

## Annex Press release and website statement

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **New worldwide consortium launched to build more inclusive societies**

***The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy - NIMD (the Netherlands), Gorée Institute (Senegal), Akina Mama wa Africa - AMWA (Uganda) and Centre des Études Méditerranéennes Internationales - CEMI (Tunisia), have joined forces to form the Power of Dialogue Consortium. The Consortium will focus on empowering women, youth and other marginalized groups to effectively influence and participate in political processes. This will help to build more sustainable and inclusive societies.***

The Power of Dialogue programme started in 2021 and will run until 2025. It is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme is being implemented across Africa, America and Asia in the following countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan, Iraq, Guatemala, Colombia and Myanmar.

The Consortium Partners work with both civic and political actors. Thijs Berman, NIMD's Executive Director, explains: "Our aim is to help these groups come together in dialogue, and form sustainable coalitions with sufficient power to drive change. Both groups have complimentary roles to play. While civic actors legitimately advocate for citizens' needs, political actors need to be responsive and accountable to citizens."

All four partners have an excellent track record of working with civic and political actors, and each brings their distinct thematic and geographical expertise to the Consortium. Ahmed Driss, Director of CEMI, sees this unique combination and wealth of experience as the Consortium's main strength. "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. Now we can tap into each other's ideas and experience."

AMWA has the lead on feminist leadership and policy influencing. Eunice Musiime, Executive Director of AMWA: "World over, women's leadership and political participation is restricted at all levels. It is critical to strengthen the individual and collective leadership of African women to achieve gender equality and jointly contribute to shaping the agenda for dialogue in Africa and realize inclusive governance."

CEMI will focus on developing innovative tools and strategies to engage youth in political decision making. NIMD's expertise lies in dialogue, trust building and international lobby and advocacy. And, finally, the Gorée Institute is specialized in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and lobby and advocacy in Africa.

Mr. Doudou Dia, Director of Goree Institute: "Societies will only become more inclusive if there is active listening and trust. We are very excited to work on this with the Consortium and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With our joint expertise, we will be able to make a difference and really contribute to more inclusive democracies and societies."

## **ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM PARTNERS**

### **The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)**

NIMD contributes to inclusive democracies worldwide by bringing politicians and society together in dialogue so that they can jointly formulate policies to improve their democratic system. We also support political parties, individual politicians, and political institutions to bring their democratic values into practice and enhance the overall political culture in their country.

[www.nimd.org](http://www.nimd.org)

### **Gorée Institute: Centre for Democracy, Development and culture in Africa**

As a pan-African civil society organisation, the Gorée Institute's mission is to contribute to the development of peaceful, just and self-sufficient societies in Africa, to strengthen political dialogue for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to contribute to the consolidation of democratic processes and institutions. Through research, facilitation and intervention, the Gorée Institute works closely with African regional and sub-regional bodies, African civil society organisations and African citizens.

<https://goreeinstitut.org>

### **Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA)**

Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) is a feminist-Pan-African leadership development organization that was founded in 1985 by a group of visionary African women in the United Kingdom but later relocated to Africa with headquarters in Kampala, Uganda. Our work is rooted in feminist principles and beliefs guided by the Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists which define our leadership development programme and movement building activities. AMWA provides strategic direction in key Pan-African networks including NGO CSW Africa, Solidarity for African Women's Rights and the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign. AMwA also has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

<https://www.akinamamawaafrika.org>

### **Centre des Études Méditerranéennes Internationales (CEMI)**

The Center for Mediterranean and International Studies in Tunisia (CEMI) is a not-for-profit organization created under Tunisian law. CEMI promotes democracy through dialogue between political actors and by strengthening the capacity of young political and civic actors. CEMI also promotes studies related to the Mediterranean and international issues, mainly by organizing training sessions, conferences, seminars, round tables and workshops; and participating in research activities related to the Mediterranean and international issues.

<http://www.cemi-tunis.org>

## **Statement for country pages on the websites**

This programme/activity is part of the Power of Dialogue Consortium programme. The Consortium is made up of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, Gorée Institute, Akina Mama wa Africa and Centre des Études Méditerranéennes Internationales, and is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.