The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in collaboration with Centre for Democracy and Development and West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) organised a Civil Society Stakeholders’ Consultative Meeting on Arresting the Drift towards Chaos in Nigeria. The meeting aimed at identifying challenges and devising holistic and appropriate measures to curb the growing threats to the peace and security in the country.

After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the participants observed and recommended as follows:

**Observations**

1. In Nigeria, the volatile democracy accompanied by increasingly unemployment rate and chronic poverty level has exacerbated varying degree of insecurity which continues to frustrate efforts at achieving peaceful and secured society.

2. Insecurity thrives more in corrupt and poorly governed environments with weak institutions.

3. While brinkmanship as a deliberate political strategy in electoral politics or diplomatic negotiation, the present deployment of brinkmanship primarily in pursuit of self-interest by political saboteur, if not promptly addressed through appropriate holistic measures by relevant authorities will fuel unwary electoral violence before, during and after elections at all levels.
4. The wrong use of brinkmanship in the country, if not rigorously checkmated may provide a breeding ground for “do or die” politics leveraged by ethno-religious and political demagogues in pursuit of selfish political gains,

5. The emerging use of false news as a political bargain in Nigeria's politics remains a threat to democracy and social integration, constituting potential element for electoral violence.

6. The existing partisan alliance and widespread division among civil society groups in the country frustrate effort to building formidable synergy against political instability

7. Widespread perception of marginalisation and inequality in the country provides enabling ground for manipulative contents by unprofessional media outfits and desperate politicians as a medium to satisfy selfish agenda at the detriment of larger citizens.

8. The growing culture of partisanship, self-censorship and sensational reporting of political events by the traditional and new media pave way for unprofessionalism in news coverage, content generation and reporting.

9. 

We recommended as follows:

1. Appropriate Measures by civil society groups through productive community based engagement and building active citizenship to raise massive public awareness against the impacts of “do or die” politics and discourage hate speech as a contributory factor to electoral violence across the country.

2. Formulation, adoption and strict compliance to the electoral code of conducts like “Peace Accord” by various political parties will help to avert element of bloody political strategies and “do or die” politics in the country

3. Creating formidable and productive means of civil engagement through advocacy and public enlightenment irrespective of individual’s religious and
political disparity will help to discourage precarious elements for “do or die” politics.

4. Assessing the activities and performance of the agencies of socialisation including religious institutions in the country as a baseline to strengthen individual orientation and re-orientation.

5. Strengthening the powers and mandates of electoral institutions at all levels through coordinated engagements by civil society groups advocating for the accelerated establishment of electoral offences commission to achieve strong and reliable institutions to effectively man peaceful and credible electoral process.

6. Mainstreaming peace building in Nigeria’s educational curricula to inculcate importance of peaceful building and peaceful coexistence in the formal wall.

7. Collective effort by the state and non-state actors to promote individual orientation and re-orientation with sustained public education to mitigate unwary response to false news and hate speech.

8. Building synergy among civil society groups to advance unified and holistic recommendations to address the growing political instability in the country.

9. Interrogating security vote and correcting the states’ understating on the use of security forces in advancing sustainable peace and security.

10. Drastic effort by relevant authorities to eradicate chronic poverty in the country through appropriate deployment of education, youth employment, security and infrastructural facilities as tools to engage developmental crisis.

Signed:

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