



# NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

## PRESS STATEMENT

**For Immediate Release**

**9<sup>th</sup> August, 2023**

### **NDC STATEMENT ON NIGER CRISIS**

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has followed the situation in Niger with grave concern. The NDC notes that the current crisis in Niger has far reaching consequences on peace and stability in an already fragile region.

We must emphasize that the NDC remains strongly committed to the values of democracy and in peaceful democratic transitions as we have demonstrated as a party since we ushered in the 1992 Constitution and established the foundations of the Fourth Republic which has become Ghana's longest and most enduring democratic dispensation.

The NDC is deeply concerned with the recent spate of military takeovers on the continent just when it was thought that the era of coups was over and that democratic consolidation had become the new order. These troubling developments call for a sober and honest reflection on the state of political leadership on the continent and the plight of the mass of the people.

The African people seem to have grown impatient about delays in the democratic dividend. Bad governance, corruption, unemployment, state capture, neo-colonial entanglements, constitutional mutilation, and insensitive policies have become prevalent.

The time for African leaders to change course, adopt a Pan-African economic paradigm and become responsive to the felt needs of their people is now. The National Democratic Congress wishes to state without equivocation that war in Niger cannot be a preferred option.

It is our considered view that an ECOWAS military intervention without exhausting diplomatic options will only exacerbate the crisis and lead to a bloodbath. The NDC does not support committing our gallant Ghanaian soldiers to any hasty ill-considered adventure.

We are of the firm conviction that constructive dialogue and tactful diplomacy must be pursued further. The unfolding situation in Niger requires cool heads, strategic rapprochement and a diplomatic approach which places the wishes of the people of Niger at the center of an amicable resolution.

We urge the military leaders to also embrace negotiations and be welcoming of peaceful diplomatic engagements.

The NDC is most disappointed in the conduct of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo for failing to subject this all important matter to the Ghanaian Parliament for debate through which he could have secured a legitimate democratic mandate from representatives of the Ghanaian people on what is in the best interest of the country.

In this same spirit, such a sensitive matter should require broader bipartisan consultations to agree on a common Ghanaian position.

President Akufo-Addo should not be out there purporting to be lecturing other countries on democracy when he consistently fails to use constitutional and democratic channels to arrive at the Ghanaian position on crucial matters of this nature.

Signed,



**Hon. Fifi Fiavi Kwetey**  
**General Secretary**