

PRESS RELEASE

January 7, 2024

WADEMOS CONGRATULATES THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF GHANA ON THE PEACEFUL POLITICAL TRANSITION

- **Calls on President John Mahama to Intervene in the Sahelian States' Planned Exit**
- **Urges Other Heads of State to Take a Cue from Ghana's Democratic Trajectory**

WADEMOS Network, a leading West African pro-democracy civil society organization (CSO) network, heartily congratulates the people and government of the Republic of Ghana for yet another milestone in its democratic architecture, following the successful round of peaceful and transparent general elections and a smooth political turnover. The country, a beacon of hope in West Africa, inaugurated its sixth president on January 7, 2025, following its return to democracy in 1992.

We congratulate His Excellency President John Mahama on his victory at the polls and for his swearing-in as the president of Ghana. The inauguration is coming on the heels of a frenzied subregion troubled by sustained disregard for limits on presidential terms, gross violations of human rights, and unconstitutional changes of government, but the Republic of Ghana has again distinguished itself as a haven for electoral democracy and the stability deeply longed for in many areas across the ECOWAS subregion.

As the President assumes the highest office in Ghana, and as a member of the Authority of Heads of States and Government of the ECOWAS, the Network reminds him of the enormous challenges that await his intervention, including domestic, regional, continental, and global issues. Of particular note is the maintenance of regional integration in the face of the pending exit of the Alliance of Sahelian States (AES) from ECOWAS.

The pending exit has plunged the subregion into a wave of uncertainty and posed a growing threat to human rights across the subregion. The Network, therefore, calls on President John Mahama to intervene as a trusted democrat and a strong believer in the ideas of our founding fathers by personally engaging the heads of state of Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali to halt the official exit scheduled for January 29, 2025.

As ECOWAS contends with these challenges, the Network reminds President Mahama that the current state of affairs is precipitated by the failure to observe the rights of citizens and uphold the principles of democracy. However, we are confident

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that President Mahama will contribute to and partake in efforts to maintain regional integration and restore stability to the troubled areas across the subregion. We desire the President to advocate for and advance the cause of human rights in Ghana and across the subregion.

To reverse the tide of democratic backsliding, including the unconstitutional changes of government and presidential term limits elongation, the Network counts on the support of President Mahama in its call for the adoption of a revised ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and the standardization of a two-term limit for all Heads of State and Government in the subregion.

As we celebrate the giant stride of the Republic of Ghana, we urge other heads of state to learn from the country's experience to build a strong democratic culture that promotes free, fair, and credible elections, human rights, and inclusive governance.

The Network remains committed in its pursuit of a free and fair society for all citizens of the region and looks forward to a vibrant, engaging, and productive term with President Mahama at the helm of affairs in Ghana. The Network wishes him and the people of Ghana the best.

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About WADEMOS

WADEMOS is an independent and 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, resources, and opportunities within the West Africa region to advance its mission. The current membership of WADEMOS stands at 47 spread across West Africa. The WADEMOS Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana.

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