



WAREF

MANIFESTO 2026



DEVELOPMENT



HEALTHCARE



EDUCATION



INFRASTRUCTURE



ECONOMY





WAREF

Manifesto: Sovereignty for Sustainability

"Sovereignty for Sustainability"

Introduction

WAREF envisions a future where The Gambia stands as a beacon of innovation, prosperity, and inclusivity. Our mission is to transform The Gambia into a smart state, leveraging technology and sustainable practices to enhance the quality of life for all citizens. We believe in building a nation that thrives on transparency, accountability, and the collective energy of its people, rooted in the principle of **Sovereignty for Sustainability**.

This philosophy underscores that The Gambia must have the authority and autonomy to manage its own resources and make decisions that prioritize long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability. By addressing longstanding challenges and embracing innovation, WAREF aims to lead The Gambia into a future defined by resilience, equity, and opportunity.



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Interconnected Pillars for Sustainable Development



1 People-Centered Development: We Need Everyone and All Can Contribute.

In a nation of 2 million people, maximizing the contribution of every citizen is critical. WAREF is committed to making human development a central focus through:

- A strong basic education system and increased access to tertiary education.
- Infrastructure to support lifelong learning, skills development, and a competitive economy.
- Institutional strengthening to ensure every citizen can contribute to and benefit from national progress.



2 Revolutionizing Healthcare:

- **Universal Access to Quality Healthcare:** We will ensure that every Gambian has access to affordable and high-quality healthcare services. This includes building modern hospitals, clinics, and telemedicine facilities across the country.
- **Smart Health Infrastructure:** Implementing electronic health records (EHR) to streamline patient care and improve efficiency. We will also invest in AI-driven diagnostics and treatment plans to provide personalized healthcare solutions.
- **Preventive Healthcare Programs:** Launching nationwide campaigns to promote healthy lifestyles and preventive care, reducing the burden of chronic diseases.



3 Poverty Eradication and Social Justice: Preference for the Poor and Disadvantaged

With 67% of Gambians living below the poverty line, WAREF prioritizes reducing and ultimately eradicating poverty. Key initiatives include:

- Closing the gap between the rich and poor to promote equity.
- Creating sustainable livelihoods through targeted programs and safety nets for the vulnerable.
- Ensuring social justice remains at the heart of all development strategies.



4 National and Personal Security: Human Security for Peace and Prosperity

Law, order, and justice are essential for a prosperous Gambia. WAREF will:

- Establish a just and fair environment that addresses crime and social issues.
- Rethink the prison system, reorganize the justice system, and invest in preventative measures.
- Promote human security to establish sustainable peace and prosperity.



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Interconnected Pillars for Sustainable Development



5 Smart State through Information & Communication Technology: Building the New Economy

ICT is the backbone of modern development. WAREF will:

- Expand internet access nationwide, enabling citizens to connect, learn, and conduct business.
- Integrate IT-based learning into primary and secondary education to foster innovation.
- Support e-government initiatives to make public services more accessible and efficient.



6 A Knowledge-Intensive Economy: Building on the Native Genius of Our People

Human creativity and innovation are invaluable assets. WAREF will:

- Encourage creativity by establishing frameworks to support innovation and sustainable human capacity building.
- Develop linkages among creative, technological, and educational sectors.
- Reward and nurture human initiative to maintain a competitive edge in the global economy.



7 Sustainable Economic Development: Sovereignty for Self Reliance

- Invest in agriculture, tourism, and technology to align with national strengths.
- Promote value addition to natural resources to retain wealth within The Gambia.
- Foster public-private partnerships that support sustainability and resilience.



8 Environmental Stewardship and Renewable Energy

- Transition to renewable energy sources and adopt sustainable urban planning.
- Implement reforestation programs and improve waste management.
- Safeguard natural ecosystems to ensure environmental sustainability.



