COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR “RESPONSE NETWORKS” ON EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE, ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC)/TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL IN NIGERIA (TI-NIGERIA) WITH SUPPORT FROM OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION AFRICA (OSF-AFRICA) HELD AT CITY GREEN HOTEL, ADAMAWA STATE ON 25TH OCTOBER, 2023.

PREAMBLE:

CISLAC/TI-Nigeria with support from Open Society Foundation Africa (OSF-Africa) organised a one-day Capacity Building for “Response Networks” on Early Warning and Early Response. The Workshop aimed at building the capacity of the response institutions within the state for more collaboration, communication, coordination and collective support for early warning and conflict prediction mechanisms. There was an Opening Remark from the Executive Director of CISLAC/TI-Nigeria, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani). The Workshop had a technical session with presentation titled: Guidance and Good Practices towards Effective Response to Early Warning Signals by Danjuma Mohammed. It was attended by over 20 participants including Security Agencies, persons with disabilities and Community Observers. After brainstorming exhaustively on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

OBERVATIONS:

1. Continuous intrusion into Adamawa state by foreigners from neighbouring countries, the growing activities of “Shilla boys”, evolving threat of “marlian gang” illicit drugs and substance abuse, theft and looting of palliatives, sexual and gender based violence, kidnapping, farmer-herder clashes, communal crisis as well as insurgency are identified threat signals bedevilling security in Adamawa state.

2. As part of the effort to curtail the growing security threats in the state, Adamawa State Government has devised several measures and initiatives like assented Act establishing Peace Commission, ongoing legislative effort at institutionalising community policing groups, among others.

3. Inadequate comprehensive provisions on dedicated structure, funding and operational modalities of Early Warning and Early Response in
Adamawa State Peace Commission Law is a major impediment to the coordinated activities, information sharing and response to threat signals.

4. Informal community-level monitoring remains the most effective conflict monitoring, for its capacity to assess the value of information and feedback generation to the appropriate authority.

5. Conflict signals are triggered by various indicators including structural, proximate and accelerated development.

6. Early Warning is necessitated by the need to proactively address the fundamental causes of conflict through proactive information gathering, reporting and timely response.

7. Inadequate funding, lack of synergy and inter-agency rivalry among response institutions competing for scarce resources hamper adequate coordination and response to warning signals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We the participants recommended as follows:

1. Immediate amendment to the Law establishing Adamawa State Peace Commission to provide comprehensive provisions to institutionalise a coordinated/dedicated structure, funding and activate operational activities of Early Warning and Early Response system.

2. Efficient monitoring of Early Warning signals through systematic information gathering, data structuring, observation, documentation and communication to aid accurate reporting that elicits timely response.

3. Harmonise and integrate the existing community monitoring system into a coordinated structure to consolidate information provision and synergised response.

4. Integrate the needs and peculiarities of the vulnerable groups in potential planning, structure and process of Early Warning and Early Response system, to ensure inclusive intervention.
5. Trust building in intelligence gathering, and information sharing to restore synergy in functionality of early warning early response system.

6. Leverage the critical role of traditional institutions in Early Warning system to enhance conflict-sensitivity and community-oriented information provision on Early Warning signals.

7. Adequate resource allocation to response agencies, particularly Nigeria Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, and other security apparatus to enhance their operational efficiency and functionality.

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. Vigilante group will engage members to build synergy toward EWER mechanism.
2. Nigeria Civilian Security Council- NCSC to raise awareness among members on lessons learnt; and encourage collaboration
3. Community Peace Practitioners- CPP will work towards building synergy among response agencies
4. Adamawa State Government to open discussion around harmonisation of vigilante and security agencies and issues of funding
5. NSCDC to cascade early warning early response sensitisation programmes among members and communities in Adamawa State.
6. Adamawa State House of Assembly (Committee on Security) to enhance collaboration with stakeholders on EWER
7. NDLEA to submit communiqué to the agency for prompt action
8. DSS to liaise with personnel across Local Governments in the state to reawaken the security consciousness of locals in the state to improve intelligence gathering.
9. Advocacy Nigeria and other Community Observers to maintain monthly interface with response network
Signed

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