

Africa Region

Report to the Board of Directors – September 2019

Like other regions of the WACC family, a new regional executive was elected on February 8, 2019 during our regional assembly held online. The following new officer emerged after the election:

Chair: Mathilde Kpalla (Togo)

Vice Chair: Cesar Ahouantchede (Benin)

Secretary: Lekan Otufodunrin (Nigeria)

Treasurer: Adeline Nsimire (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Alternates: Mokoko Mbue (Cameroon), Josephine Malimukono (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Simeon Havyarimana (Burundi)

The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary who served in the previous executive were re-elected for a second term.

The assembly agreed on the following programme and activities for 2019 which we have been doing our best to implement.

Ok welcome to Africa, when hearing other regions I can find similar situations. W've been struggling with a lot of issues, due to instability throughout the continent. And many countries still under difficult situations and in accessing their elementary rights.

Regionally freedom of expression is still a myth. FOR MANY REASONS (political influence and the lack of journalist professionalism.

The incorrect use of social media is also a challenge in Africa. The use of it without any responsibility as far as wrong informations that are being circulated. And fortunately for politicians and unfortunately for populations, it became a way for manipulation.

Good governance is also a challenge, because the bad governance is tackling efforts in promoting rights and justice.

Terrorists' attacks have continued especially in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Burkina Faso, while Xenophobic attacks in South Africa, mainly attacks on some black foreigners from Nigeria and others have a become a major cause for concern and threatening diplomatic relations.

Activities

In term of activities that have been carried out,

Three corporate members in the region have just completed a Monitoring media reportage and portrayal of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa: Case studies from Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya project supported by WACC and OPM.

Collaboration: Based on the experience of implementation of media monitoring project by corporate member, Journalists for Christ International Outreach in Nigeria, we are exploring opportunities for collaboration that can be extended across partners. An updated list of members in Africa is being compiled to decide on areas of collaboration. We hope to have joint proposals for projects and implementation.

There is a follow up project on IDPs to be implemented by Journalists for Christ.

Membership Issue

As other region the issue of Membership is still a big challenge. Ways to attract new members and to maintain current ones are thin. However some actions are proposed like having:

Communication Day: We agreed to mark Communication Day or Week in our countries. WACC AR should be informed of major issues in our countries that may require statements for publication. The Day will be held before the end of the year.

National Activities: We are also promoting national activities for better visibility and relevance of WACC in our countries. The reports of the IDP media monitoring were presented at event attended by members and stakeholders in Nigeria, Kenya and

Congo DRC. Other advocacy efforts are still on with the media, governments, support agencies and the affected persons.

We have since created a WhatsApp group, now have a Twitter handle @waccafrica and facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/WACC-Africa> for better communication and sharing of our activities and other relevant information.

The President and Secretary are participating in the YenKasa Working Group which is a new partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) that gives us the opportunity to share what organizations and individuals are doing to make a difference in the lives of small-scale farmers across Africa.

.

Proposal for future

Empowering in good governance and Peace

The continent has continued to cope with various issues and challenges which more than ever before require all communicators to deploy necessary skills to ensure good governance and peace.