

DECEMBER | 16

**REPORT**  
**SECOND HIGH LEVEL MEETING (HLM 2) OF NATIONAL LEADERS**  
**(ACCRA PEACE ACCORD)**

**MOVENPICK AMBASSADOR HOTEL, ACCRA**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

The historic Kumasi High Level Meeting (HLM 1) of November 2012 delivered the Declaration against *Electoral Violence, Impunity and Injustice*, which the media subsequently re-named the Kumasi Peace Pact. With only a few days to the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 elections the need for a second HLM became compelling. The idea was to create a public space within which leaders of the nation could meet to reason together and provide collective and non-partisan leadership in addressing critical challenges to the nation's democratic stability, peace and unity. One of the crucial moments in which national leaders, drawn from all sectors, should be talking to their peers who are contesting elections is the immediate aftermath of presidential and parliamentary elections. This is the interval between the declaration and the finality of the presidential elections, on the one hand, and preparation towards inauguration of the elected president, on the other.

Experiences from the 2008 and 2012 elections show that communications, consultations and dialogues across institutions, political parties and the public are challenging and tend to breakdown, creating a dangerous vacuum in a highly polarised, partisan and charged situation. Furthermore, the turbulence of our elections together with its threats of violence extends to the post-elections transition period. The rancorous mood of the political and administrative transitions of 2001 and 2009 serve as a strong reminder of the challenges of managing the post-elections situation that are ahead of us. This knowledge and insights informed the need for a collective national leadership skilled in statecraft to work together with the NPC and the NHC in facilitating and coordinating critical communication, consultations and dialogues essential to maintaining peace and stability and the pursuance of justice also in the post-elections period.

Accordingly, the National Peace Council (NPC) and the National House of Chiefs (NHC) in collaboration with the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) convened the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Meeting (HLM) of National Leaders under the theme **“Strengthening Ghana’s Democratic Stability, Peace and Unity”**. The event, which was originally scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup>

November 2016 and at the Great Hall, University of Ghana, Legon, was rescheduled for December 1, 2016 at the Movenpick Ambassador Hotel, Accra.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND HLM**

The second HLM sought to provide a platform for a public re-affirmation of the declaration against electoral violence, impunity and injustice. The specific objectives were to:

- (i) Engage the political parties and their presidential candidates on the *re-affirmation of their commitment to the 'Kumasi Peace Pact'*;
- (ii) Promote the adoption of a roadmap to sustain post-elections political dialogue and consensus on strategic reforms vital to *Strengthening Ghana's democratic stability, peace and unity*; and
- (iii) Launch the process of constituting the collective national leadership and mobilising broad-based public support for their mission to promote clean elections and zero tolerance for rigged elections.

These three objectives informed a draft declaration that the presidential candidates and/or a senior party officer signed to demonstrate their commitment to credible elections, justice and peace and the democratic stability of the nation.

## **3. IDEG'S OBLIGATION TOWARDS THE SECOND HLM**

### ***Technical expertise***

A multidiscipline team of technical experts, made up legal, communications, public policy and political scientists was put together by the IDEG to provide technical backstopping to the NPC in relation to the organization of the HLM. The technical team of experts supported in the preparation of technical papers and documents for briefing sessions and consultation meetings while responding swiftly to technical demands of the HLM.

Series of Technical review meetings made up of Law and marketing experts and subsequent preparation of the HLM II Accra declaration from March to November 2016 (The reports of the various meetings of the technical experts are attached to this report as an appendix).

Also, to get the buy-in of eminent citizens the technical team of experts held Broad based consultations with Political parties, the Chief Justice, Ghana Bar Association, the National Peace Council, Prof. S.K. B Asante, UNDP Resident coordinator, business leaders and the Speaker of Parliament on the HLM II in the month of April to November 2016. Additionally, the technical team had consultations with the Asantehene's office at Manhyia Palace for a possible HLM II to be hosted by him in Kumasi from June 2016.

The Executive Director of IDEG, Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey had breakfast meeting with Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas and Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Ghana on October 31, 2016 at the UN Resident Coordinator's residence. Dr. Akwetey also met and did a PowerPoint presentation at the office of the National Peace Council on November 2, 2016. A number of meetings were also held by the IDEG staff and between the heads of the IDEG and the NPC to brainstorm on the event. On the eve of the second HLM on November 22, 2016, an emergency meeting was held to postpone the second HLM, which was originally scheduled for November 23, 2016.

