



FORTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, 17 & 18 July 2013

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Forty-Third Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria on 17 and 18 July 2013, under the Chairmanship of **H.E Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Authority.

2. The following Heads of State and Government or their accredited representatives attended the Summit:

- H.E. **Thomas Boni YAYI**, President of the Republic of Benin
- H.E. **Blaise COMPAORE**, President of Burkina Faso
- H.E. **José Maria Pereira NEVES**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cape Verde
- H.E. **Alassane OUATTARA**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. **Aja Isatou NJIE-SAIDY**, Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia
- H.E. **John Dramani MAHAMA**, President of the Republic of Ghana
- H.E. **Alpha CONDE**, President of the Republic of Guinea
- H.E. **Manuel Sérifo NHAMAJO**, Interim President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
- H.E. **Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF**, President of the Republic of Liberia
- H.E. **Dioncounda TRAORE**, Interim President of the Republic of Mali
- H.E. **Mahamadou ISSOUFOU**, President of the Republic of Niger
- H.E. **Goodluck Ebele JONATHAN**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

- H.E. **Ernest Bai KOROMA**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- H.E. **Mankeur NDIAYE**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese in Diaspora of the Republic of Senegal
- H.E. **Elliott OHIN**, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Togolese Republic

3. The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union in Mali and the Sahel, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to Nigeria, representing President **Idriss Deby Itno**, also attended the Summit as observers.

4. The Heads of State and Government took note of the 2013 Interim Report of the President of the Commission and the Report of the 70th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers by the Chairman of the Council. They also took note of the Memoranda of the President of the Commission on the situations in Mali and Guinea Bissau as well as the Report of the 30th Ordinary Meeting of the Mediation and Security Council of 15 July 2013 presented by the Chairman of the Council. Authority also took note of the reports of **H. E. Blaise Compaoré**, President of Burkina Faso and ECOWAS Mediator in Mali, and **H. E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, President of the Republic of Nigeria, Associate Mediator in Mali and Chairman of the Regional Contact Group on Guinea Bissau.

5. Authority adopted the different reports presented and expressed satisfaction with the pertinence of the recommendations contained therein, the thrust of which relate to integration programs, regional peace and security, and institutional matters.

6. The Heads of State and Government affirmed their firm political will to further boost the regional integration process by pooling their efforts towards the socio-economic development of West Africa in an environment of regional peace and security, and good governance. In that regard, the Authority took the following specific Decisions:

REGIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND MARKET CONSOLIDATION

7. Authority welcomes the efforts by Member States in the consolidation of their economic growth. To sustain these performances, the Heads of state and government commit to the pursuit of their policies aimed at sanitizing the macroeconomic sector and controlling public deficits. In that regard, the Authority tasks the President of the Commission to fast-track the harmonization of macroeconomic policies, as well as the measures to ensure the effectiveness of the second monetary zone.

8. Authority notes with satisfaction the activities undertaken by the Commission and Member States towards the creation of a common market in West Africa. Authority reaffirms its political will to accelerate the regional integration process, especially through the establishment of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET). Summit reiterates the need to conclude a development-oriented regional Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). It welcomes the completion of the review of the West African liberalization scheme, taking into account its coherence with the CET and the development imperatives.

9. In order to deepen reflection on all these matters critical to the consolidation of the regional market and matters linked to the Community Levy. Authority decides to convene an Extraordinary Summit in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, by October 2013. It directs the President of the Commission to take the necessary measures to prepare the summit with the participation of the Council of Ministers, the Ministers of Finance and Trade.

10. Determined to ensure the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment, the Heads of State and Government firmly decide to use all possible means to eliminate all the barriers to trade and mobility of persons. In that regard, Authority decides to entrust the responsibility for monitoring this important matter to **H. E. Blaise Compaoré**, President of Burkina Faso. Authority endorses the establishment and implementation of joint border posts in the ECOWAS space.

SECTORAL POLICIES

11. Authority welcomes the vigorous actions taken to speed up the construction of the Lagos-Abidjan Highway. It commends the determination of the Member States of this Corridor in the realization of the project. Authority directs the Commission to facilitate the expeditious implementation of this project, in particular by developing its related financing mechanism.

12. Conscious of the importance of transport infrastructure to the overall ECOWAS development strategy, Summit decides to entrust the coordination and driving role of this sector, particularly air transport, to **H. E. Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. Authority encourages the pursuit of air transport liberalization measures, and urges Member States to ensure their effective implementation. It directs the Commission to take all the necessary steps to build institutional capacities for the attainment of this objective.

13. Authority renews its commitment to energy services access in West Africa. In this regard, Authority adopts the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy as well as the Renewable Energy Policy. It directs the Commission to take all the necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of the developed action plans. In particular, Authority instructs the Commission to pursue efforts in the area of interconnectivity of electricity networks and the mobilization of the needed resources for the special emergency programs of Member States. It also instructs the Commission to expedite action on the establishment of the regulatory framework for electricity market development in West Africa.

