

# COMMUNIQUE

## PRE-ELECTION MEDIATION MISSION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

7 –11 JULY 2025

1.The West African Elders Forum (WAEF) undertook a five-day pre-election mediation mission to Côte d'Ivoire from Monday, July 7 to Friday, July 11, 2025, ahead of the country's presidential elections scheduled for 25th October 2025.

2.The mission was led by His Excellency Dr. Boni Yayi, former President of the Republic of Benin and accompanied by H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, former President of ECOWAS and former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Prof. Adebayor Olukoshi, Board Member Goodluck Jonathan Foundation and WAEF Secretariat led by Ms Ann Iyonu, the Secretary General.

3.During the mission, the delegation met with key stakeholders, including the Vice President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, the President and members of the Constitutional Council, the Presidents and members of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), political parties and their Presidential Candidates, the Minister of Interior and Security and civil society organisations.

4.The Forum expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm reception accorded to the delegation and appreciates the openness and commitment demonstrated by all stakeholders during the engagements. We especially thank them for sparing time to share insights into the current political environment and the preparations for the upcoming elections.

5.This mission builds on the WAEF Strategy Meeting held in Accra in October 2024, which assessed regional electoral dynamics and developed proactive strategies to preserve democratic gains. The current engagement is a direct outcome of that forward-looking agenda and demonstrates WAEF's commitment to consolidating peace, strengthening democratic processes, and promoting inclusive governance in the subregion.

6.WAEF strongly encourages all stakeholders to maintain open lines of communication, deepen consensus-building efforts, and continue engaging in dialogue in the weeks leading up to the elections. WAEF notes that though the time before the polls is limited, much can still be achieved through collaborative engagement and political will.

7.We welcome the willingness of some actors to enter into meaningful dialogue with the government. We hope that such discussions will yield consensus-driven solutions that prioritise the nation's interests above partisan considerations.

8. The Forum also calls on all political actors, media practitioners, and social influencers to refrain from using hate speech, disseminating misinformation, and employing inflammatory rhetoric. Elections must be contested based on issues, not division or incitement.

9. We recognize the efforts being made by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) and security agencies for their efforts to ensure a credible process and urge them to do more to sustain public communication, transparency and trust. We also appreciate the Constitutional Council for its pivotal role in upholding constitutionalism and safeguarding the rule of law.

10. To the young people of Côte d'Ivoire, WAEF issues this heartfelt appeal: Côte d'Ivoire of today is yours, and what it becomes tomorrow is your responsibility. Do not allow yourselves to be exploited as instruments of communal violence, hatred and instability. Instead, channel your energy toward constructive participation and peaceful engagement to preserve the gains of the present and build a future worthy of your aspirations.

11. The Forum commends Côte d'Ivoire for its notable economic progress over the past few years and urges that this be matched by a commensurate level of political maturity and credible electoral processes. The country should continue to make efforts to finally bring to an end the recurrent pattern of conducting elections under tense and uncertain political climates. Côte d'Ivoire must seize the moment to entrench a culture of peaceful political transitions and reinforce national cohesion.

12. WAEF reaffirms its commitment to accompany Côte d'Ivoire throughout the electoral process, offering its good offices where needed to build consensus and reinforce democratic resilience.

13. Côte d'Ivoire has a unique opportunity to build on the lessons of the past and consolidate its progress. Let us work together to uphold the vision of a peaceful, prosperous Côte d'Ivoire and a stronger democracy for the benefit of both current and future generations in this country and in the entire subregion.

14. I thank you all.

**Signed:**

**H.E. Dr. Thomas Boni Yayi**

President, Republic of Benin (2006 - 2016)

Head of WAEF Delegation

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

