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Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS URGES THE AUTHORITY OF ECOWAS HEADS OF STATE TO BE MORE DILIGENT IN IMPLEMENTING REFORMS INCLUDING THE STANDARDIZATION OF TERM LIMITS

Ahead of the 66th Conference of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State, the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), Tournons la Page (TLP), the Afrikajom Center, the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD-West Africa), and the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), as well as several civil society organizations in Nigeria, met in Abuja on Friday, December 13, 2024, to analyze the sub-region's major and persistent democratic challenges, discuss imminent ECOWAS reforms, encourage multi-stakeholder advocacy, and make strong recommendations to be submitted to the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

In a sub-regional context marked by growing challenges to democratic governance, abuse of human rights, instability, and threats of disintegration, we, civil society actors, wish to express our shared commitment to consolidating the democratic values on which our community is based. ECOWAS must strengthen its role as a guarantor of stability and good, accountable governance to address these challenges.

To this end, we call on the Authority of Heads of State and Government:

1. To adopt the provision limiting the mandates of Heads of State and Government to further consolidate the principles of constitutional convergence and democracy in our community space;
2. To continue discussions and negotiations with the sister countries of the AES for the implementation of reforms likely to guarantee the maintenance of these countries within the community;
3. To undertake urgent and structural reforms to strengthen the prerogatives of the Commission and Parliament;
4. To strengthen the quality of electoral processes to guarantee access to power and alternation through free, honest, and transparent elections;
5. To take appropriate measures to support citizen participation in decision-making and political processes.

On the eve of its 50th-anniversary celebration, ECOWAS must strengthen its credibility by successfully implementing the reforms essential to maintaining its legitimacy and becoming the ECOWAS of the people.

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