



Jonah Eledi <j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org>

Special Edition: WADEMOS Newsletter - 2024 Recap

WADEMOS Network <info@wademosnetwork.org>
Reply-To: WADEMOS Network <info@wademosnetwork.org>
To: Jonah Eledi <j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org>

Wed, Jan 1, 2025 at 11:14 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)





Compliments of the Season



We value your continued support, cooperation, and collaboration. Wishing you a prosperous New Year!



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.

In this edition, we recap some of our 2024 activities, starting with the last quarter, as we recount our milestones achieved with your support and collaboration.

Quarter 4 - 2024

WADEMOS, WAEON Embark on Joint Pre-Election and Election Day Missions to Ghana



The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) and the West Africa

Elections Observers Network (WAEON), embarked on a joint election-day solidarity mission to Ghana, from December 5 – 9, 2024, to witness the country's December 7, 2024 general elections.

The Election Solidarity Mission entailed visits to the CDD-Ghana / CODEO National Information Center, Observation of voting processes at selected polling stations, visits to CSO situation rooms and cross-learning with other election observation missions.

Ahead of the election-day in December, WADEMOS and WAEON held pre-election mission to Ghana in October.

The pre-election mission involved meetings and briefings with key election stakeholders including the Electoral Commission of Ghana, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), the National Peace Council (NPC), the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO), the Institute of Democratic Governance; the Civic Forum Initiative (CFI), the West Africa Network on Peacebuilding (WANEP), the political parties (NPP and the NDC).

The mission held a press encounter to disseminate the report containing its findings, observations and recommendations.



WADEMOS, Tournons La Page, Other CSOs Call on ECOWAS to Undertake Reforms

Tournons La Page, WADEMOS, Afrikajom and other CSOs have called on the ECOWAS to undertake urgent reforms to promote democracy and good governance, as the West African regional institution approaches its 50th anniversary.



The group made this demand known at a conference held in Abuja, December 13, ahead of the 66th ordinary session of the ECOWAS Conference of Heads of State and Government.



Among others, the CSOs want ECOWAS to expedite the adoption of a standardized two-term limit across West Africa.

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

'DemoCreatives' Leave Lasting Impression at 12th Global Assembly of World Movement for Democracy



Participants at the 12th Global Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy were treated to great artistic displays and a demonstration of the power of arts in building democratic resilience globally.

Attended by a joint team from the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), the delegation also included three creatives from Ghana, Nigeria and The Gambia.

The Global Assembly provided a platform for WADEMOS & CDD-Ghana to showcase the 'DemoCreative' initiative before the global audience. The initiative is designed to harness creatives' unique talents and influence – musicians, poets, actors, playwrights and artists – to promote and advocate for democratic principles and good governance practices in Ghana and Africa.

A renowned Ghanaian poet, Apiorkor Seyram Ashong Abbey, known by her stage name 'Apiorkor', received plaudits for her captivating poetic piece which she performed touching on the plight of political prisoners, threats to democracy on the African continent and the hope for democracy across the world.

The team also participated in several workshops and networking sessions. In addition to networking, WADEMOS / CDD-Ghana led a session on the power of the arts in democratic activism.

Impressed by the exhibition of the arts, Apiorkor, the poet and Seun, the artist, were given the opportunity once again to showcase the power of their arts in activism at the closing ceremony.

Whereas Seun wowed the global audience with another drawing of Nelson Mandela, Apiorkor echoed her poetry on transition countries to drum home the need for a concerted effort to resolve the challenges faced by citizens in the Sahel.





WADEMOS, RFLD Delivers Statement at the 81st African Commission for Human and People's Rights Ordinary Session



The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) and the Réseau

WADR Pays Official Visit to WADEMOS Secretariat



des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement (RFLD) have presented a joint statement at the 81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, The Gambia.

Delivered by Paul Osei-Kuffour, the WADEMOS Network Coordinator, on behalf of the two organizations, the statement highlighted the plight of human rights defenders in West Africa, government clampdowns on free speech and the media, the impact of political transitions on citizens in the Sahel, and the challenges of girls and women, among others.

WADEMOS and RFLD also held side events on the state of human rights in West Africa.



The West Africa Democracy Radio (WADR) has paid a courtesy call on the WADEMOS Secretariat, based in Accra, Ghana.

The WADR deligation, led by the Station Manager, Agnes E. John Thomasi, was geared towards strengthening the relationship between the two organizations.

The two organizations pledged to sustain and strengthen the existing mutually beneficial collaboration, particularly in promoting democracy, good governance, and civic engagement.

WADEMOS Engages Media, CSOs on Term Limit and Constitutional Reforms in The Gambia



WADEMOS organized an interactive stakeholder conversation with policymakers and civil society organizations (CSOs) in The Gambia regarding the ongoing constitutional reforms, with a particular emphasis on the adoption of term limits in The Gambia and its standardization throughout West Africa.

