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## PRESS RELEASE

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### A CALL FOR PEACEFUL 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN KENYA

As Kenya moves towards the General Elections on 9th August 2022, The World Federalist Movement (WFM/IGP), Justice Access Point - Uganda (JAP), Community Focus Foundation Ghana (CFF-Ghana), and Amani Communities Africa (ACA), an international consortium for engagement of the youth for a peaceful African continent, calls upon all key stakeholders in Kenya to be mindful of painful election – related experiences of the recent past, and urges them to stand for peace.

The current political climate is characterized with public mistrust and collective anxiety surrounding the conduct of the elections and the acceptance of its outcomes following statements made by different political actors. This will require concerted efforts not only by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) but equally by all political parties, security services, the civil society and the media. With 75% of the Kenyan population in the age bracket between 18 and 35 years, the youth have a unique opportunity to ensure peace prevails during and after the upcoming General Elections. The youth can tap into their immense energy, creative potential, and versatility with information technology to wage peace through peace messaging and reinforcing the positive messages of peace; and not paying heed to incitement to electoral violence. In the event of failure of peace, the Kenyan youth will dearly bear the brunt of violent election- induced conflict.

The leaders of the consortium point out the urgency of the moment as such:

*“The youth should be encouraged to choose peace, and engage in positive civic action” Executive Director of WFM/IGP urges.*

*“The situation is clearly delicate! No amount of hate speech is small enough to ignore and could set a nation aflame” The Executive Director of JAP Observes.*

*Kenyans must be guided by the 2013 solemn Declaration of the African Union Heads of States and Government on achieving a conflict free Africa to take collective actions in ensuring that Kenya remains peaceful before , during and after the 2022 elections” The Executive Director of CFF-Ghana advises.*

*“Peace is the foundation of development. We must safeguard it at all costs, before, during and after elections. The youth are a critical piece to peace, and we urge them to take their place- reject violence and wage peace” The Executive Director of Amani Communities Africa (ACA) implores.*

**Urgent and timely interventions should be taken. More specifically:**

1. The candidates should unreservedly desist from hate speech and denounce any incitement to violence during the electoral process;
2. The members of the general public, performing artists and religious leaders should intensify the messages of peace;
3. The youth should tap into the vast potential technology to spread peace messages and root for peace during and in the aftermath of the electoral process;
4. Take confidence building measures including in the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to deliver credible electoral results;

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