PEACE AND SECURITY

14. The Heads of State and Government reaffirm their commitment to the principles enshrined in the Protocols and Decisions relating to democracy, good governance, peace and security. Having carefully reviewed the evolution of the security, political, and institutional situations in Mali and Guinea Bissau, as well as transnational organized crime and the on-going electoral processes in the Region, Authority decides as follows:

Mali

15. Authority welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2100 (2013) of 25 April 2013, as well as the subsequent smooth transition from the operations of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on 1 July 2013.

16. Authority expresses deep appreciation to the political and military leadership of AFISMA, particularly the Force Commander, Police Commissioner, as well as the officers and rank and file, for their role in the stabilization of Mali, and their heroism, professionalism and sense of duty in the service of the Region.

17. The Heads of State and Government pay merited homage to the AFISMA soldiers who paid the ultimate price in the line of duty. They reiterate their gratitude to France and Chad for their decisive action and sacrifices in Mali.

18. Authority expresses gratitude to all partners, in particular the AU, the EU, US, and the neighboring countries for their cooperation, as well as their financial, logistical, and political support to the efforts in Mali.

19. Authority expresses appreciation to the United Nations, in particular members of the Security Council, for the diligence on the Mali dossier. It urges the UN to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration with the African partners under the MINUSMA mandate.

20. Summit reiterates its appeal to the donor community for urgent additional financial and material support in response to the persisting humanitarian emergency in Mali and in neighboring countries.

21. Authority instructs the Commission to expedite a review of the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture with regard to preventive diplomacy and rapid military response capability, against the background of the lessons learned in Mali.

22. Authority welcomes the signing of the Preliminary Agreement towards the Elections and Inclusive Peace Talks between the Government of Mali and the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) on 18 June 2013 in Ouagadougou.

23. Authority commends the signatories for this significant breakthrough in the overall peace process in Mali, and urges them, as well as the other armed groups that have adhered to the Agreement, to continue to strictly abide by its provisions.

24. The Heads of State and Government commend the Malian authorities, the political parties and other stakeholders for the consensus on holding the Presidential election on 28 July 2013, as well as the preparations underway aimed at conducting a free, fair and transparent election. They appeal to the political parties, candidates and their followers to demonstrate self-restraint, accept the outcome of the polls and, in the event of disputes arising, to resort to exclusively legal means.

25. Summit expresses profound gratitude to **H.E. Dioncounda Traore**, Interim President of the Republic of Mali, for his personal commitment, dedicated service, and for his able leadership of the transition in a most difficult period in Mali's history.

26. Summit pays merited homage to **H.E. Blaise Compaoré**, President of Burkina Faso and ECOWAS Mediator in Mali, and **H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Associate Mediator, for their productive mediation efforts in Mali, in particular for facilitating the conclusion of the landmark Agreement of 18 June 2013. It expresses appreciation to the UN, the AU, the EU and other partners for their contribution to the Ouagadougou process.

Guinea Bissau

27. Authority welcomes the signing of the revised Transitional Pact by all the political stakeholders in Guinea Bissau, paving the way for the creation of the fully inclusive Transitional Government on 7 June 2013. It exhorts the Interim President, the Transitional Government, the People's National Assembly, the Civil Society Organizations and all other stakeholders, to work assiduously and cooperatively

towards the implementation of the urgent tasks of the transition, in particular the holding of the general elections.

28. Authority recalls its Decision of 28 February 2013 extending the period of transition till 31 December 2013. In that regard, the Heads of State and Government urge the authorities in Guinea Bissau to adopt the most appropriate and efficient methods to ensure the holding of the elections on the stipulated date of 24 November 2013.

29. Authority welcomes the second Joint Assessment Mission of ECOWAS, the AU, CPLP, the UN, the EU, and the OIF to Guinea Bissau. It also welcomes the commitment by these partners to accompany the country in the electoral process and the post-electoral reform agenda.

30. Authority once more reiterates its call on the African Union and international partners to lift the sanctions imposed on Guinea Bissau and to resume bilateral cooperation with the country. Authority encourages the intensification of on-going initiatives to convene a donor conference to mobilize the necessary resources for the socio-economic development of the country.

31. Summit directs the Commission to take urgent steps, in close consultation with the other partners, to resume meetings of the International Contact Group on Guinea Bissau.

32. Authority takes note of the commencement of the Defense and Security Sector Reform Program in Guinea Bissau, and directs the ECOWAS Commission to ensure its effectiveness.

33. Authority, while commending the Commanders and the contingents of the ECOWAS Security Mission in Guinea Bissau (ECOMIB) for their laudable efforts in the country, and decides to extend the mandate of ECOMIB by a further twelve months from 17 May 2013 until 16 May 2014.

