



WEST AFRICA ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK (WAEON) NEWSLETTER

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(April – June, 2018)

Introduction

WAEON's Newsletter provides news and information on activities undertaken by the Secretariat; network members in their respective countries; and updates on elections and governance issues within West Africa. This second edition for 2018 (April to June) features news and update on WAEON member organizations' activities, election and governance-related issues of member countries and fundraising efforts by the Secretariat.

WAEON Member Organizations' Activities

Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), Liberia

As part of their efforts to contribute to improved governance and holding elected representatives accountable beyond elections, IREDD launched a documented and validated report on

[“Campaign Promises of the 54th Legislators of the House of Representatives”](#) in May. The term of office of the 54th Legislature is from 2018 to 2024. The project was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the “Strengthening Political Parties Program – SP3”.

National Civil Society Consultation of Togo (CNSC-Togo), Togo

In April and May, CNSC trained chiefs from five traditional regions on procedures for community dialogues and guidelines for the formulation of social contract. The overall objective of the program is to promote peace by training traditional leaders on toolkits for conflict management and resolution.

Turning their attention to the youth, regional workshops on the theme *“Youth and Responsible Citizenship”*

was held in April and May in the Plateau and Kara regions of Togo to sensitize the youth on responsible citizenship and civic participation. The training provided participants with toolkits on the approaches to analyze public policies and take responsive action at the municipal level.

Other News: Election and Governance Related

Sierra Leone:

[Maada Bio was sworn into office as President](#) in April, 2018 moments after the National Election Commission (NEC) declared him winner of the second round elections held in March, 2018.

Few days after taking office, [the President set up a cross party committee to investigate and address post-election violence](#) that erupted between supporters of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the All Peoples Congress (APC) following the declaration of Maada Bio as the winner.

Ghana:

[The President of Ghana on June 28, 2018 dismissed the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission \(EC\) and her two deputies.](#) This followed

recommendations by a committee constituted by the Chief Justice to investigate complaints filed by private citizens.

Fund Raising

The Secretariat in its fund raising quest submitted a revised proposal to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in April, 2018 on the theme “*Engaging WAEON Members on the Increasing Role of Technology in Election Administration*”. The Secretariat received feedback from NED that the initial proposal had gone through to the second stage of the selection process, hence the need to submit a revised proposal.

An attempt was made in May, 2018 on a call issued by the European Union (EU) under the Lot titled “*Increasing the involvement of civil society in preventing electoral violence in eight countries in coastal West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin*”. The Secretariat was, however, unsuccessful in submitting this call.

Upcoming Elections in the West African Sub-Region

- Presidential Elections in Mali – July 29, 2018
- National Assembly Elections in Mali – November 2018

- National Assembly Elections in Guinea – September 2018
- National Assembly and Local Elections in Togo – June or July 2018

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Note to WAEON Members

WAEON Network members are encouraged to submit news entries to the Secretariat for inclusion in the WAEON Newsletter. Kindly send us with your views, comments and suggestions on what could be done to improve the network. The next edition will be released at the end of September 2018. Please send your entries to: info@waeon.org