Salieu Taal, a private legal practitioner and leading voice within CSO delivered a presentation which took participants through The Gambia's political and constitutional evolution, while highlighting the key drivers for the ongoing reforms in the country and the need for term limits.



The session was also facilitated by Sait Matty Jaw, Executive Director of the Center for Research and Policy Development (CRPD) and a member of WADEMOS.

Quarter 3 - 2024

WADEMOS Engages Media, CSOs on Term Limit and Constitutional Reforms in The Gambia

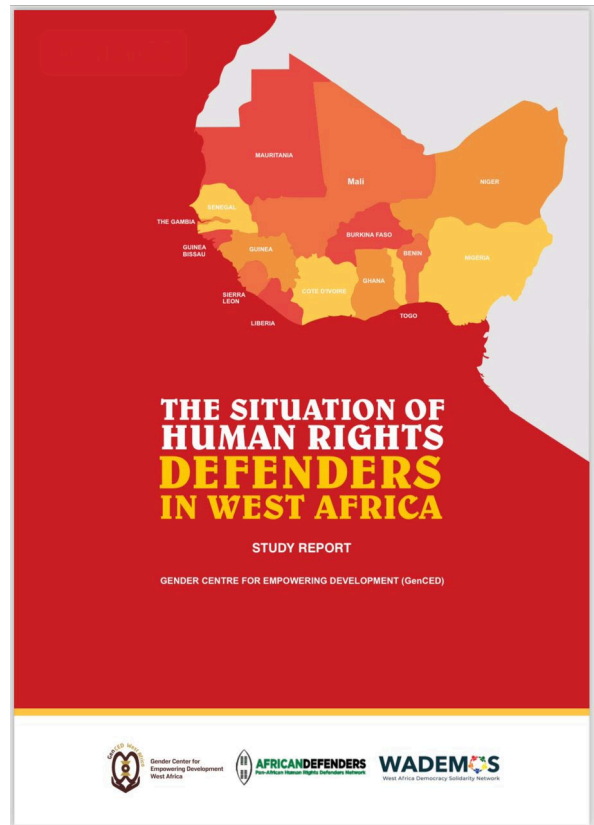
International Democracy Day: WADEMOS Launches Report on the State of Human Rights Defenders



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.



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.

[Download the report here](#)

West African CSOs & Pro-democracy Actors Submit Joint

WADEMOS Engages Diasporans from Transition

Statement to ECOWAS



The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), in collaboration with Tournons la Page (TLP), the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), and other pro-democracy actors across the region, submitted a statement to ECOWAS ahead of the sub-regional body's 65th Authority of the Heads of States and Governments Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, on July 7.

The statement, signed by 50 CSOs and pro-democracy actors in the sub-region, expressed CSOs' concerns about regional developments and offered some recommendations for the Summit's consideration to strengthen the democratic architecture, improve peace and security, and advance the integration of the community's people.

Countries in Ivory Coast



WADEMOS Network, in collaboration with the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, has engaged citizens of Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Niger living in Cote d'Ivoire as part of efforts to support the political transition processes.

The outreaches are happening at a time when Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have expressed intentions to leave the sub-regional body, ECOWAS.

Mindful of the risks this poses to peace, security, and the economic lives of citizens across the sub-region, WADEMOS and CDD-Ghana are embarking on this NED-funded project to reach out to diasporans, especially in the business community, for their support in promoting a unified sub-region and peaceful transitions.

Quarter 2 - 2024

Launch of DemoCreatives in Lagos, Nigeria

'The Democracy Project' End-of-Project Dissemination



The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) together with its collaborators, CDD-Ghana, Yiaga Africa, AWO Hub, and Africivistes, successfully launched DemoCreatives, in Lagos, Nigeria on Friday, June 21, 2024.

DemoCreatives is an initiative designed to harness creatives' unique talents and influence – musicians, poets, actors, playwrights, producers, influencers and artists, among others – to promote and advocate for democratic principles and good governance practices in West Africa and across the continent.

[Read more about the launch here](#)

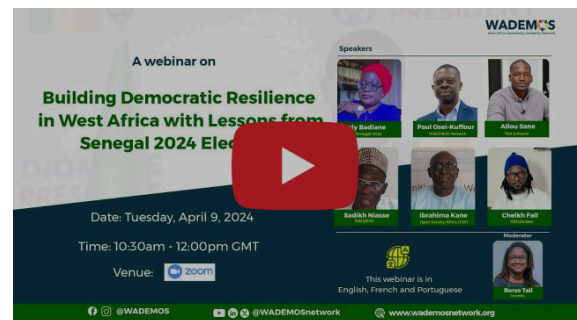


The Democracy Project is a WADEMOS-funded initiative aimed at conducting an assessment of the governance risk in West Africa by identifying and addressing the signs of retrogression in democratic governance. The project was a six-month pilot with an initial focus on Ghana.

