the region.

[Click to read the press release here](#)

Opportunity





# CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: CONSULTANCY SERVICES / CONSULTANT

Apply at: <https://bit.ly/4cM7cYN>

Deadline: October 1, 2024

**Deadline Extended**

We have extended the deadline for the Call for Expressions of Interest seeking the services of a consultant or consultancy firm's services to evaluate the WADEMOS Project's first phase.

Read the requirements and apply: <https://bit.ly/4cM7cYN>

Deadline: October 1, 2024

This extension gives you more time to evaluate the requirements thoroughly and submit the best application.



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**About WADEMOS:**

WADEMOS is an independent and a non-partisan network of diverse national and transnational civil society organizations and civic groups working to promote and defend democracy, good governance and inclusive development in the West Africa region. WADEMOS mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective voice and power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, the West Africa region to advance its mission. The WADEMOS Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana.

[\[www.wademosnetwork.org\]](http://www.wademosnetwork.org)

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