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**CONFERENCE REPORT**

Organization of West Africa Youth Supported by the Youth Sports and Employment Department of Social Affairs and Gender ECOWAS Commission

Organizers a Virtual Conference on the theme: ***Crisis in Northern Nigeria. “Young People Perspective, Challenges and Solutions”*** held on the 21st of August, 2020.

**INTRODUCTION**

The 1st Annual Conference on the Crisis in Northern Nigeria “Young People Perspective Challenges and Solution supported by the Youth Sports and Employment Department of Social Affairs and Gender ECOWAS Commission was held through a virtual meeting on Friday, August 21, 2020 in Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Speakers for conference were taken from various youth Institutions from the Northern Region of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The theme of the conference was “***Crisis in Northern Nigeria “Young People Perspective, challenges and Solutions”***. The conference bought together 7 Guest Speakers from eminent youth institutions to deliberate on the crisis.

**PROCEEDING SESSION**

**Uyero Eraranwewho Jnr**, Regional Coordinator of the Organization of West Africa Youth and host of the virtual conference inaugurated the conference followed by introductory speeches by the guests. In this introductory speech, Uyero Erarawewho gave a brief overview on the importance of the conference for Young People and their institutions contributions to assist the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in bringing peace to all Nigerians especially the Northern region of the Country.

After the Speech of **Uyero Erarawewho**, Regional Coordinator of the Organization of West Africa Youth and host of the conference, it was followed by paper presentations on the crisis in Northern Nigeria by various Speakers;

**Dr. Umar Abdullahi Maina**, State Secretary NYCN, Borno State,

**Hon. Nita Byack George**, Member Representative Kaduan South, Nigerian Youth Parliament and President Geonita Initiative for Women and Children Development (WACHD),

**Comr. Sani Sulaiman,** Member Kaduna State, Arewa Journalist forum

**Pwakim Jacob Choji**, Executive Director, Youth Initiative Against violence and Human Rights Abuse (YIAVHA),

**Sewuese Kuma,** Chief Executive Office/Founder Angel Support Foundation,

**Comr. Dauda Muhammad Gombe**, Globe President, Youth Network for the Lake Chad, Region **(YONELCR)** and Executive Director North East Youth Initiative for Development **(NEYLF).**

The speakers provided great papers on the crisis in Northern Nigeria under the theme “Young People Perspectives, Challenges, And Solutions”. As youth leaders and heads of various institutions in Northern Nigeria they went on discussing the ground realities and social, political & economic challenges/ impacts of the crisis on all Nigerians and the sub-region.

Strategies of different engagement models were designed. The inclusion of young people taking into consideration gender balanced to further address young people involvement in the crisis by national leaders beginning with a march for peace in Northern Nigeria and climax with speeches and sports festival. Account of each of the speakers are also attached.

**Conference Recommendation**

1. The need for more involvement of young people in the peace process in the Northern part of Nigeria
2. There is urgent need for young people to put themselves together and lead the process of peace in the Region
3. It was identified that a Peace for All be lunch in the Northern part of Nigeria
4. Critical need for young people to lead a peace match in amplifying the voice in the North.

**Conclusion**

Concluding Statement made by **Mr. Kennedy Zaro Barsisa** head of Division, Youth Sports and Employment Department of Social Affairs and Gender ECOWAS Commission thanked everyone present at the conference and appreciated those who had collectively work in making the virtual conference a success. He calls on Nigerian to stand up for peace in order to maintain a stable and peaceful environment for generations to live, and then officially declare the conference closed.

Please link to the online meeting: <https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=939047079909003&id=152119388304271>