The end-of-project event, which focused on sharing observations, outcomes, and conclusions drawn from the program, took place at CDD-Ghana's Main Conference Room on Thursday, May 23, 2024, and brought together stakeholders, including policymakers, CSOs, activists, and people interested in democracy and democratic governance.

WADEMOS Partners Australian High Commission to Organize Women in Peace and Security Conference

Webinar: Building Democratic Resilience in West Africa with Lessons from Senegal





On Tuesday, April 9, 2024, WADEMOS held a webinar on “Building Democratic Resilience in West Africa with Lessons from Senegal,” bringing together diverse audience to discuss their takeaway from the events leading to the elections in Senegal.

Webinar: Opportunities, Threats and Regional Implications of Togo's March 25 Constitutional Reforms



WADEMOS, in partnership with the Australian High Commission in Ghana, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Center (KAIPTC) organized a conference on the role and state of women in peace and security.

WADEMOS convened a webinar, on Thursday, April 18, providing experts a platform to assess the political situation in Togo and the implications of the constitutional reforms. This culminated in a submission of a petition to ECOWAS on the political developments in Togo.

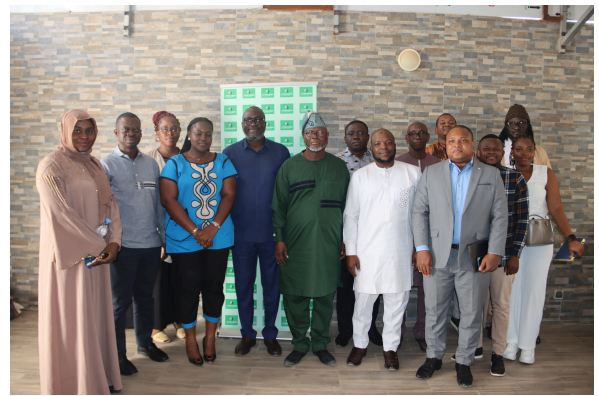
The expert panel noted the contribution of and barriers to women's participation in peacebuilding and recommended solutions.

[Read the takeaways here](#)

2024 Quarter 1

Next Gen Culminating Camp in Ghana

WADEMOS Embarks on Pre-election and Election Day Solidarity Missions to Senegal



Senegal held its presidential elections on March 24, 2024, following weeks of uncertainty. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, an

opposition candidate won the election and succeeds Macky Sall as the fifth president of the West African nation.

From January 29 to February 5, WADEMOS, led by Professor Prempeh, the Project Director, embarked on a solidarity mission to Senegal. The delegation engaged key stakeholders in

the country to understand the political and social context leading up to the

elections and to learn lessons from the Senegalese electoral processes.

The pre-election mission was also to solidarize with CSOs, amplify their

concerns with relevant stakeholders for prompt resolution, and issue evidence-based recommendations for a peaceful election and postelection process.

A delegation led by Dr. Kojo Asante, Director of Policy Engagement and Partnership at CDD-Ghana, was deployed to Senegal to observe the

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS) has mentored 15 young activists selected from across

West Africa under its Next Gen Initiative.

The Initiative is designed to empower and equip the next generation of leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to promote social transformation and strengthen democracy in West Africa.

The six-month mentorship program, which commenced in October 2023, encompassed a four-week intensive online session, followed by a two-month mentoring program with a recognized civil society organization, and community-based project work.

Addressing the first cohort at a closing ceremony held at the CDD-Ghana office in Accra, WADEMOS Project Director, Prof. Prempeh, admonished the Young Leaders to forge meaningful relationships that will contribute to breaking the barriers that divide citizens of the sub-region. The WADEMOS Project Director also urged the young

activists to keep faith in democracy despite the current challenges.

elections and solidarize with CSOs, international bodies, and other institutions observing the election.

Sida Visits WADEMOS Secretariatna



A delegation from Sida paid a courtesy visit to the WADEMOS Network Secretariat in Ghana. Led by Joachim Beijmo, the Head of Regional Development Cooperation at the Swedish

Embassy in Ethiopia, the meeting focused on WADEMOS' impact in the sub-region and Sweden's Regional Strategy for

Africa.

The delegation also paid courtesy visits to some members of the WADEMOS Network in Accra, Ghana. The WADEMOS Network is



being funded by Sida for the first three years of its

implementation.



Copyright (C) 2024 || WADEMOS Network || All rights reserved.

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]

Our mailing address is:

info@wademosnetwork.org

Communications Officer:

Jonah Eledi - j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)