

COMMUNIDADE DOS ESTADOS
DA AFRICA DO OESTE

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST
AFRICAN STATES



COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE DES
ÉTATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

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40TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY
OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abuja, 16 -17 February 2012

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

February 2012

1. The Fortieth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria from 16 -17 February 2012 under the chairmanship of **His Excellency Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman Authority.

2. The following Heads of State and Government or their accredited representatives were present at this session:

- His Excellency **Thomas Boni YAYI**
President of the Republic of Benin
- His Excellency **Blaise COMPAORE**
President of Faso
- His Excellency **Jose Maria Pereira NEVES**
Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Cape Verde
- His Excellency **Alassane OUATTARA**
President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- His Excellency **Alpha CONDE**
President of the Republic of Guinea
- His Excellency **Raimundo PEREIRA**
Interim President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
- Her Excellency **Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF**
President of the Republic of Liberia
- His Excellency **Issoufou MAHAMADOU**
President of the Republic of Niger
- His Excellency **Jonathan Ebele GOODLUCK**
GCFR, President, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- His Excellency **Ernest Bai KOROMA**
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- His Excellency **Alhaji Muhammad MUMUNI**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana
- His Excellency **Abdou KOLLEY**
Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters
of the Republic of The Gambia
- His Excellency **Badara Aliou MACALOU**
Minister of Integration and Malians Abroad of the Republic of Mali

- His Excellency **Mamadou NDIAYE**
Ambassador, Director of Cabinet to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal
- His Excellency **Elliott OHIN**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Togolese Republic

3. His Excellency **Saïd DJINNIT**, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation for West Africa and H.E. **Jean PING**, President of the African Union Commission also participated in the Summit as observers.

4. The Heads of State and Government took note of the 2011 Annual Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission on the implementation of the Community Work Programme and the Report of the 66th and 67th Ordinary Sessions of the Council of Ministers. They also heard the Report of the 10th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers adoption of the Report of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of the Performance of Statutory Appointees, as well as the Report of the 29th Meeting of the Mediation and Security Council.

5. Summit deliberated on the various reports, after which it took the following decisions:

On the Regional Integration Process

6. Authority reaffirmed its commitment to deepening the regional integration process, particularly in the area of macroeconomic convergence, interconnectivity, agriculture and food security, as well as infrastructure, energy and socio economic programmes, including health, education, culture and Science.

7. Summit welcomed the adoption of the regulatory and operational framework for air transport in the region, and directed the Commission to fast-track the establishment of the institutional framework for its implementation.

8. Authority instructed the Commission to implement without delay the transfer of surplus Community Levy funds held at the Commission to the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) to be lent to Member States for infrastructure development.

9. On the Economic Partnership Agreement between West Africa and the European Union, Summit underscored the urgency for both parties to rapidly conclude a development-oriented agreement by demonstrating greater flexibility and goodwill.

10. Authority exhorted all Member States, which have not yet done so, to make adequate provisions for the rapid ratification of ECOWAS protocols, and urged all Member States to ensure their effective application.

Regional Peace and Security

11. Summit commended the efforts of the Commission and Member States in the consolidation of peace and stability, as well as the promotion of the culture of democracy, in the region.

12. The Heads of State and Government expressed deep concern about the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel region, particularly in Mali and Niger.

13. Authority strongly condemned the MNLA rebellion in Mali and expressed its full support for the efforts being exerted by Mali to defend its territorial integrity. Calling for an immediate and unconditional cessation of hostilities by the rebels, Authority ordered them to immediately surrender all occupied zones in the country, and called on all parties involved in the crisis to engage in an inclusive dialogue to determine peaceful means and modalities for resolving the crisis.

14. Authority approved the release of Three Million US Dollars to assist Mali deal with the humanitarian consequences of the rebellion. Summit expressed its preoccupation with refugee flows and internal displacement, as well as worsening food insecurity in the Sahel region. To this end, it urgently called on humanitarian agencies and the International Community to join ECOWAS in taking all necessary measures that would guarantee protection, relief and succor for the populations adversely affected by the crises in Mali and Niger.

15. Acknowledging the increasing threat posed by piracy and other forms of organized maritime crime in the Gulf of Guinea, the Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the political leadership and coordinating role of ECOWAS in combating the scourge. To this end, Summit tasked the Commission to urgently develop a holistic strategic maritime policy framework to guide future actions and cooperation, and to also strengthen collaboration with ECCAS, the Gulf of Guinea Council, and all other relevant stakeholders, with a view to confronting the challenges.

16. Summit instructed the Commission to convene an urgent meeting of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff to review all the emerging security threats in the Sahel region and in the Gulf of Guinea and propose concrete recommendations to address them.

17. On democracy and Good Governance, Authority directed the Commission to intensify its effort aimed at deepening democratic culture in the region. In particular, it urged the Commission to continue assisting Member States in their electoral processes in order to ensure the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections. It called on Member States and the International Community to give full support to Guinea Bissau in its preparations for the forthcoming Presidential election to ensure a peaceful and successful outcome.

18. Summit endorsed the dispatch of a Joint AU-ECOWAS High-Level Mission led by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to engage all the political stakeholders in Senegal with a view to promoting dialogue and ensuring peaceful, fair and transparent elections.

Institutional matters

19. Authority appointed H.E. **Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO**, a national of Burkina Faso, former Prime Minister and current Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Brussels, as President of the ECOWAS Commission for a four-year non-renewable tenure. It also endorsed the appointment of the new Vice-President and Commissioners at the Commission on the same themes as follows:

- Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, Vice President, (Liberia);
- Mrs. Salamatu Hussein Suleiman, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, (Nigeria);
- Mrs. Khadi Ramatu Saccoh, Commissioner for Administration and Finance, (Sierra Leone);
- Dr. Lapodini Marc Atouga, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (Togo);
- Mr. Ahmed Hamid, Commissioner for Trade, Customs, Industry Mining, Free Movement and Tourism, (Niger);
- Dr. Ibrahim Bocar Ba, Commissioner for Macro Economic Policy, (Mali);
- Mr. Ebrima Njie, Commissioner for Infrastructure (The Gambia).

20. Authority directed the Chairman of the Council of Ministers to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Council to consider the allocation of outstanding statutory positions within the ECOWAS Institutions and Agencies.

21. The Heads of State and Government warmly congratulated H.E. **James Victor Gbeho**, the outgoing President of the Commission, for his untiring effort in the implementation of ECOWAS integration projects and for the impressive achievements recorded during his term of office. They also extended their gratitude to the former Commissioners, who ably steered the affairs of the Commission.

22. The Heads of State and Government elected H.E. **Alassane Dramane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for a one-year mandate.

23. The Heads of State and Government commended H.E **Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and outgoing Chairman of Authority, for his enormous contribution in defending and promoting democracy, and in the consolidation of peace and security in the Region. They expressed their gratitude for his foresight, wise counsel and exemplary leadership, which allowed the Community to scale new frontiers in the integration process during his chairmanship.

24. The next Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government will be held on a date to be communicated after consultations with the Chairman of Authority.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2012

THE AUTHORITY



VOTE OF THANKS

We, the Heads of State and Government express their deep gratitude to H.E. **Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government and People of Nigeria, for their generous and African hospitality accorded us during our stay in Abuja, and for the excellent facilities put at our disposal for the successful holding of our 40th Ordinary Session.

DONE AT ABUJA THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2012

THE AUTHORITY