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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Political Parties and Parliament Unite to Advance Inclusion and Consensus in Ghana

Accra, Ghana | February 17, 2026 – The African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA), with funding from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), today launches a new multi-year project titled “Political Inclusion and Consensus Building: The Role of Political Parties and Parliament.” The initiative seeks to strengthen collaborative governance, reduce political polarization, and enhance the capacity of Ghana’s democratic institutions to work across party lines in the national interest.

The project comes at a time when democracies worldwide are grappling with growing mistrust, partisan tensions, and declining public confidence in political leadership. In Ghana, despite a strong democratic record, adversarial politics and winner-takes-all perceptions continue to challenge effective governance and inclusive decision-making.

The initiative will support Parliament, political parties, and key democratic actors to develop structured mechanisms for dialogue, negotiation, and bipartisan cooperation on national priorities.

“Democracy thrives not merely on competition, but on cooperation. This project recognizes that political parties and Parliament must work together beyond electoral cycles to build consensus on matters affecting citizens’ welfare,” said Dr. Rasheed Draman, Executive Director of ACEPA. “Our aim is to institutionalize dialogue and strengthen trust among political actors and between leaders and citizens.”

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Switzerland’s commitment to democratic governance and stability in Ghana.

“Switzerland values inclusive politics and constructive dialogue as essential pillars of stable democracies,” said a representative of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. “We are proud to support this initiative, which promotes mutual respect, negotiation, and shared responsibility in public leadership.”

Key Components of the Project

The project will focus on:

- Strengthening bipartisan and cross-party engagement in Parliament
- Supporting internal democracy and policy-based competition within political parties
- Developing structured platforms for inter-party dialogue and mediation
- Enhancing leadership skills for negotiation and consensus building
- Promoting citizen trust through collaborative governance practices
- Supporting youth and women’s political inclusion in decision-making processes



Expected Impact

By institutionalizing dialogue and cooperative political culture, the project aims to:

- Reduce political polarization
- Improve legislative effectiveness and oversight
- Strengthen democratic stability
- Enhance public confidence in governance
- Encourage policy continuity across administrations

The project will engage Members of Parliament, party leadership, parliamentary committees, youth political actors, civil society organizations, and governance institutions through training programs, facilitated dialogues, policy labs, and joint platforms for engagement.

About ACEPA

The African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) is a Ghana-based, non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening parliaments and democratic governance across Africa through research, training, technical assistance, and policy dialogue.

About the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs promotes peace, human rights, and democratic governance globally. Through its development cooperation programs, Switzerland supports initiatives that strengthen inclusive political institutions and sustainable democratic practices.

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