9 Embracing Digital Payments

- **Cashless Economy:** Transitioning The Gambia to a cashless economy by promoting the use of digital payment platforms. This will include partnerships with fintech companies to develop secure and user-friendly payment systems.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Ensuring that all citizens, especially those in rural areas, have access to digital banking services. We will provide education and resources to help people adapt to digital financial tools.
- **Government Services Online:** Digitizing government services to enhance transparency, reduce corruption, and improve efficiency. Citizens will be able to pay taxes, fees, and fines online, making interactions with the government more convenient.





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Interconnected Pillars for Sustainable Development



10 Good Governance: People Participation

WAREF recognizes governance as the foundation of progress. We will:

- Strengthen institutions to deliver services effectively and transparently.
- Promote accountability, democracy, and separation of powers among the executive, parliament, and judiciary.
- Foster citizen participation in decision-making to ensure inclusive governance.



11 Foreign Policy: Securing Our Place in the World

The Gambia must secure a strong and respected place on the global stage. WAREF will:

- Engage in diplomacy that prioritizes national interests and sovereignty.
- Build partnerships that align with sustainable development goals.
- Advocate for equitable trade and international cooperation to benefit Gambians.



A Call to Action

The challenges before us are significant, but so are the opportunities. By aligning our efforts with the principle of **Sovereignty for Sustainability**, WAREF commits to creating a smart, inclusive, and sustainable state that serves and uplifts all Gambians.



“**Sovereignty for sustainability**” refers to the idea that nations or communities should have the authority and autonomy to manage their own resources and make decisions that promote long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This concept emphasizes the importance of local control and self-determination in achieving sustainable development goals.



”

PEOPLE • HEALTH • JUSTICE • SECURITY • PROSPERITY



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Key Talking Points: Sovereignty and Sustainable Development



1 Local Resource Management

Sovereignty allows communities and nations to manage their natural resources in ways that align with their cultural values and environmental priorities. This can lead to more sustainable practices and better conservation efforts. Additionally, it ensures that locals benefit financially from the resources, promoting economic development and reducing poverty within the community.



2 Policy Making

Sovereign nations can create and implement policies that address their unique sustainability challenges, such as education, gender equality, cultural practices, climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.



3 Economic Independence

By exercising sovereignty, communities can develop sustainable economic systems that reduce dependence on external entities and promote local resilience.



4 Cultural Preservation

Sovereignty supports the preservation of cultural practices and knowledge that contribute to sustainable living, particularly in Indigenous communities.



5 Tax Collection

Sovereignty in tax collection ensures that foreign entities operating within a country are required to bank their money in local banks. This helps in maintaining economic stability, increasing transparency, and ensuring that tax revenues are used for local development and sustainability initiatives.





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Key Talking Points: Sovereignty and Sustainable Development



6 Technology

- Sovereign control over technology development and deployment can drive innovation tailored to local needs. This includes renewable energy technologies, smart agriculture systems, and sustainable infrastructure that enhance environmental and economic sustainability. Additionally, it is crucial that government software, especially in critical areas like immigration and health, is not controlled by foreign powers. This ensures data security, privacy, and the ability to respond to local needs without external influence.



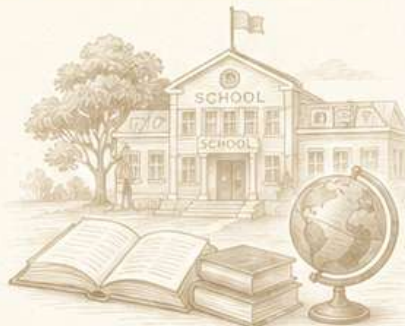
7 Agriculture

- Sovereignty in agricultural practices allows communities to adopt sustainable farming methods that improve food security, soil health, and biodiversity. This includes promoting organic farming, agroforestry, and other practices that are environmentally friendly and culturally appropriate. Moreover, prioritizing local farms before importing agricultural products supports local economies, reduces carbon footprints, and ensures food security.