### **Support services**

In preparation towards the HLM, the IDEG provided support services in the preparation of the HLM concept paper, budgeting, programme development, suggested speakers, consultations with speakers and eminent persons to the NPC. Furthermore, the IDEG collaborated with the NPC to coordinate the HLM among the critical stakeholders and the former Presidents of Ghana. On November 15 2016, the technical team had a meeting with Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and H.E John Agyekum Kufuor at their respective residences. Then on the next day, November 16 2016, the team met with H.E. Jerry John Rawlings at his residence to consult on the second HLM.

The IDEG also worked on the identification and invitation of critical participants for the HLM. On November 4, 2016 the IDEG had a meeting with Mrs Stella Amoa, the Director at the Public Affairs at the University of Ghana to host the second HLM. On November 7, 2016, a lunch working session was held with David Ampofo of Channel Two communications to

advise on the media strategy to be used for the second HLM. This resulted in the organization of a media soiree for Editors and Senior Journalists on November 18, 2016 at the IDEG House to get them acquainted with the purpose and objectives of the second HLM.

#### *Development of the Peace Accord*

The IDEG developed the Peace Accord (Pact) that was adopted and endorsed by the presidential candidates at the HLM. This was adapted using the “2012 Kumasi Peace Pact”, also developed by the IDEG, as a reference document. The legal experts on the technical team was tasked with the drafting of the Declaration, which they did for the event on December 1, 2016.

#### **4. THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING**

On December 1, 2016 the presidential candidates in the 2016 presidential elections and their representatives met at the Movenpick Ambassador Hotel in Accra to re-affirm their commitment against electoral violence, impunity and injustice. The presidential candidates were:

- Ivor Kobina Greenstreet – CPP
- Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings – NDP
- H.E. John Dramani Mahama – NDC, President of the Republic of Ghana
- Dr. Papa Kwesi Nduom – PPP
- Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo – NPP
- Dr. Edward Nasigre Mahama – PNC
- Mr. Jacob Osei Yeboah – Independent Candidate (JOY).

Other eminent persons who addressed the high level meeting included:

- His Eminence Cardinal Peter K. Appiah Turkson, President, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Rome and Former Chair of the National Peace Council
- Madame Josephine Ojiambo-Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General

- Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, UN Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel
- Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and Chair, ECOWAS
- The Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante, Chairman of the National Peace Council (NPC)
- Togbe Afede XIV, the Agbogbomefia of the Asogli State and President of the National House of Chiefs (NHC)

The Most Rev. Emmanuel Asante, in his opening remarks urged the seven presidential candidates to do their best to maintain the peace. He was also of the hope that in the next general elections in 2020, there would not be the need for yet another Peace Pact. The full statement of the Chairman of the NPC is attached as an appendix. Stating his reaffirmation, President Mahama mentioned that the action from the political contenders gives added comfort to the Ghanaian people and guarantees that Ghana will continue in peace and stability. According to President Mahama, Ghana's democracy and progress are too precious to be gambled away on the altar of an unbridled quest to hold onto political power.

In his remarks, Nana Akufo-Addo, the presidential candidate of the main opposition, NPP, bemoaned the prevailing political and security conditions ahead of the 2016 elections. He said that many people do not feel that the security agencies are currently not party-colour blind in performing their duties. According to Nana Akufo-Addo, the situation fuels rumours, which generate anxiety. The government, he said, has a responsibility to move beyond the rhetoric of calling for peace and demonstrate the commitments to ensure the state institutions discharge their duties and professionally and with integrity. He concluded by praying that Ghana retains its position as the shining example in Africa as a peaceful democratic nation.

At the end of the second HLM, all the presidential candidates signed the Accra Peace Accord to re-iterate the commitments that were undertaken in the first HLM in Kumasi, in addition to other commitments as their guiding principles in the 2016 elections. The Hon. Lady Chief Justice of Ghana, Mrs Georgina Theodora Wood, Chairman of the NPC, The Most Rev. Prof Emmanuel Asante and the President of the NHC, Togbe Afede XIV, witnessed the Declaration. A copy of the signed Accra Declaration is attached to this report as an appendix.

