



FORTY FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Accra, 10 – 11 July 2014

DECISION A/DEC.1/07/14 AMENDING DECISION A/DEC.2/7/85 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAVEL CERTIFICATE FOR ECOWAS MEMBER STATES

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty as amended establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 3 of the said Treaty particularly paragraph 2 (d) (iii) which mandates member States to ensure the removal of all obstacles to the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital and to the right of residence and establishment;

MINDFUL of the Supplementary Protocol A/SP2/7/85 on the Code of Conduct of the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/7/85 on the Establishment of a travel certificate for ECOWAS States;

RECALLING Annex 9 (Chapter 3) on ICAO standards and recommended practices on Travellers Identification and Borders Controls;

CONSIDERING that the travel certificate which is being currently used by some Member States is outdated and not in compliance with the International standard travelling document;



CONSIDERING that some travel documents of ECOWAS Member States such as passport are biometric and harmonized but the National Identity Cards of Member States are not harmonized;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that National Identity Cards must be biometric and harmonized for security purposes of the Region;

CONVINCED of the need to establish a uniform travel document which will facilitate and simplify the movement of community citizens at border crossings of Member States;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Seventy Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers which was held from 19th to 20th June 2014 in Accra, (Republic of Ghana);

DECIDES

Article 1: AMENDMENT OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE 1

The provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 1 of Decision A/DEC.2/7/85 on the Establishment of a Travel Certificate in ECOWAS Member States shall be amended as follows:

New paragraph 1 of Article 1

The National Biometric Identity Card is hereby established as a travel document within the ECOWAS Region.

ARTICLE 2: IMPLEMENTATION

1. In order to ensure the effective implementation of this Decision, the ECOWAS Commission shall set up a monitoring and evaluation hoc committee which shall monitor and evaluate on the implementation of this Decision, particularly in relation to security related issues;



2. An Enabling Regulation shall define the composition and the operation of the monitoring and evaluation committee provided for by Paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 3: ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Decision shall enter into force upon signature by the Chairman of the Authority.

Article 4: PUBLICATION

This Decision shall be published by the President of the Commission in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days after signature. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette thirty (30) days after notification by the Commission.

DONE AT ACCRA ON THE 11TH DAY OF JULY 2014

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H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA

FOR THE AUTHORITY

THE CHAIRMAN