8 Education

- Sovereignty in education allows communities to develop curricula that reflect their cultural values, history, and sustainability goals. This can foster a sense of identity and responsibility towards sustainable practices among the younger generation. Additionally, investing in local educational institutions can enhance skills and knowledge that are crucial for sustainable development. Investment in education builds a foundation for innovation, self-reliance, and economic growth.





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Economic Transformation Initiatives

Essential components of our economic, monetary, and fiscal policy framework

- 1 Fiscal Probity**
 - Zero tolerance for corrupt practices, wasteful expenditure, and inefficiency.
 - Strengthen and streamline Revenue Collection and Customs to enhance accountability and efficiency.
- 2 Enabling Environment**
 - Facilitate an enabling environment as a foundation for investment and economic growth.
 - Review and address regulatory barriers and unnecessary procedures that increase the cost of doing business.
- 3 Aligning Economic Policies**
 - Establish a cohesive framework to align fiscal policies and the Central Bank's monetary policies with national goals and objectives.
- 4 Investment Environment**
 - Foster strategies to encourage investment by increasing domestic savings, ensuring competitive interest rates, and securing property rights.
 - Promote good governance practices to build trust and stability for investors.
- 5 Research and Innovation**
 - Cultivate a culture of research and development, particularly in the non-energy and services sectors.
 - Allocate resources to innovation and aim to increase R&D spending to at least 3% of GDP over the next decade.
 - Establish a Council for Competitiveness and Innovation to drive sustainable economic growth.
- 6 Balancing Spending**
 - Strive for a balance between consumption (meeting present needs) and savings (providing for future generations).
 - Ensure sustainable development by fostering a thriving economy that addresses both immediate and long-term priorities.
- 7 Equitable Distribution**
 - Develop strategies to achieve a fairer distribution of income to strengthen social structures and reduce instability.
- 8 Efficient Resource Allocation**
 - Focus on optimizing the use of human skills, natural resources, and capital to enhance productivity.
 - Drive economic growth by creating meaningful, sustainable employment opportunities.
- 9 Economic Diversification**
 - Innovate to diversify the economy, reducing dependency on energy sectors.
 - Focus on creating sustainable jobs and new avenues for wealth generation.
- 10 Addressing Financial Crises**
 - Act promptly and transparently to tackle financial crises, ensuring decisions are in the best interest of the people.
- 11 Comprehensive Economic Planning**
 - Prioritize sustainable development, competitiveness, and synergy in economic planning.
 - Strengthen existing sectors and clusters while fostering the creation of new ones.
 - Link research efforts to innovation, wealth creation, and global competitiveness.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE • INVESTMENT • INNOVATION • EQUITY • DIVERSIFICATION • SUSTAINABILITY



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Infrastructure

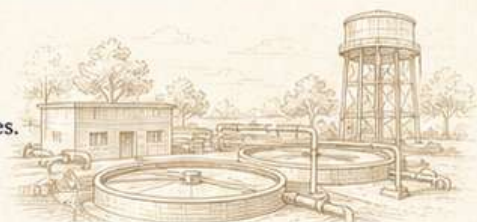
WAREF recognizes that physical infrastructure is both a driver and a product of development. While the current government has allocated minimal resources to infrastructure, key components critical to improving the quality of life for our people remain inadequate. We view infrastructure as the foundation for developing human capital, building indigenous capacity, and expanding our skills base. When foreign firms are involved in infrastructure projects, contracts will include knowledge transfer arrangements and local content quotas. Our infrastructure policy will prioritize quality, reliability, maintenance, and transparent, equitable procurement practices.

1



Water Security

- Pursue national water security through effective water catchment, distribution, and management policies.
- Ensure water availability for citizens, agriculture, industry, and environmental protection.



2



Transportation

- Adopt the most efficient modes of transportation for moving people and goods within The Gambia.
- Develop a comprehensive National Transportation Study to guide policy and investment decisions.