## 5. KEY ACHIEVEMENT

The December 2016 elections is considered as the most successful in Ghana's Fourth Republic. There were no recorded incidents of massive electoral violence. There was a smooth transfer of power after the incumbent President conceded to defeat and this time around there were no disputes over the results declared. This feat can largely be attributed to the commitment of the presidential candidates and political parties to ensuring peace before, during and after the elections. The signing of the **Accra Peace Pact** at the high-level meeting on December 1, 2017 convened by the National Peace Council (NPC) and the National House of Chiefs (NHC) with technical backstopping from IDEG contributed significantly to this.

## 6. LESSONS LEARNED

Projects of this nature require timely and adequate funding. The project required high technical expertise, yet this was not adequately recognized and supported. The project also involved collaboration between national and international civil society organizations. However, IDEG and the other collaborating partners did not have MoUs, which was necessary to clarify roles, responsibilities and commitments.

In future collaborations therefore, IDEG should insist on concluding an MoU with other domestic and international stakeholders engaged in a project of this nature to ensure clarity in the definition of roles, responsibilities and commitments. Furthermore, there should be a strong and urgent advocate for the adequate funding for technical expertise required to deliver complex projects like the high level meeting convened in election years.

## 7. CHALLENGES

A number of challenges were faced towards the planning and execution of the second HLM. Key amongst these challenges were the attitudes and behaviours of some collaborators, which posed a threat to the holding of the event. Furthermore, late disbursement and inadequate funds constrained effective implementation of the project including responding to emergent issues in a timely manner. Moreover, understaffing of the project and



underfunding of technical expertise undermined forward-looking planning and execution of project activities. There were situations where coordination of CSO activities was weak, resulting in duplication and conflicts in the scheduling of activities, especially as they all targeted the same audience.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The second high level meeting of national leaders also known as the Accra Peace Pact, provided a platform for the presidential candidates in the 2016 elections to exhibit to Ghanaians their commitment to peace, justice and democratic principles. The proceedings, which was broadcast live to the entire nation by the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) together with private television and radio stations, restored some hope and confidence in the ability of the Ghanaian democracy to rise up to the occasion when necessary. An audience of about 15 million people from all over the country and across the world witnessed the signing of the declaration. In the end, Ghanaian democracy was taken a notch higher.

**APPENDICES**  
**Appendix I**

# NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



## ACCRA DECLARATION

### A COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL ELECTIONS AND JUDICIAL RESOLUTION OF ELECTION DISPUTES

1. We, the Presidential Candidates and our Political Parties of Ghana's December 2016 elections, having met at the Movempick Ambassador Hotel, Accra at the instance of the National Peace Council, with the objective to secure our total commitment to peaceful elections and commitment to judicial resolution of election disputes in the December 2016 elections;

2. Recollecting the Kumasi Declaration which was signed by the Presidential Candidates of the 2012 elections committing themselves to "TAKING A STAND AGAINST ELECTORAL VIOLENCE, IMPUNITY AND INJUSTICE IN GHANA;"

3. Taking cognizance of the significant impact of the Kumasi Declaration on the peaceful management of the election related disputes that followed the 2012 elections;


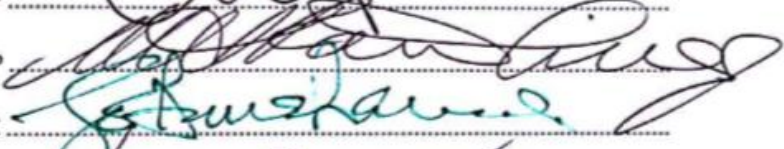
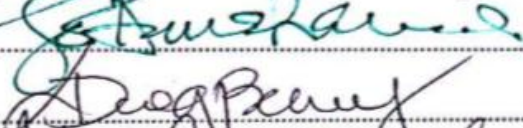
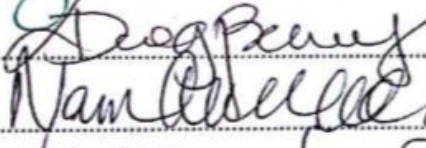
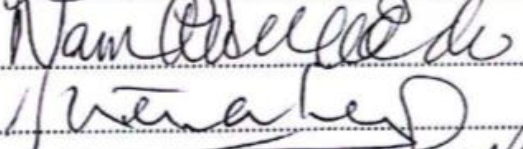
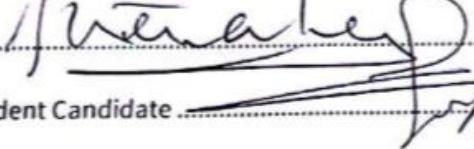

