GHANA-COTE D’IVOIRE RELATIONS AFTER THE FALL OF GBAGBO: CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the challenges that confront Ghana-Cote d’Ivoire relations after the fall of Gbagbo. While it acknowledges that political parties and political leadership of a country may have their favorite counterparts in another country or countries, which could even propel the diplomatic wheels for enhanced relations when they are in power at the same time, it contends that the alignment of Ghana’s National Democratic Congress and its leadership to Laurent Gbagbo and his Popular Front Party on one hand, and the association of the New Patriotic Party to Allasane Ouattara and his Rally of the Republicans on the other, has had many and difficult implications on the relations between the two West Africa neighbors. International relations conducted around political alignment and personalities rather than on the country’s foreign policy, it is argued, is unsustainable and a threat to bilateral as well as sub-regional peace, security and development. It also argues that the uneasiness that characterize relations between the two West African neighbors since the fall of Laurent Gbagbo based on accusations, distrust, denials and mutual suspicion, is not only an anathema to the bilateral as well as sub-regional peace and security, but also a breeding ground for severe instability in an already turmoil sub-region. While the experiences of Sierra Leone, Liberia, la Cote d’Ivoire, Togo and currently Mali are still fresh in West Africa, and Africa for that matter, the peace and stability of the rest of the countries in the sub-region must not only be guarded with extreme care and zeal, but ought to also be extended to neighboring countries, while collective efforts are made to restore peace, security and reconciliation in the turbulent countries of the sub-region.

Keywords: Laurent Gbagbo, Ghana-Cote d’Ivoire Relations, Africa.