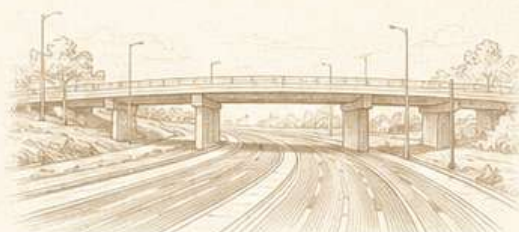


3



Roads and Bridges

- Establish a National Roads and Bridges Authority to oversee the planning and development of:
 - Major roads and highways.
 - Underpasses and overpasses.
 - Construction of new bridges and reconstruction of existing ones.



4



Housing

- Provide quality, affordable housing distributed fairly and equitably to meet citizens' needs.
- Design housing policies that promote the development of homes, families, and sustainable communities.
- Align housing initiatives with a comprehensive land-use policy for effective resource management.





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A Gambia for Everyone

DIGNITY ♦ EQUALITY ♦ OPPORTUNITY



WAREF is committed to building an inclusive Gambia where persons with disabilities live with dignity, independence and full participation in all aspects of life.

We will create an enabling environment that removes barriers and opens doors to education, employment, health, and social inclusion.

1



Equal Rights & Inclusion

- Enforce and strengthen laws that protect the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Ensure equal access to opportunities and eliminate discrimination in all areas of life.



2



Inclusive Education

- Ensure inclusive education at all levels.
- Provide assistive devices, accessible learning materials, and trained support personnel.



3



Employment & Livelihood

- Promote inclusive employment and entrepreneurship.
- Provide skills training, start-up support, and incentives for employers to hire persons with disabilities.



4



Health & Rehabilitation

- Ensure accessible healthcare services and rehabilitation centers across the country.
- Provide affordable assistive devices and mobility aids.



5



Accessible Infrastructure

- Build barrier-free public infrastructure, transport, buildings, and information systems.
- Ensure universal design standards in all new projects.



6



Social Protection & Support

- Provide financial support, assistive grants, and social protection for persons with severe disabilities.
- Support families and caregivers with resources and training.



7



Participation & Representation

- Ensure active participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making at all levels.
- Support disability organizations and their initiatives.



WAREF believes that a truly developed Gambia leaves no one behind. We will work hand in hand with persons with disabilities to build a nation where everyone has the freedom to dream, the power to contribute, and the dignity to live fully.

TOGETHER, WE BUILD AN INCLUSIVE AND COMPASSIONATE GAMBIA.





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Tourism Development

People and Natural Assets

Tourism is an important platform through which we will create sustainable employment opportunities for our people, create international relationships, and allow the world a taste of the finer things of The Gambia's Smiling Coast. Because of our plurality and rich cultural diversity, maximizing our tourism potential requires multiple approaches to development. This includes the exploration and expansion of a wide variety of tourism products, including but not restricted to recreation, sport, health, leisure, business, festivals, culture, and eco-tourism. The Gambia is well positioned for an awareness campaign that showcases it as a choice destination.

1



Sustainable Employment

- Use tourism as a driver of sustainable job creation for Gambians.
- Build opportunities across hospitality, transport, services, crafts, and local enterprise.



2



Cultural and International Exchange

- Strengthen international relationships through tourism and cultural exchange.
- Showcase the richness, plurality, and diversity of Gambian culture.



3



Diverse Tourism Products

- Expand tourism offerings across recreation, sport, health, leisure, business, festivals, culture, and eco-tourism.
- Promote multiple development approaches to unlock the sector's full potential.



4

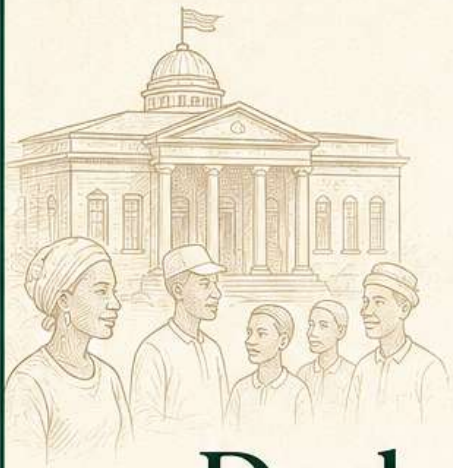


Destination Promotion

- Launch awareness campaigns that position The Gambia as a preferred destination.
- Promote the country's natural beauty, people, and "Smiling Coast" identity to the world.