34. Summit expresses deep appreciation to **H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Regional Contact Group on Guinea Bissau (RCG-GB), and members of the Group, as well as to **H. E. Alpha Condé**, President of the Republic of Guinea and Mediator in Guinea Bissau, for their efforts to ensure a successful and inclusive transition in Guinea Bissau.

Electoral Processes

35. Authority takes note of the legislative elections scheduled to take place in Togo and Guinea on 25 July 2013 and 24 September 2013, respectively. Authority commends all the stakeholders in both Member States for the maturity demonstrated in reaching consensus on the elections, and expresses gratitude to the facilitators in the dialogue processes.

36. Summit launches an appeal to all the political parties, the candidates and their followers to ensure the conduct of peaceful, free, fair and transparent elections.

Emergent Security Threats

37. The Heads of State and Government firmly condemn the acts of terrorism, piracy and other forms of transnational organized crime perpetrated in the ECOWAS space. Summit expresses its solidarity with the Member States that have fallen victim to these attacks, in particular Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

38. Authority reaffirms its firm determination to combat, with all appropriate measures, all these scourges undermining the regional efforts to deepen regional integration and ensure stability. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government reaffirm their commitment to the Political Declaration made at the 24-25 June 2013 Yaoundé Summit of ECOWAS and ECCAS States on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea.

39. Authority directs the Commission to facilitate the urgent adoption of the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy and the establishment of Pilot Model Zone E within the framework of the Strategy. It also instructs the Commission to expedite action on the implementation of the ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

40. The Authority welcomes the different initiatives and strategies developed with a view to finding a lasting solution to the security and development challenges in the Sahel region. It underscores the need for coordination to ensure coherence and complementarity of the disparate interventions. Towards this end, Authority directs the Commission to expedite action on the adoption of the ECOWAS Sahel Strategy, and to ensure ECOWAS's coordination role of the various strategies at the regional level.

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

41. Towards the implementation of the Decisions taken by Authority at its 42nd Ordinary Session in Yamoussoukro on 27-28 February 2013 with regard to the adoption of a 15-member Commission, Summit decides to allocate the following statutory positions in accordance with the new structure of the Commission:

	Statutory Posts	Allocation
1	President	Burkina Faso
2	Vice President	Liberia
3	Commissioner, Finance	Sierra Leone
4	Commissioner, Macroeconomic Policy and Economic Research	Mali
5	Commissioner, Trade, Customs and Free Movement	Niger
6	Commissioner, Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources	Togo
7	Commissioner, Infrastructure	The Gambia
8	Commissioner, Political Affairs, Peace and Security	Nigeria
9	Commissioner, Social Affairs and Gender	Senegal
10	Commissioner, General Administration and Conferences	Ghana
11	Commissioner, Human Resources Management	Guinea Bissau
12	Commissioner, Education, Science and Culture	Bénin
13	Commissioner, Energy and Mines	Guinea
14	Commissioner, Telecommunications-IT	Cape Verde
15	Commissioner, Industry and Private Sector Promotion	Côte d'Ivoire

42. Authority decides to allocate the statutory positions that have expired in other Institutions of ECOWAS as follows:

	Statutory Posts	Allocation
1	Financial Controller	Nigeria
2	Director General of GIABA	Côte d'Ivoire
3	Deputy Director General of GIABA	Ghana
4	Director General of WAHO	Niger
5	Deputy Director General of WAHO	Bénin
6	Judge 1, Community Court of Justice	Nigeria
7	Judge 2, Community Court of Justice	Liberia
8	Judge 3, Community Court of Justice	Mali
9	Judge 4, Community Court of Justice	Burkina Faso

43. Authority takes note of the state of advancement of the institutional reform process and encourages the Commission to pursue the exercise till its successful conclusion.

44. The Heads of State and Government pay merited homage to **H.E. Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of Authority, for his constant dedication to the service of regional integration, peace and security in West Africa.

45. The Heads of State and Government decide to hold their 44th Ordinary Summit in Yamoussoukro, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, at a date to be agreed after consultations.

Done in Abuja, this 18th Day of July 2013

THE AUTHORITY



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VOTE OF THANKS

We, Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States, meeting at our 43rd Ordinary Session in Abuja from 17 to 18 July 2013 to deliberate on the challenges of regional integration, peace and security, express our deepest appreciation to **H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to the Government and people of Nigeria, for the brotherly reception and the authentic African hospitality extended to us and our delegations, which made us feel so much at home in this great and beautiful country.

Given the seriousness of the issues under discussion, we are equally most appreciative of the relaxed atmosphere created, as well as the magnificent facilities put at our disposal for the success of this meeting.

We, the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, further express our highest regard and appreciation to **H.E. Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of Authority, for the masterful and efficient manner in which he guided proceedings, which greatly facilitated deliberations and ensured the successful formulation of pertinent Decisions.

DONE AT ABUJA THIS 18th DAY OF JULY, 2013

THE AUTHORITY