



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

Yamoussoukro, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 28 and 29 March 2014

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Forty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held on 28 and 29 March 2014 in Yamoussoukro, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, under the chairmanship of His Excellency 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 duly accredited representatives were present:

- 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. **Sheikh Prof. Alhaji Dr. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH**, 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 (Mrs.)**, President of the Republic of Liberia
- H.E. **Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA**, 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. **Macky SALL**, President of the Republic of Senegal

- H.E. **Robert DUSSEY**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Togolese Republic.

3. The President of the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Mali, the representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Governor of the Central Bank of West Africa, the Executive Secretary of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), also attended the Summit as observers.

4. The Heads of State and Government took note of the 2013 Annual Report of the President of the Commission, the Reports of the 71st Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, the 31st Meeting of the Mediation and Security Council, and the 12th and 13th Extraordinary Sessions of the Council of Ministers, presented by the Chairman of the Council. Authority also took note of the briefing by H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Regional Contact Group on Guinea Bissau, as well as the Memorandum of the President of the Commission on the situation in Guinea Bissau. It also took note of the briefings of Presidents Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger; Macky Sall of Senegal; Alassane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire; and Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, respectively on the issues related to the common currency; negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU; air transport; and the free Movement of Persons and Goods.

5. Authority commended the quality of the reports presented. It endorsed the recommendations therein contained and intended to consolidate and improve upon the gains made in West Africa's integration process.

6. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the significant achievements made in all the areas and renewed their firm political commitment to deepening regional integration, the accelerated actualization of the various Community projects, and the consolidation of democracy, good governance, peace and security in West Africa.

7. Following in-depth analyses of the stakes in the regional integration process, Authority arrived at the following conclusions and specific decisions:

REGIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE COMMON MARKET

8. The Heads of State and Government reiterate the need to record a more vigorous economic growth to sustain employment and to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. To sustain the good economic prospects in the Region, Authority urges Member States to pursue efforts deployed towards putting in place sound and stable

macroeconomic frameworks. Summit calls on Member States adhere to macroeconomic convergence principles, and directs the President of the Commission to ensure a rigorous follow-up.

10. With a view to consolidating the Common Market, Authority reiterates its decisions taken at the Dakar Summit on the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET). In this regard, it welcomes the measures already taken towards strengthening the industrial strategy, the harmonization of trade policies, and putting in place a fiscal transition program, and the full implementation of the Trade Liberalization Scheme (TLS) by all Members States.

11. Authority commends H.E. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, for his propellant role in ensuring the free movement of persons and goods. In particular, Authority expresses its appreciation of the urgent measures proposed in the roadmap developed towards this end. Authority directs the Commission and all the stakeholders in Member States to take the appropriate measures towards the expeditious implementation of the roadmap. It encourages President Blaise Compaoré to persevere in his efforts.

12. Summit also commends H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, and H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, for the measures taken in fulfillment of the mandate given to them by Authority to oversee the process towards monetary convergence in the Region.

13. The Heads of State and Government welcome the conclusions of the first meeting of the Presidential Task Force on the Monetary Cooperation Program. They endorse the graduated approach proposed for achieving monetary union by 2020. They direct the President of the Commission to draw up, in collaboration with the appropriate regional institutions, a detailed roadmap of the measures to take in order to meet the agreed deadlines.

14. Authority invites all central banks to be fully involved in this process, in particular in the harmonization of monetary policy frameworks, banking regulations, and the reform of the financial sectors. Summit encourages Presidents Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger and John Dramani Mahama of Ghana to pursue their oversight role in this major project.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)

15. The Heads of State and Government reaffirm their strong commitment to the regional integration agenda.

16. Authority welcomes the participatory, consensual and constructive approach that prevailed in the West African region and paved the way for the finalization of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations with the European Union.

17. The Heads of State and Government note with satisfaction the significant progress made by the Chief Negotiators in the quest for compromise. They commend H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, for the impetus given to the process. They also congratulate the Chief Negotiators for the progress achieved.