EMPLOYMENT • CULTURE • ECO-TOURISM • HOSPITALITY • DESTINATION PROMOTION



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— Manifesto 2026 —



Declaration of Principle

Core principles for a just, inclusive, secure, and democratic Gambia

1



Partnership with the People

Establish conditions where every Gambian can fulfil their true potential, ensuring sustainable development where everyone counts and is needed.

2



Safe and Secure Environment

Provide a safe, secure, and sustainable environment where all people can live, work, and play without fear, optimizing their quality of life.

3



Support for the Disadvantaged

Ensure that disadvantaged individuals are provided with the tools to become productive and make provisions for those who cannot work due to illness, old age, or disability.

4



Inclusive Education and Training

Provide an education and training system that enhances mutual respect and esteem, promoting civics, moral and spiritual values, and entrepreneurial activity.

5



Diverse and Democratic Society

Build a society that respects human rights, free of discrimination, fostering dialogue and mutual trust for authentic peace.

6



Anti-Corruption Stance

Tolerate no form of corruption and avoid politicizing the civil service, commissions, or state enterprises.

7



Legislation for Political Parties

Promote legislation for the registration and funding of political parties, subject to review by an independent body.

8



Governance and Rule of Law

Support a system of governance that upholds the rule of law, separation of powers, and independence of the judiciary, while encouraging women's participation at all levels.

9

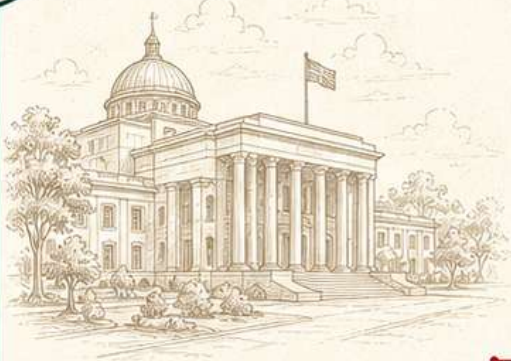


International Election Oversight

Invite international observers to oversee general elections and ensure their reports are promptly laid in Parliament.



PEOPLE • SECURITY • EDUCATION • DEMOCRACY • JUSTICE • ACCOUNTABILITY



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Declaration of Principle



Guiding values for ethical leadership and public service.

1



Selflessness

- Make decisions solely in terms of the public interest, avoiding financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.



2



Integrity

- Not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.



3



Objectivity

- Make choices based on merit in carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits.



4



Accountability

- Be accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and submit themselves to appropriate scrutiny.



5



Openness

- Be as open as possible about all decisions and actions, providing reasons for their decisions and restricting information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.



6



Honesty

- Declare any private interests relating to their public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts in a way that protects the public interest.



7



Dialogue

- Commit to frank and patient dialogue, recognizing that encountering the diversity of others can become an opportunity for greater reciprocal understanding.



8



Leadership

- Promote and support these principles by leadership and example.



SELFLESSNESS



INTEGRITY



ACCOUNTABILITY



HONESTY



DIALOGUE



LEADERSHIP



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Impact of the Manifesto

Delivering coordinated, people-centered and sustainable national progress



WAREF recognizes that a holistic and synergistic approach to sustainable development is necessary to achieve meaningful and lasting results. Structures, mechanisms, and institutions will be created to ensure coordination, integration, and optimum impact. The policy shifts guided by this manifesto will have the following impacts:

1



Orderly Development: All development will take place within a land use and physical planning framework, applying sustainable development principles.



2



Central Role of People: Education for all will become a reality, with a focus on tertiary participation, poverty reduction, and social welfare support.



