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## PRESS STATEMENT

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### **CDD-GHANA PARTNERS WITH SIDA TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN WEST AFRICA**

The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) have entered into a new partnership to establish a transnational democracy solidarity network, to be known as West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network ("WADEMOS").

The purpose of the Network is to mobilize, coordinate, and leverage the collective power of pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities in West Africa, to address the erosion of democracy in the Sub-region. The Network, therefore, seeks to advance, defend, and reinvigorate democratic norms and reforms in the Sub-region.

The WADEMOS project, which is funded by SIDA, will be implemented in two phases over a three-year period. The first phase focuses on the formation of the Network and the design of a joint Civil Society Organization (CSO) strategy to respond to the democratic setback in the region. During this phase, CDD-Ghana will collaborate with Network Partners to organize convenings and programs to reflect on significant democracy milestones in the Sub-region such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Democracy and Governance. Phase II of the project will focus on implementing the various components of the Strategy agreed with Network Partners in Phase I.

"I am excited about this new CDD-Ghana-led initiative as it seeks to address the problem of democratic backsliding in West Africa," said Professor H. Kwasi Prempeh, Executive Director of CDD-Ghana. The project will be implemented through the mobilization and support of pro-democracy civil society and social movements in the region, as well as collective civil society engagement with regional bodies and national authorities to advance democracy and constitutionalism, he added."

It is expected that by the end of the three-year period, there will be a strengthened WADEMOS relationship with regional bodies, such as the ECOWAS, to enforce the compliance of protocols on democracy and good governance; strengthened cooperation and coordination amongst various CSOs in the region to champion the protection of democratic norms and values, and sustained activism by young people, women, voluntary groups and the creative industry to defend democracy, amongst others. These expectations are inextricably linked to the areas

where SIDA's work is most focused and contributes largely to their mandate for democracy, human rights, and gender equality.

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### **About CDD-Ghana**

With a mission to promote and deepen democratic consolidation, good governance, and inclusive growth and development, the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) works to support and promote a free, peaceful, and well-governed democracy in Ghana and other parts of Africa. The Center has over two decades of experience, expansive reach, and a robust network of partners at the national, continental, and global levels. CDD-Ghana has cultivated an enduring reputation as a leader in democracy and governance, which enables the adoption and implementation of targeted strategies to address the fundamental issues hindering citizens from enjoying the full benefits democracy and good governance have to offer.

### **About Sida**

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs that works to reduce poverty and oppression around the world. In cooperation with organizations, government agencies, and the private sector, Sida invests in sustainable development for all people.

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