4. Conscious of the fact that the struggle among the various political parties and the Presidential Candidates over the votes of the people in the impending December 2016 elections have continued paradoxically to generate fear and apprehensions among the very same people whose votes the struggle is over;

5. We, being very determined to avoid a situation in which the elections could degenerate into violence and therefore draw our beloved nation into the throes of disruption and destruction as has been witnessed in a number of other African countries, WE DO HEREBY REITERATE THE COMMITMENTS THAT WERE UNDERTAKEN IN THE KUMASI DECLARATION, IN ADDITION TO OTHER COMMITMENTS, AS OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN THE 2016 ELECTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

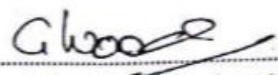
- That we hereby commit ourselves and supporters to peaceful elections in the December 2016 elections.
- That we undertake to accept the results of the elections and concede to the winner accordingly.
- That we are committed to the judicial resolution of election disputes.
- That we hereby take a definitive stand against electoral violence, impunity and injustice in our beloved nation Ghana because these acts are detrimental to the peace, welfare and sustained development of the people of Ghana.
- That electoral violence, impunity and injustice are not challenges whose persistence cannot be effectively stopped through our collective leadership efforts. Therefore, we are committed to leading a national process of reducing their recurrence in the short term, aiming to systematically eradicate them in the medium to long term.


- That ahead of the forthcoming elections on December 7, 2016, we shall forcefully and publicly speak out against all acts of electoral violence, impunity and injustice, whether perpetrated by the members of our political parties or our political rivals, and will seek to collaborate with the Police Service and allied law enforcement agencies to professionally discharge their duties without fear or favour.
- That we shall conduct our political campaigns in such a manner that the ability of the Police or other security agencies to perform their roles and duties in enforcing the law and maintaining law and order will not be hindered whatsoever whether at the polling station, constituency, community, district, regional or national levels.
- That we shall intensify and expand the scope of our civic and elections education activities such that the awareness and understanding of our members of the relevant electoral laws and the normative codes of conduct will improve. We shall also see to the strengthening of the policy and institutional capacities of our political parties so that internal compliance with the electoral laws and normative codes of conduct ratified by our political parties will be stronger and become widespread.
- That we pledge to hold ourselves mutually accountable as peers, especially, in promoting effective political leadership of the campaign against electoral violence, impunity and injustice.

Adopted at ..... on December 1, 2016 by the Presidential Candidates:

- 1. CPP ..... 
- 2. NDP ..... 
- 3. NDC ..... 
- 4. PPP ..... 
- 5. NPP ..... 
- 6. PNC ..... 
- 7. Independent Candidate ..... 

Witnessed by:

  
**Mrs Georgina Theodora Wood**  
 The Hon. Lady Chief Justice of Ghana

  
**Most Rev Prof Emmanuel Asante**  
 Chairman, National Peace Council

  
**Togbe Afede XIV**  
 President of the National House of Chiefs



## Appendix II



### TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

#### REPORT

August 11, 2016

#### 1. Introduction

On Thursday, August 11, 2016 members of the Technical Advisory panel met to review the papers prepared for the Democratic Devolution brochure. The meeting was part of a series of technical preparations and review meetings towards the preparation of background documents and materials on democratic devolution for IDEG's regional tour and retreat under the Institute's Strategic Actions Project.

#### AGENDA

- To discuss the draft document on democratic devolution
- To discuss the upcoming roundtable workshop on Democratic devolution
- To discuss the upcoming public lecture on Democratic devolution and
- To discuss the upcoming regional outreach on Democratic Devolution.

#### 2. Proceedings

##### Draft document on democratic devolution

A brief overview was given on the structure of the paper, "Reforming Ghana's Local Government system through Democratic Devolution of the Executive power". The paper explained that devolving the Executive arm of government is the solution to curbing the duopolistic nature of the Ghana's political system and resolving the conflicts and violence surrounding elections. However, Mr. Jonah argued that looking at Kenya's experience of democratic devolution, it did not permanently

eliminate conflicts surrounding elections likewise Uganda and hence the paper needs to be repackaged by not over emphasizing on duopoly and Peace for Democratic Devolution. In order to obtain a comprehensive paper, it was agreed that the various components of the paper should be synchronized focusing on the following benefits of democratic devolution;

- i. Accountability
- ii. Participation and inclusiveness
- iii. Improvement in Public service delivery

### 3. Upcoming roundtable discussion on Democratic Devolution

A technical roundtable discussion was proposed for Thursday, August 25, 2016. A few resource persons with expertise in local government were proposed for the roundtable discussion.

