

**LAUNCH OF THE WEST AFRICA DEMOCRACY SOLIDARITY NETWORK (WADEMOS) & CONFERENCE
ON COUNTERING THREATS TO DEMOCRACY IN WEST AFRICA, 15-16 SEPTEMBER , 2022
KEMPISKI ACCRA.**

**GOODWILL MESSAGE OF AMBASSADOR BANKOLE ADEOYE, AU COMMISSIONER FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS, PEACE & SECURITY – Delivered by Amb William Awinador**

- **Honourable Minister,**
- **Commissioner PAPS, ECOWAS.**
- **Our Distinguished Keynote Speaker,**
- **ECOWAS Resident Representative in Ghana,**
- **Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Our Friend and Partner, the Head of SIDA Africa,**
- **Distinguished Members of WADEMOS Steering Committee,**
- **Executive Director, CDD, Ghana,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I have the honour to convey to you the greetings of Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, He also wishes to congratulate you for this strategic initiative of the launch of WADEMOS which also finds resonance in initiatives he is undertaking to anchor knowledge approaches for smart policy-making and execution in his department. You would recall that this is a new department created out of two previously separate departments by merging the then Department of Political Affairs with that of Peace and Security as part of the AU institutional reforms.

CPAPS Visit to Ghana

Commissioner Adeoye also recalls his December 2021 working visit to Ghana during which he also made time to meet with CDD Ghana and CFR Ghana as part of his commitment to prioritize and collaborate with think tanks and research centres. He was intimated by CDD on the planned launch of this project and is happy that today we can witness its concretization.

Prioritizing Knowledge communities for smart policy-making and execution

He is convinced that through the pathways of the development of communities of knowledge in support of governments, AU and RECs, properly designed to bridge knowledge and know-how gaps, the lingering disconnects between knowledge, smart policy-making and execution can be effectively narrowed and hopefully eliminated over time.

Accordingly, after initial consultations with some African think tanks from the five regions of the continent, arrangements are underway to launch NETT4PEACE as a knowledge community in the governance, peace & security sector. It will accompany the work of the AUC, especially the Department of PAPS, and WADEMOS could become a major stakeholder in this project.

Earlier on in the margins of the Lusaka mid-year Summit, another initiative of the Commissioner called I-RECKE, endorsed by the AU PSC, was launched by the leadership of the AU, as a continental coordination platform and knowledge tool for early warning as well as early coordinated response..

After Action Reviews

Furthermore, the Commissioner, together with his team in the department, and with the support of Nigeria, is organizing in November 2022, the first Lessons Learning Seminar of the AU on AU PSOs.

Nexus Lens

Again, reflecting his focus on the nexus approach for holistic, coordinated and robust response to our security challenges on the continent, together with AfDB, UNECA, Afriximbank, APRM, AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP and the Kingdom of Morocco, the AUC is convening next October in Morocco, a Policy Conference on the Peace, Security and Development Nexus.

Potential for Collaboration

Today's launch of WADEMOS therefore points to the opportunities for collaboration in a shared vision and strategy between CDD, WADEMOS, ECOWAS and other RECs, AU DPAPS, NETT4PEACE and I-RECKE. Only yesterday, 14th September, the AU PSC held its first joint consultation meeting with African CSOs through collaboration with AU ECOSOCC. This will be an annual session.

Let me mention here that in a joint collaborative effort AU DPAPS/UNDP Africa, a facility to support critical political transitions in Africa, will soon be launched. And the focus of WADEMOS also coincides largely with that of the joint facility.

We should also keep in mind that in promoting research and other raw materials for policy making and execution, being thorough, engaging in sincere peer review, and sharing common standards of accountability, are central to maintaining consistency and impact. Also key will be the carrying out of after action reviews of flagship projects, mindful of context specificity, along with a deliberate focus on the sharpening of our working methods.

Against this background of promise amid daunting but not insurmountable challenges, I wish you, on behalf of Commissioner Adeoye, successful deliberations in

the conference segment while looking forward to the outcomes to work together. Together, we can convert our challenges into huge opportunities for smarter governance, peace, security, and inclusive development consolidation.

I thank you.