18. Authority endorses the conclusion of the Agreement in principle but notes that there are outstanding technical issues. Consequently, Authority directs the Chief Negotiators to take all the necessary steps within the next two months to address the issues raised by some Member States, in particular Nigeria, prior to signing the Agreement. Authority also directs the Chief Negotiators to establish a committee, including representatives from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire, to look at these issues and to present the final outcome to the Heads of State and Government.

19. Summit directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with his WAEMU homologue, to enter into negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which also belongs to the geographical configuration of the negotiations, with a view to concluding an Association Agreement.

SECTORAL POLICIES

20. The Heads of State and Government renew their firm commitment to strengthening the resilience capacities of the Region, in particular through THE effective implementation of food security and climate change adaptation programs, as well as regional policies on sustainable energy and social development policies.

21. Summit reaffirms its commitment to regional infrastructure development and directs the Commission to pursue its coordination efforts in this area, as well as the mobilization of adequate resources for the timely implementation of the master plans adopted in this regard, and ensuring an equitable distribution of projects in the Region.

22. In this regard, Authority welcomes the signing of the Treaty on the Lagos-Abidjan Highway Project by Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. It welcomes the commitment made by these Member States to confer an international status on this regional project, and to accelerate its actualization. Authority calls on development partners and financial institutions to support its implementation.

23. The Heads of State and Government welcome the full disposition demonstrated by H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, in the coordination of efforts towards the development of regional infrastructures, and encourage him to persevere in his actions in this direction.

PEACE AND SECURITY

24. Authority reaffirms the intrinsic link between the drive towards the consolidation of economic integration and the efforts to stabilize the peace and security environment in West Africa. In that regard, Authority renews its commitment to the promotion and defense of the principles of democracy, good governance, peace and security undergirding Community Acts.

25. The Heads of State and Government note with satisfaction the progressive consolidation of the transitional processes in the Region, demonstrated by the successful conclusion of the Presidential and legislative elections in Mali, the peaceful conduct of legislative elections in Guinea and Togo, as well as the significant progress achieved in the preparations towards the general elections in Guinea Bissau.

26. In view of the critical elections scheduled for 2015 in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria and Togo, Authority expresses its strong determination to contribute towards the conduct of these elections in a peaceful and consensual environment, and in conformity with regional norms.

27. The Heads of State and Government, deeply concerned by the devastating impacts of violent extremism and growing transnational organized crime, in particular terrorism, piracy, and trafficking in humans, weapons and drugs, strongly condemn the continued atrocities perpetrated by terrorist and criminal networks in the Region, in particular in the north of Mali and Nigeria. They reaffirm their resolute commitment to fighting the scourges and urge Member States and partners to intensify coordinated efforts towards this end.

28. In line with its commitment to tackle the challenges in the Region's maritime domain and to complement continental and international initiatives, Authority endorses the adoption of the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) and directs the Commission to take the necessary measures towards its operationalization.

29. The Heads of State and Government decorate General Soumaïla Bakayoko, Chief of Defense Staff of Cote d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff, Major-General Shehu Usman Abdulkadir, Force Commander of AFISMA and the late Brigadier-General Yaye Garba, Deputy Force Commander of AFISMA (posthumously), for their dedication to the cause of peace and security in West Africa. They also decide to honor all the valiant uniformed men and women who have risked their lives in the services of AFISMA.

30. Authority shares the testimony of recognition by H.E. Ibrahim Boubakar Kéita, President of the Republic of Mali, in decorating, on behalf of the Government and people of Mali, Excellencies Alassane Ouattara, Chairman of the Authority, Blaise Compaoré, the ECOWAS Mediator in Mali, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, the Associate Mediator in Mali, Thomas Yayi Boni, former Chairman of the African Union, and Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, President of the ECOWAS Commission, for their exceptional contributions towards the resolution of the crisis in Mali. Authority thanks H.E. Ibrahim Boubakar Kéita for this gesture of acknowledgement towards ECOWAS.

On Mali

31. The Heads of State and Government welcome the signing of the modus operandi for the cantonment of armed groups, and urge all the parties to the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement to ensure its full implementation. To this end, they reiterate the call on all non-state armed groups in Mali to lay down their weapons, submit to cantonment, and pursue the peaceful resolution of disputes within the framework of the inclusive national dialogue.