The participants in the technical roundtable workshop are:

- Dr Emmanuel Akwetey – IDEG
- Major General Nii Carl Coleman – IDEG/CFI
- Mr Kwesi Jonah – IDEG
- Professor S.N Woode – IDEG
- Mr Ewald Quaye Garr – IDEG
- Mr Patrick Okine – IDEG
- Mr Benjamin Danso – IDEG
- Mr Isaac Haruna – IDEG
- Professor Kofi Quashigah – University of Ghana Law School
- Dr Peter Atupare – University of Ghana Law School
- Dr Kobby Mensah – University of Ghana Business School
- Dr Abdul Gafaru – University of Ghana Business School
- Dr Callistus Mahama – Head, Local Government Service
- Dr Offei Aboagye – Deputy Chair of NDPC
- Dr Eric Osae – Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS)
- Dr Kyei Baffour – Former Head of National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG)
- Dominic Azumah – Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Local Government and Rural Development

The roundtable workshop will aim at soliciting expert comments and inputs into the paper to enrich the final output.

#### **4. Regional Outreach**

A planned regional outreach has been scheduled in September 2016. There will be two teams that will tour the ten regions of Ghana concurrently. The movement of the would however be preceded by an advance party that will prepare the grounds for the arrival of the teams in the regions. A debriefing meeting will be held at an announced date to prepare both the advance commencement of the regional tour.

#### **5. Action Points**

- The draft document should be revised in light of the comments and inputs of the technical experts and shared by the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to allow them prepare for the technical roundtable on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.
- Start preparations for a technical roundtable on August 25, 2016
- Share with the technical team the members of the two teams and the schedule of the regional tour for adequate preparations

**Members Present:**

	Name	Organisation	Position in Organization	Gender		Contact number	E-mail.
				M	F		
1	Patrick Okine	IDEG	Media Consultant	M		0242934830	prolynkmedia@yahoo.com
2	Mr. Kofi Awity	IDEG	Director of Operations	M		0244273798	kawity@ideg.org
3	Mr. Kwesi Jonah	IDEG	Senior Research Fellow	M		0202472771	kwesijonah@ideg.org
4	Pearl Buxton	IDEG	Programs Assistant	F		0242270689	pbuxton@ideg.org
5	Isaac Haruna	IDEG	Research and Advocacy officer	M		0546388360	<a href="mailto:ikeziyaba@yahoo.com">ikeziyaba@yahoo.com/</a> iharuna@ideg.org
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12	Yvonne Boateng	IDEG/CFI	Media and Communications	F		0244851674	ybaoteng@ideg.org



## **Appendix III**

### **Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)**

#### **Review Meeting on Draft Democratic Devolution Advocacy Paper**

**13/10/2016**

#### **Introduction**

On Thursday, October 13 2016, a meeting was convened in the IDEG Boardroom to review the draft Democratic Devolution Advocacy Paper. The following are the outcomes and recommendations from the meeting for the attention of the consultant.

The Content of the paper should be as follows:

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. The Evolution and Nature of the Current Local Government System**
- 3. The Persistence Threat of Electoral Violence and the Imperative of Local Government Reforms**
- 4. Popular Demands**
- 5. Political Parties' Responses**
- 6. Arguments for the Review of the Current Law on Decentralization**
- 7. The Cost-Benefit Analysis of Democratic Devolution**
- 8. Rebuttals tor the Costs of Democratic Devolution**
- 9. IDEG's Proposal**
- 10. Suggested Roadmap to Political Dialogue and Constitutional Amendment (2017-2021)**

### **1. The evolution and nature of the current local government system**

This section should capture the nature of the problem and include a clear definition of democratic devolution and the characterization of the Ghanaian democracy from the time decentralization was introduced till date. The section should also contain an analysis of the changes in status of Ghanaian citizenship pre and post 1992. Pre 1992, the political arrangement required citizens to be politically neutral and were not supposed to be loyal to political parties. However, the coming into force of the 1992 constitution changed the status of the Ghanaian citizen due to the fact that the post 1992 era is the era of multiparty democracy. Participation by citizens is therefore required in this era. Therefore, not allowing citizens to participate in the democratic process at the local level is inconsistent with the current status of the Ghanaian citizen.

