**CADA FORMS AN**

**ASSOCIATION OF**

**AFRICAN NATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK (ANEON)**

[**WHO WE ARE**](http://codeoghana.org/index.php/who-we-are)

Association of African National Election Observers Network (ANEON) is an initiative and an umbrella organization under the [Center for African Democratic Affairs](http://www.cddghana.org), CADA. It is a network of civil society groups in Africa to observe and monitor all Presidential, Parliamentary and other political elections in Africa. Though under CADA, ANEON is an independent and non-partisan national election observation and monitoring group dedicated to promoting free, fair, transparent, peaceful and credible elections on the continent. Comprising of various professional, religious and civic and human rights advocacy groups, ANEON is aimed at undertaking several election observations and monitoring-related projects and programmes to consolidate democracy in Africa. Among other electoral process related activities, it will observe and monitor all elections in Africa particularly the Presidential, Parliamentary and District Assemblies elections including all the internal political party elections. ANEON is aimed at earning an enviable reputation, both locally and internationally due to the NEUTRALITY, NON-PROFIT MAKING and NON-PARTISANSHIP of its activities and observers.

[**WHAT WE DO**](http://codeoghana.org/index.php/what-we-do)

Although, among other things, ANEON’s principal mandate is “domestic” election observation, the Network will seek to provide technical support and capacity building projects and programmess for similar groups across Africa. ANEON is able to accomplish this task through the generous donations and technical support it receives from international organizations and donor agencies.

The process of election observation involves recruitment, training and deployment its member organizations drawn from the continent various society groups.  As part of efforts to ensure professionalism and maintain non-partisanship in the field, ANEON through CADA develops training manuals for its members. The manuals contain detailed guidelines covering every aspect of the observation process and serves as a reference point for all field staff in the performance of their duties and subject to period review as and when it becomes necessary.

The Association through CADA also develops relevant data collection instruments such as checklists, questionnaires and incident report forms to aid the credibility of electoral process in Ghana. ANEON deploys these trained observers to observe all the polling stations in Africa during elections.

In addition to the presidential, parliamentary and district assemblies’ elections, ANDEON also observes parliamentary bye-elections, local government elections and primaries of the various political parties and analysis the impacts these election on both national and political parties levels.

**MISSION**

To boost confidence in the fairness of the electoral process, to help deter fraud in the voting and counting procedures, and to report to the electorates and the international community on the overall integrity of elections in Africa.

**VISION**

Providing comprehensive and authoritative information on elections, promoting credible and effective electoral processes in Africa.

[**Overall Objectives**](http://codeoghana.org/index.php/our-objectives)

* Promote free, fair and transparent elections
* Ensure credible and peaceful elections
* Promote Issue-based campaign
* Detect or prevent electoral fraud
* Build public confidence in the electoral process
* Encourage citizen’s participation in the electoral process
* Promote and in engage in public voter education training and programmes
* Conduct Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) where applicable
* Detecting any infractions in the electoral process.
* Providing concerned bodies with remarks on the progress of the electoral process and decisions taken.
* Guaranteeing the integrity and neutrality of the electoral process."

**Rationale for ANEON**

Election observation expresses the ANEON’s interest and concern in promoting democratic elections within its wider policy of support for democracy, the rule of law and human rights. It is both domestically and internationally recognised that citizens have the right to participate in government and public affairs by voting or being elected at genuine periodic elections. The right to participate cannot be exercised in isolation; genuine and democratic elections can only take place where there is enjoyment by all persons, without discrimination, of their fundamental freedoms and political rights. These include the freedoms of expression, association, assembly and movement. The right to participation and other associated freedoms and rights are not achievable without the protections afforded by the rule of law.

Elections provide the means for the people’s will to be freely expressed in choosing their government. For governing institutions to have democratic legitimacy they should have been granted the authority to govern in the name of the people, and be accountable to the people for the exercise of that authority, through genuine and periodic elections. Election observation by the ANEON reflects its commitment to supporting the democratisation process and the strengthening of democratic institutions in Africa.

A genuine and democratic election process can contribute to ensuring sustainable peace and stability that ensures progressive democratic governance developments. Elections provide groups with an opportunity to express their political voice in competition with their opponents without resort to violence, and enable the peaceful transfer of political power. In this regard, election observation by the ANEON can complement and enhance the efforts of other observation groups by systematically, comprehensively and accurately gather information concerning the laws, processes and institutions related to the conduct of elections and other factors concerning the overall electoral environment; the impartial and professional analysis of such information; and the drawing of conclusions about the character of electoral processes based on the highest standards for accuracy of information and impartiality of analysis. ANEON, when possible, will offer recommendations for improving the integrity and effectiveness of electoral and related processes, while not interfering in and thus hindering such processes. ANEON organized efforts of intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations and associations to conduct domestic election observation in Africa.

The ANEON also recognizes that domestic election observations can provide a comprehensive, independent, and impartial assessment of an electoral process. As election observation enhances transparency and accountability, it can promote public confidence in the electoral process and may serve to promote electoral participation.

This in turn can mitigate the potential for election- related conflict. In common with other domestic and international observation groups, an ANEON will seek to make a positive contribution to the process, but will not interfere in the way in which an election is conducted, nor validate its result. It is only Ghanaians who can ultimately determine the credibility and legitimacy of an election process.

**Why observe Elections**

No election conducted anywhere in the world is completely free of mistakes. People run elections and people make mistakes. When elections are conducted we produce winners and losers, and no one wants to lose, some candidates or parties may try to rig the outcome. The Electoral Commission allows both political party agents and non-partisan observers to observe the elections to enhance the credibility of the election.

[**TO BECOME A MEMBER**](http://codeoghana.org/index.php/list-of-donors)**:**

Send all enquiries regarding membership please [contact](http://codeoghana.org/index.php/how-to-get-to-us) the address below:

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