32. Authority encourages the Government of Mali to take full responsibility for, and expedite the preparation and conduct of, the inclusive inter-Malian dialogue towards national reconciliation, with the support of ECOWAS and the international community.

33. Summit commends H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Kéïta, President of Mali, and his Government for the determined efforts towards consolidating the unity and territorial integrity of the country, national reconstruction, and the drive to promote good governance, the rule of law and human rights in the country. It encourages the Government to pursue the fight against impunity, grave violations of human rights, and corruption, in strict adherence to the rule of law.

34. Authority endorses the conclusions of the Council of Ministers on the findings in the Report of the After-Action Review of ECOWAS Initiatives and Responses to the Multidimensional Crises in Mali.

35. The Heads of State and Government renew confidence in 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 the remarkable results achieved in their mediation efforts in Mali.

On Guinea Bissau

36. Authority commends the Interim President, H.E. Manuel Sérifo Nhamajo, the Transitional Government, the Popular National Assembly, and all the other stakeholders in the transitional process in Guinea Bissau for the self-sacrifice and sense of compromise that have propelled the country progressively towards the critical general elections of 13 April 2014. It exhorts them to maintain the same posture in the run-up to, during, and after the elections.

37. Authority directs the Commission to take all necessary additional measures to ensure the conduct of peaceful, free, fair, and transparent elections. It also appeals to the international community to extend assistance to Guinea Bissau to ensure the successful conclusion of the elections.

38. The Heads of State and Government caution members of the Defense and Security Forces, as well as the political class, in Guinea Bissau against any acts that may disrupt the smooth conduct of the electoral process, failing which perpetrators would be liable to severe consequences. They exhort all the political parties, candidates and their supporters to refrain from acts of provocation, incitement and any other action that may impede the successful

conduct of the elections, and to resort to exclusively peaceful and legal means in seeking redress to any grievances.

39. Summit urges the African Union and the rest of the international community to expedite the lifting of sanctions imposed on Guinea Bissau, and to join forces with ECOWAS in facilitating the adoption and implementation of a consensual post-electoral program aimed at the structural reform of the institutions and processes in the country.

40. Authority commends the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea Bissau (ECOMIB) for demonstrating professionalism and dedication to service and decide to extend the Mission's mandate till 31 December 2014. It urges Member States to expedite additional financial and logistics support to sustain its operations.

41. The Heads of State and Government decide to extend the transition period in Guinea Bissau till the inauguration of the legitimate authorities.

42. Authority notes the progress made in the implementation of the roadmap of the Defence and Security Sector Program (DSSRP) and urges the authorities in Guinea Bissau to extend the necessary cooperation towards its successful completion.

43. The Heads of State and Government express gratitude to all Member States who have made financial and other contributions towards the electoral process. They also express appreciation to the Government of Timor Leste for the generous financial and logistics support to Guinea Bissau in this process.

44. The Heads of State and Government express deep gratitude 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), for his proven commitment, as well as the generous financial and logistics support, to the transitional process in Guinea Bissau. They also express appreciation to H.E. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and Mediator in Guinea Bissau, and the other members of the RCG, for their important role in ensuring a successful and inclusive transition in the country.

45. Summit mandates the RCG-GB to analyze the post-electoral challenges in Guinea Bissau, propose the tasks needed to meet the challenges, and the role of ECOWAS in facilitating their fulfillment.

46. Authority presents a special motion in recognition of the decisive role played by H.E. Manuel Serifo Nhamjo, Interim President of Guinea Bissau, in the smooth conduct of the transitional process in his country. The Heads of State and Government also address their best wishes to him.