### **2. The persistence threat of electoral violence and the imperative of local government reforms**

The fundamental reason why IDEG has been advocating for local government reforms is the persistence threat of electoral violence due to the emergence of a duopoly of political parties and the inability of the winner takes all system framework to contain the dynamics of the new power structure. This forms the basis for IDEG's call for local government reforms and this analysis is missing from the paper.

### **3. Popular Demands**

The section on “The Kind of Change (Political System) People are Demanding now” lumps both what citizens have been demanding for and the responses of political parties to the demands relative to local government reforms. However, what the people are asking for are not necessarily what the political parties are responding to. For example, the main reason why the political parties want local government reforms is accountability whereas the people want to dismantle the winner-takes-all system and the enormous power it gives to the executive. To show this disconnect, the section has to be broken into two parts – a section on ‘Popular Demands’ and a different section on Political Parties Responses’.

The section on Popular demands should provide a difference between decentralization, de-concentration and devolution to serve as a background to the kind of local government reform people are demanding for.

Also, on page five (5) under the section on “The Kind of Change (Political System) People are Demanding now”, the recommendation of the CRC was for the amendment of Article 248 (non-entrenched provisions) and Article 55 (entrenched provisions) of the Constitution and not only Article 248 as mentioned in the third paragraph on page five (5).

#### **4. The cost-benefit analysis of democratic devolution**

For objectivity, honesty and balance, it was recommended that a section on the cost-benefit analysis of democratic should be added to the paper. This will show awareness of the dangers and risks of democratic devolution. The costs may be categorized and discussed under:

- **Economic** – e.g. how expensive the reform could be
- **Political** – e.g. the possibility of sabotage in cases where the District Chief Executive and the president are from different parties
- **Social** – e.g. ethnic marginalization due to devolution. One apprehension of devolution the paper should address is tension among different ethnic groups especially in localities with multiple ethnic groups.

After the cost-benefit analysis, the next section should be offer rebuttals to the costs mentioned in the previous section. For example, the rebuttal for the social cost should emphasize the fact that a multiparty party bases local government would solve this because political parties are supposed to be national in nature. The paper should emphasize that the focus of devolution is citizenship (the Ghanaian) and not ethnicity and that citizenship is the overriding principle in a democratically devolved system.

#### **5. Suggested Roadmap to Political Dialogue and Constitutional Amendment (2017-2021)**

The section ‘Constitutional Amendment Needed to Effect the Changes Outlined Above’ should rather read ‘**Suggested Roadmap to Political Dialogue and Constitutional Amendment (2017-2021)**’. The Roadmap should thus consist of:

1. Commitment to a dialogue on constitutional amendment process
2. Continuation of the constitutional amendment process (Bill(s))
3. Reaffirming commitment to the 2012 peace pact (Kumasi Declaration)

4. Amending the Constitution through a two-thirds majority of the Parliamentarians or 75% of the people's referendum.

## Appendix IV

### SECOND HIGH LEVEL MEETING (HLM 2) OF NATIONAL LEADERS:

**Synopsis:** The National Peace Council (NPC) and the National House of Chiefs (NHC) in collaboration with the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Accra, and the University of Ghana, Legon, are jointly convening the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Meeting (HLM) of National Leaders under the theme **“Strengthening Ghana’s Democratic Stability, Peace and Unity”**. The event is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 and at the Great Hall, University of Ghana, Legon.

The historic Kumasi High Level Meeting (HLM 1) of November 2012 delivered the Declaration against *Electoral Violence, Impunity and Injustice*, which the media subsequently re-named the Kumasi Peace Pact. It is widely acknowledged that the Peace Pact also spurred the 2012 presidential election petition and the Supreme Court’s subsequent verdict of August 2013. Barely three weeks to the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 elections another HLM is needed, albeit for reasons that build on the foundation laid in Kumasi.

The concept this time around is to create public space for leaders of the nation to meet, reason together and provide collective and non-partisan leadership in addressing critical challenges to the nation’s democratic stability, peace and unity. The crucial and immediate post-elections moments occur within the interval between the declaration and finality of the presidential elections results in particular and inauguration of the elected president.

