JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON HERDER-FARMER CONFLICT IN GHANA, HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2026 IN ACCRA, UNDER THE THEME "STRENGTHENING PEACEFUL FARMER-HERDER RELATIONS THROUGH CONFLICT-SENSITIVE JOURNALISM AND INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE."

We, representatives of the farmers' associations, the Fulbe community, security services, media organisations, civil society and peacebuilding institutions, having participated in the National Dialogue convened by the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP);

Recognising the longstanding relationships between two cultural livelihood groups – crop farmers and herders – and the growing challenges associated with competition over land, water and grazing resources, climate change, insecurity and unresolved grievances;

Acknowledging Ghana's existing policies, laws and district-level by-laws governing livestock movement and farmer-herder relations, while recognising persistent challenges in their coordination, implementation and enforcement;

Make the following calls and commitments:

1. **Harmonisation and Enforcement of Livestock Regulations**

We call on the Government of Ghana to consider an urgent review, harmonise and strengthen the implementation of existing policies, laws and district-level by-laws governing livestock movement, grazing access and farmer-herder relations.

We further call for stronger institutional coordination and clarification of cross-border livestock migratory arrangements. All regulatory measures must protect the rights, livelihoods and security of both farmers, herders and farmer-communities at large, without discrimination.

2. **Responsible and Conflict-Sensitive Journalism**

We call on journalists, bloggers, and media organisations to sustain accurate, balanced and conflict-sensitive reporting, avoid ethnic stereotyping and inflammatory narratives, and fairly represent the perspectives of farmers and herders.

We further encourage sustained reporting on underlying causes of farmer-herder conflict, successful coexistence initiatives and government responses to identified regulatory and institutional gaps.

3. Community Dialogue and Conflict Prevention

We encourage farmers, herders, traditional authorities, security agencies and peacebuilding organisations to further strengthen community-based early-warning systems, mediation and inclusive dialogue, while promoting indigenous conflict-resolution practices, mutually beneficial economic arrangements and locally negotiated agreements to prevent violence and foster peaceful coexistence.

4. Institutional Accountability and Coordination

We call on relevant public institutions, particularly the Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service and local government authorities, to continue to strengthen coordination, ensure impartial investigations, protect lives and livelihoods, and improve communication with affected communities.

5. Sustained Engagement and Follow-Up

We encourage MFWA and WANEP, working with the National Peace Council and other stakeholders, to facilitate continued dialogue and monitor progress on recommendations emerging from the forum.

We further encourage the media to sustain public-interest reporting and hold relevant institutions accountable for their commitments.

6. Leveraging Technology and AI for Conflict Prevention and Resolution

We call on the Ministry of the Interior, Ghana Police Service, National Peace Council, NADMO and local government authorities to leverage digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), GIS and satellite monitoring, to track livestock movement, and strengthen early warning and rapid-response systems.

We further encourage the development of a digital database of cattle owners and livestock movements to enhance traceability, accountability, conflict prevention and dispute resolution, while ensuring data protection, inclusivity and respect for human rights.

Issued in Accra, Ghana, on 16th November 2026.
Conveners: MFWA and WANEP

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