47. Summit decides to remain seized by the political and security situation in West Africa.

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

48. In application of its Decision to expand the Commission membership to fifteen (15) and to make new statutory appointments to the other ECOWAS Institutions, the Authority takes note of the appointment, by the Council of Ministers, of:

- **Mr. Jean Pierre Ezin** (Benin), as Commissioner for Education, Science and Culture;
- **Dr. Isaias Barreto Olimpico da Rosa** (Cape Verde), as Commissioner for Telecommunications and Information Technology;
- **Mr. Kalilou Traoré** (Côte d'Ivoire), as Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion;
- **Mr. Stephen Nartey** (Ghana), as Commissioner for General Administration and Conference;
- **Mr. Bangoura Morlaye** (Guinea), as Commissioner for Energy and Mines;
- **Mr. Silva Monteiro João Jose** (Guinea Bissau), as Commissioner for Human Resources;
- **Dr. Fatimata Dia Sow** (Senegal), as Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender;
- **Dr. Muhammad Sani Bello** (Nigeria), as Financial Controller;
- **Dr. Crespin Xavier** (Niger), as Director-General of WAHO;
- **Dr. Laurent Aholofou Assogba** (Benin), as Deputy Director-General of WAHO;
- **Mr. Adama Coulibaly** (Côte d'Ivoire), as Director-General of GIABA; and
- **Mr. Brian Sapati** (Ghana), as Deputy Director-General of GIABA.

49. Authority endorses the renewal of the ECOWAS Court of Justice through the nomination of the following seven Judges:

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| ▪ Mr. Jerome Traore | Republic of Burkina Faso; |
| ▪ Mr. Yaya Boiro | Republic of Guinea; |
| ▪ Mrs. Maria Do Ceu Monteiro Silva | Republic of Guinea Bissau |
| ▪ Mr. Micah Wilkins Wright | Republic of Liberia |
| ▪ Mr. Hameye Foune Mahlmadane | Republic of Mali |
| ▪ Mr. Friday Chijoke Nwoke | Federal Republic of Nigeria |
| ▪ Mr. Alioun Sall | Republic of Senegal |

50. To ensure higher efficiency in program implementation, Summit encourages all the Institutions to continue their efforts towards improving management, as well as administrative and financial policies and procedures.

51. Authority directs the Council of Ministers to reexamine the ECOWAS recruitment criteria with a view to ensuring greater equity in the distribution of posts among Member States.

52. Summit urges Member States to ensure the implementation of all the provisions of the Community Levy Protocol.

53. Authority expresses appreciation to all the ECOWAS partners for their continued interest in and support for the Region's peace and security and economic integration agenda. In particular, Authority welcomes the new financial commitments made by the European Union within the framework of the Regional Indicative Program of the 11th European Development Fund in support of ECOWAS efforts to consolidate peace and stability, enhance market integration, strengthen resilience and ensure food security.

54. The Heads of State and Government pay glowing tribute to **H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for the major achievements recorded by ECOWAS under his chairmanship and leadership. They express profound gratitude for his significant contributions to the deepening of the integration process and the consolidation of peace and security in West Africa. The Heads of State and Government commend, in addition to his great statesmanship, his unwavering dedication to the service of the Region, and his total commitment to the principles and ideals that animate ECOWAS.

55. Summit decides to elect **H.E. John Dramani Mahama**, President of the Republic of Ghana, as Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for a one-year term.

56. The Heads of State and Government decide to hold their next Ordinary Session in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, at a date to be fixed after consultations.

DONE AT YAMOUSSOUKRO, THIS 29TH DAY OF MARCH, 2014.

THE AUTHORITY



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

Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, 28-29 March 2014

VOTE OF THANKS

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States, meeting in our 44th Ordinary Session from 28th to 29th March 2014 in Yamoussoukro, express our sincere gratitude to **His Excellency Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, as well as his Government and people of Cote d'Ivoire, for the generous and authentically African hospitality extended to us and to our delegations.

We particularly pay homage to **His Excellency Alassane Ouattara**, for the remarkable achievements in the economic integration and political stabilization processes in West Africa under his mandate and leadership of our cherished Regional Organization, ECOWAS.

In this regard, we the Heads of State and Government express our admiration for the masterful, insightful, and authoritative manner in which His Excellency Alassane Ouattara presided over our deliberations, which contributed significantly to the formulation of pertinent Decisions towards deepening the integration process.

In view of the importance of the issues considered, we are equally grateful to him for the relaxed atmosphere that prevailed throughout our deliberations, as well as for the excellent facilities made available to us to ensure a successful conduct of our Session.

DONE AT YAMOUSSOUKRO, THIS 29TH DAY OF MARCH 2014

THE AUTHORITY