Experiences from the 2008 and 2012 elections show that communications, consultations and dialogues across institutions, political parties and the public tend to breakdown in those sensitive moments, creating a dangerous vacuum in a highly polarised, partisan and charged situation. That insight informs the need for a collective national leadership skilled in statecraft to work together with the NPC in facilitating and coordinating critical communication, consultations and dialogues essential to maintaining peace and stability and the pursuance of justice in the post-elections period.

This second HLM therefore seeks to (i) launch the process of constituting the collective national leadership and mobilising broad-based public support for their mission to promote clean elections and zero tolerance for rigged elections; (ii) promote the adoption of a roadmap to sustain post-elections political dialogue and consensus on strategic reforms vital to *Strengthening Ghana’s democratic stability, peace and unity*; and (iii) engage the political parties and their presidential candidates on the re-affirmation of their commitment to the ‘Kumasi Peace Pact’.

The proceedings of the HLM would be broadcast live to the entire country by the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) together with private television and radio stations and an audience of up to 1,500 participants from all over the country is expected. Kindly find attached for both your information and inputs a draft outline of the HLM program with the names of eminent national leaders who have been invited to the event.

## Appendix V



### **Report on a Technical Meeting on the Second High Level Meeting of National Leaders**

**17/11/2016**

#### **1. Introduction**

On Thursday November 17, 2016, a technical meeting was held at the IDEG House to discuss preparatory works towards the second national high level meeting of national leaders. Present at the meeting were The Most Reverend Emmanuel Asante, Chair of the National Peace Council, Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey, Executive Director of the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) and Prof. Kofi Quashigah and Dr. Peter A. Atupare, both of the University of Ghana School of Law.

The issues discussed at the meeting included the drafting of the Declaration to be signed by the political parties and restructuring of the draft programme outline for the high level meeting.

#### **2. The Declaration**

It was agreed at the meeting that Prof. Quashigah and Dr. Atupare should draft the Declaration with the 2012 Declaration as a guiding document. It was also agreed that copies of the Declaration should be shared with the political parties ahead of the high level meeting. This would reduce the amount of time spent on negotiating the wording of the Declaration.

The Declaration should also mention local government reform as the strategic reform that requires constitutional amendment instead of on the entire amendment because that speaks to a much bigger issue that has not been resolved.

On the issue of peace and stability, it is a matter of reaffirming the peace pact in Kumasi. This should be easy to convince the political parties to do since they had earlier done this in 2012. It was also agreed that the roadmap to constitutional amendment should be embedded in the declaration.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Chief Justice should oversee the signing of the Declaration since it is an oath.

### **3. Programme Outline**

On the programme outline, it was agreed that the seventh part should be where the party leaders have to tell the nation on how they will work to strengthen peace and stability. After their addresses, they would then be asked to sign the Declaration.

### **4. Rationale for Making Political Parties Sign the Declaration**

Unlike the first high level meeting in 2012 where the presidential candidates of the political parties signed the declaration, the second high level summit will have the elected officials of the political parties sign the Declaration. The rationale for this is that when the presidential candidates lose elections, the party officials take over the running of the party and any agreement entered into by an elected official of the party is binding. This arrangement is in accordance with the political party act that says that for any agreement to be legally binding on a political party, the agreement must be endorsed by an elected official of the party. The framing of the Declaration should therefore emphasize that it is a “**presidential candidate/party elected officer**” that is authorized to sign the Declaration.

Consequently, it was agreed that Dr. Atupare should draft a statement that captures this for the Chief Justice to read before the signing of the Declaration. This also has to be explained at the press conference which is to be held before the high level meeting takes place.

### **5. Handling public expectation**

The decision to make elected officials of political parties sign the Declaration has to be explained to the public who are expecting to see presidential candidates instead of party officials sign the Declaration. It is a shift that needs to be explained to the public because the effect of the document would be defective when the public are not made to understand. It has to be explained to the public that it is a much bigger commitment because the parties sign and not just the presidential candidates.

## **6. Keynote Speakers**

It was agreed that Dr. S.K.B. Asante should be added to the keynote speakers as a representative of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. It was also advised that a letter should be sent to Kofi Annan to get his commitment to not only attend the high level meeting but also to address the gathering as a keynote speaker. In the case where Kofi Annan attends the meeting, it was agreed that he would replace Dr. Ibn Chambas as a keynote speaker while Dr. Chambas will deliver a goodwill message.