3



Improved Security: Crime and personal security issues will be addressed, and the justice system overhauled to ensure justice is served.



4



Food and Water Security: Achieve food security and manage water resources effectively, improving quality of life and reducing food prices.



5



Sustainable Economy: Strengthen the energy industry and diversify the economy through alternative energy, creative industries, and sustainable practices.



6



Local Government Empowerment: Enhance the impact of local government on community development and increase citizen participation.



7



Clean Governance: Implement legislative changes and constitutional amendments to curb excesses and abuse of power, emphasizing transparency and accountability.



8



Immediate Action: Take immediate action in specific areas such as water resources management, high-intensity Moringa farming, irrigation, and increased power generation.



9



Unity and Trust: Foster unity of purpose through consultation, participation, involvement, and consensus-building.



10



National Renewal: The tone of the country will change, and barriers will be broken down through consultation, participation, involvement, and consensus-building. This will help us achieve unity of purpose in our efforts and partnership and trust in society.



PLANNING

PEOPLE

SECURITY

FOOD & WATER

GOVERNANCE

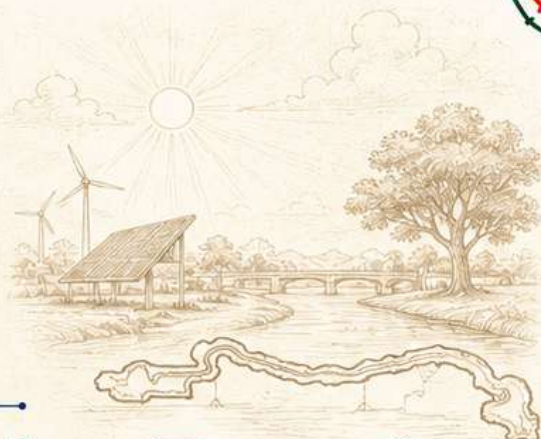
UNITY





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Our Promise to the People

Together, Building a Gambia Rooted in Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability

WAREF makes a simple and unwavering promise to all Gambians.

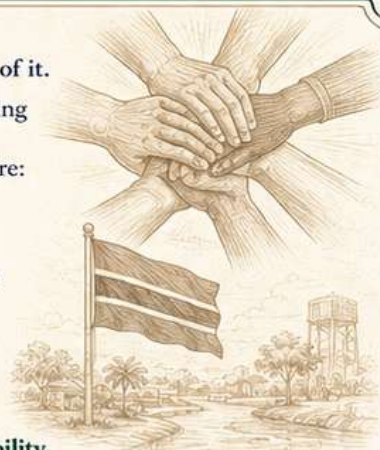
Our goal is to achieve sustainable development with you, the citizen, at the center of it.

Guided by our ideology of Sovereignty for Sustainability, we are committed to ensuring that every Gambian has a voice in shaping our nation's future. By prioritizing local autonomy and the responsible management of resources, we will create a society where:

- **Inclusion** ensures that everyone—regardless of background—has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our nation's progress.
- **Equity** guarantees fair access to resources, opportunities, and services, closing the gap between the privileged and the disadvantaged.

WAREF envisions a Gambia where sustainable development is not just a goal but a shared journey, and every citizen plays an essential role in building a brighter, more prosperous future for all.

WAREF: Together, Building a Gambia Rooted in Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability.



1. Our Promise

We pledge to serve all Gambians with integrity, accountability, and transparency—honoring the trust you place in us.



2. Citizen at the Center

You are at the heart of our vision. We will listen, engage, and empower you to help shape the policies, decisions, and future of our nation.



3. Inclusion

We commit to building a society where every voice is heard, every individual is valued, and no one is left behind.



4. Equity

We will ensure fair access to resources, opportunities, and services—creating a level playing field for all Gambians, everywhere.



5. Shared Future

Together, we will build a stronger, more prosperous, and sustainable Gambia—today and for generations to come.



INCLUSION

EQUITY

PARTICIPATION

SUSTAINABILITY

SHARED FUTURE