## Call for ECOWAS reform for democracy and good governance

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS Member Countries,**

**Tournons La Page, WADEMOS** and **AfrikaJom Center**, three organizations committed to the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and good governance in West Africa, send you this letter in recognition of your esteemed role in serving your nations. Your actions are essential for the defence of constitutionalism, the entrenchment of democratic norms and respect for the fundamental rights of the peoples you are called to serve.

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS Member Countries,**

In recent years, we have observed a certain disconnect between ECOWAS and the deep aspirations of the people it is supposed to serve. Repeated political crises, coups d'état (in their various forms), as well as institutional weaknesses have revealed the urgent need to reform this organisation so that it can truly meet the expectations of citizens and strengthen its role as guarantor of democracy, the rule of law and good governance. It is undeniable that the variable geometry application of the Community's texts and the endogenous contradictions have led to a real mistrust of our Community institution. However, the vision of unity, integration and development of peoples that it continues to carry obliges us to do everything possible to restore it to its former glory. That's our mission.

We would like to solemnly invite you to join this collective effort for meaningful reform of ECOWAS. ECOWAS must reform itself and the year of its 50th anniversary is a rare opportunity. Your role as Leader of your countries gives you a historic responsibility and a privileged position to promote these reforms, advocating for a more transparent, responsive and resolute ECOWAS to defend democratic values.

This is a unique opportunity to transform this organization into an institution truly serving the people of West Africa, capable of responding effectively to crises and promoting a more democratic, just and prosperous future for our region.

With this in mind, we will organize on December 13, 2024 in Abuja a day of reflection on the reform of ECOWAS, bringing together former heads of state and civil society organizations. It is a question of civil society and its allies raising the voice of the people for an ECOWAS of the peoples, the culture of democratic devolution of power, the limitation of the terms of office of heads of state and government, justice and equity, respect for human rights, good governance, the rule of law...

In the hope that you will share our vision and that you will lend your precious support to this cause, we ask you to believe, Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, in the expression of our deep consideration.

WADEMOS Tournons La Page AFRIKAJOM CENTER