## **7. Action Point**

- Prof. Quashigah and Dr. Atupare to submit the draft Declaration and the write-up for the Chief Justice by **Saturday 19/11/2016**



## **Appendix VI**

### **WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE MOST REVEREND PROFESSOR EMMANUEL ASANTE, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL (NPC).**

#### **A PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION OF THE DECLARATION AGAINST ELECTORAL VIOLENCE, IMPUNITY AND INJUSTICE**

Today's event is a key component of the High Level Meeting of November 2016 that had to be postponed to provide more time for all the presidential candidates to participate. The National Peace Council (NPC) and the National House of Chiefs (NHC) are indeed happy that purpose has been fulfilled by this very gathering. All the presidential candidates are with us here but so are national leaders, members of the diplomatic call, representative of international organizations and eminent citizens who have come to witness this brief meeting with the presidential candidates which the NPC and the NHC expect to end happily with the signing of the Accra Declaration

But to go further let me first acknowledge and thank our institutional collaborators of the high level meeting whose representative were:

- i. The Vice Chancellor of the UG
- ii. The Executive Director of IDEG

As the Chair of the NPC and together with my members, we wish to thank IDEG and the executive director for supporting the work of the NPC in a consistent, strategic and exemplary manner since December 2008

The NPC is grateful for the support that has been given to it so far to enable it to convene the presidential candidates in such a short time today. Let me also thank the national house of chiefs whose immediate past President and newly elected President are both with us in this hall for their collaboration with the NPC in our common quest to strengthen Ghana's democratic stability, peace and unity. Indeed Otumfour Osei Tutu II was one of the key

conveners of the November 2012 High Level Meeting (HLM) in Kumasi and played the host of the meeting. We all know he is bereaved and therefore unable to participate in this important meeting which he had looked forward to and also worked hard to bring together. We are grateful to him and we believe he will follow the proceedings.

The Accra Declaration, which will soon be signed this morning, has undoubtedly been inspired by our belief that our leaders, political and across all sectors, are collectively united in doing everything possible for credible election, justice, peace and unity.

This accord is indeed anchored in the Kumasi Peace Pact which was the declaration against electoral violence , impunity, and injustice. That declaration served as bedrock to the peaceful management and resolution of the challenges that occurred over the results of the 2012 presidential elections. It was a public manifestation of the commitment of our political leaders to the freedom and justice, peace and unity and prosperity of this beautiful nation of ours. We are brothers and sisters and we are all aware that there is so much we have to do to deepen that unique and invaluable relationship. That indeed is a long term project. But the most important thing is that we must first of all accomplish our immediate goal which is to ensure that the 2016 presidential and parliamentary election will be clean, credible, free and fair and devoid of any violence localized or widespread.

To achieve this goal, we need our leaders or presidential candidates to reaffirm their commitment to the principles they adopted in Kumasi under the Kumasi Peace Pact. This is the reason why we are here. In a short while we will be hearing from our leaders and I believe that they will be speaking from their hearts and minds as they demonstrate collective commitment to work hard for Ghana and serve the nation's interest to the best of their abilities.

As Peace Council, we have met the leaders, talked to the political party leaders. We know a lot is expected of us and for our part we are committed to doing so in this election and beyond. The peace council wishes all us gathered here will support and work together with our presidential candidates, the electoral commission, the CSOs, the International missions, the security forces and indeed all the people of Ghana to ensure that this election will be the

best peaceful and credible election we have ever had. It is not beyond us to achieve this goal and we all have to work extremely hard to achieve this. This will require that we declare zero tolerance of any attempt to undermine the integrity of the election and the credibility of its results which must be seen to be so by every Ghanaian. We are confident today's event will inspire the nation and assure everyone that our leaders are committed to freedom and justice and indeed the peace and unity that our forefathers fought for on our behalf and that of posterity.

Ghana's democratic peace and unity is vital and let's all do the right thing to secure this. Finally let me thank the United Nations and also the missions to Ghana as well as the special representative of the UN Secretary General responsible for West Africa and the Sahel for supporting the peace council in convening this meeting as well as the HLM that was to take place in the University of Ghana, Legon. We look forward to the support of the diplomatic missions and the international organizations and all other well-wishers of Ghana as we continue with our efforts to improve the condition for strengthening Ghana's democratic stability, peace and unity after the forthcoming elections.

Our singular hope is that this will be the last time we gather to sign peace pact and that our efforts now and after the election should lead us to a more confident place where in 2020 election and beyond, violence and impunity will not be the reason we gather. Thank you very much