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WADEMOS Newsletter - Special Edition

1 message

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WADEMOS Newsletter



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.

WADEMOS SPECIAL

WADEMOS, GIZ Collaborate with
ECOWAS to Organize Regional
Conference on Sustainable Participation
of Youth in Governance

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), from May 7-9, 2025, collaborated with ECOWAS to organize the maiden "Regional Conference on Sustainable Participation of Youth in Governance in the ECOWAS Region" as part of activities to commemorate ECOWAS' 50th anniversary.

The event, which also brought together some participants of the first cohort of the WADEMOS Next Gen Initiative, aimed to forge a more inclusive development agenda and seek the views of the youth to improve the workings of the regional bloc.

Some of the Next Gen Fellows shared governance lessons from their countries and their experiences in activism with the participants while calling on ECOWAS to increase and amplify support for youth-led innovations across West Africa.

WADEMOS Network Coordinator Paul Osei-Kuffour also moderated some sessions and focused on documenting the views and opinions of participants.



WADEMOS Network Participates in Launch of CDD-Ghana's International Desk

WADEMOS Network Joins Other CSOs and Think Tanks at T20 Policy Dialogue in South Africa



WADEMOS Network participated in the launch of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development's International Desk in Accra, Ghana, held on the theme "Navigating Geopolitical Shifts: Foreign Powers, Interests, and Impacts in West Africa."

The event, which took place from April 24 to 25, brought together participants from across Africa, comprising representatives from civil society, regional institutions, government officials, international partners, donors, and other members of the diplomatic community.

Panel sessions explored the state of democracy and development in the ECOWAS region, regional



WADEMOS Technical Advisor, Dr. Kojo Pumpuni Asante and Research Analyst, Emmanuel Yeboah attended the T20 Africa High-Level Policy Dialogue themed, "Strengthening African Agency in the G20 within the Emerging Global Order," held at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria, South Africa.

The AUDA-NEPAD Africa Policy Bridge Tank Programme organized the event in collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), the Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), and the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC).

More than 200 high-profile policymakers, think tank experts, and international figures participated, including South Africa's Deputy President H.E. Paul Mashatile, whose keynote address underscored the urgency

bodies' efforts and response to foreign influence, developments surrounding the Sahelian exit, and collaborative strategies for ECOWAS and the African Union to effectively respond and safeguard regional stability.

of amplifying African priorities in global governance.

WADEMOS leveraged the event to build new collaborations with AUDA-NEPAD, SAIIA, IGD, and IPATC to strengthen its advocacy within the subregion.

WADEMOS Project Director, Prof. H. Kwasi Prempeh, Heads Committee to Review Ghana's 1992 Constitution



WADEMOS Network Project Director, Prof. H. Kwasi Prempeh, has been appointed by the President of Ghana, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, to head an eight-member Constitutional Review Committee tasked with assessing and proposing amendments to Ghana's 1992 Constitution.

The Prof. Prempeh-led team are engaged in identifying key amendments and proposing reforms to make the Constitution relevant to the needs of the people, and consulting relevant stakeholders.

It is expected that the outcome of the constitutional review will produce a document that focuses on enhancing transparency, limit executive power, strengthening checks and balances, improving judicial and local government structures and strengthening Ghana's democratic governance.

Among the experts engaged included WADEMOS Network Coordinator, Paul Osei-Kuffour who made a presentation on how to improve Ghana's decentralization and local governance systems. In his presentation, the Network Coordinator shared experiences and observations from other African countries.



WADEMOS DEMOS-Fund Activity Updates

ECOWAS@50: CDD-West Africa Organizes High-Level Convening to Discuss the Future of the Regional Bloc



The Center for Democracy and Development (CDD-West Africa), a member of the WADEMOS Network based in Nigeria, hosted a high-level convening to mark ECOWAS@50, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including policymakers, diplomats, civil society actors, and academics, for a dialogue themed "ECOWAS at a Crossroads—Reform or Disintegrate: Which Pathway for the Regional Bloc?"

Speakers at the event provided thoughtful insights and perspectives on the challenges facing ECOWAS and opportunities for its development.

CSOs in Guinea Embark on Public Sensitization on Draft New Constitution



Stat View International and Citoyen pour Paix et Justice (CPJ), both members of the WADEMOS Network in Guinea, have embarked on an advocacy drive to conscientize the public, especially the youth and students, on the country's draft new constitution.

The team held discussions and did presentations on the draft new constitution in 11 universities selected for the project.

Funded by the WADEMOS Network's DEMOS-Fund, the program seeks feedback and input from participants on the proposed new institutions, the distribution of power between the president and the prime minister,

The outcome of the high-level meeting reiterated the urgency for bold, inclusive reforms within the regional bloc, having examined the current realities and avenues toward a stronger, more unified, and democratic West Africa.

The event was organized with funding from WADEMOS Network's DEMOS-Fund.

the balance of power between parliament and the Senate, eligibility criteria for presidential and parliamentary candidates, and the abolition of the death penalty, among other topics.

The recommendations, concerns, and views from the engagements will be documented and shared with the National Transitional Council.

CRPD Holds Townhall Meetings to Engage Citizens on The Gambia's 2024 Draft Constitution



The Center for Research and Policy Development (CRPD), a WADEMOS member based in The Gambia, convened a town hall meeting with stakeholders as part of efforts to promote citizen engagement on The Gambia's 2024 draft constitution.

RFLD Undertakes "Youth Power for Democracy" Empowerment Campaign in Benin



The Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement (RFLD), a WADEMOS Network member in Benin, has commenced a campaign dubbed, "Youth Power for Democracy: Amplifying Young Voices for Accountable Governance in

The one-day event, which brought together policymakers, local government officials, and the general public, also served as an opportunity to educate participants on key provisions of the draft constitution, identify potential areas of concern, and highlight differences between the old and draft constitutions, as well as the impact of the constitutional review on deepening good governance and democracy.

The CRPD would submit the recommendations to the Gambian Parliament and intensify advocacy for their consideration and adoption.

WADEMOS Network funded the citizen town hall engagement through its DEMOS-Fund.

Benin” to empower young people to become active participants in shaping Benin’s democratic future.

The project recognizes the crucial role of youth in fostering transparency, accountability, and good governance and focuses on building capacity, raising awareness, and providing platforms for engagement and collaboration.

Funded by the WADEMOS Network’s DEMOS-Fund, the project seeks to equip Benin’s youth with the tools and opportunities to participate in democratic processes and ultimately pave the way for a more transparent, accountable, and inclusive future for the country.

WADEMOS Organizes 3rd Annual Regional Members Convening



WADEMOS Network, in March 2025, organized the 3rd Regional CSO Convening in Accra, Ghana, themed "Leveraging CSO solidarity movement in defense of democracy across West Africa: Challenges, lessons learned, and perspectives."

Representatives of CSOs, ECOWAS, and national and donor organizations participated in the event.

The panel sessions explored the subregion's complex challenges and their impact on democratic consolidation, as well as lessons learned from actions used to counter the threats.

The discussion also centered on the sustainability of CSOs, taking into account the threats,



challenges, and potential for resilience in West Africa.

Participants shared their reflections on ongoing issues within the sub-region and made recommendations on how to surmount the challenges.



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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.

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