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COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES  
ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE  
DE L'OUEST

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**ECOWAS REGIONAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS  
IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AND  
AGRICULTURE/LIVESTOCK ON TRANSHUMANCE**

Abuja, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

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**DRAFT REPORT**

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ECOWAS Commission

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Meeting of the Ministers in-charge of Security and Agriculture/Livestock on Transhumance of ECOWAS was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria to review the on-going conflicts between farmers and herders in the region and propose quick and immediate solutions to address the issues.
2. The following Member States were represented:
  - Republic of Benin;
  - Burkina Faso;
  - Republic of Cabo Verde;
  - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire;
  - Republic of The Gambia;
  - Republic of Ghana;
  - Republic of Guinea;
  - Republic of Guinea Bissau;
  - Republic Liberia;
  - Republic of Mali;
  - Republic of Niger;
  - Federal Republic of Nigeria;
  - Republic of Senegal;
  - Republic of Sierra Leone;
  - Togolese Republic.
3. The following neighbouring countries attended the meeting:
  - Republic of Cameroun
  - Republic of Chad
  - Central African Republic
  - Islamic Republic of Mauritania
4. The President of the ECOWAS Commission also attended the meeting.
5. The following institutions were represented:
  - United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel (UNOWAS);
  - World Bank;
  - European Union
  - Agence Française de Developpement (AFD);
  - African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).
- Sahel and West African Club/OECD
- Comite Inter Etat de Lutte contre la Secheresse au Sahel (CILSS)

6. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

## **I. OPENING CEREMONY**

7. The Honourable Minister of Interior for the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Abdulrahman B. Dambazau, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He stated that the objective of the meeting is to provide immediate and permanent solutions to challenges posed by the conflicts between Herders and Farmers in the region. He further re-iterated that the meeting was at the instance of the request made by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Buhari to the President of the ECOWAS Commission to deploy a common approach to mitigate these challenges.

8. The Honourable Minister reinforced the need to address issue of climate change, land degradation which contribute to the escalation of the conflict. He stressed the need to ensure food security, protect lives and properties are sacrosanct for our development and regional integration.

9. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, His Excellency, Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, in his goodwill message, commended ECOWAS and the Federal Republic of Nigeria for convening this important. He indicated that the herder-farmer conflict is a regional issue requiring a regional approach as it affects human, economic development, national and regional security.

10. He stressed that most pastoralist-related conflicts in the region stems from a growing competition between herders and farmers over access to water and pasture and the tension is aggravated by demographic and ecological pressures, lack of implementation of existing pastoral and transhumance laws, political manipulation, and the prevalence of weapons in the region.

11. In conclusion, Dr Ibn Chambas reiterated UNOWAS full commitment, together with the UN system in the region, to support ECOWAS and national governments in tacking this critical security situation.

12. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture for the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Audu Ogbe, expressed his appreciation to delegates and in the same vein informed of the critical role of Farmers and Herders in our food security. The Honourable Minister also emphasized the need for regional approach to address the challenges posed to Peace and Security and encouraged Stakeholders to

proffer solutions to address the security threats through modernisation of the mechanism for Transhumance.

13. The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama expressed confidence in the anticipated outcome of the meeting to address the conflict between Herders and Sedimentary Farmers. Citing the practices from Argentina and Brazil with a view of replicating best practices in addressing these challenges, the Honourable Minister stressed the need to protect, guide, and ensure the implementation of the flagship protocol of Free Movement of Persons which is the heart of ECOWAS integration agenda.

14. In his speech, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Kassi Brou expressed his gratitude to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his vision and leadership with respect to Regional Integration issues and his personal commitment to Agriculture and Animal Resources in West Africa.

15. He mentioned that the region and its neighbouring countries are witnessing a deterioration of pastoralism and transhumance which has resulted in loss of lives, forced population displacements among others. He further stated that there is need for this meeting to identify appropriate responses to address the ongoing challenges and work towards a positive transformation of the Agriculture sector.

16. He concluded by calling on non-state actors to invest in the modernization of livestock production systems.

17. In his opening remarks the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osibanjo, (SAN) thanked the ECOWAS Commission for organizing the important meeting on Transhumance. He thanked the international partners for continually supporting ECOWAS for to ensure the desired results are achieved. He further reiterated the need for the implementation of the 1979 Protocol on Free Movement as well as the 2003 Protocol on Transhumance.

18. Professor Osibanjo called on the ECOWAS Member States embrace ranching as one of the solutions to the issues of Transhumance. He concluded by declaring the meeting opened.

19. The full texts of speeches are attached to this report.

## **II. ELECTION OF BUREAU**

20. The following bureau was elected:

- Chairman - Federal Republic of Nigeria

## **III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME**

21. The following agenda was adopted after amendments:

#### **A) OPENING CEREMONY**

- Welcome Address by Lt Gen (rtd) Abdulrahman B DAMBAZAU, Nigeria's Minister of Interior,
- Goodwill Message by H.E Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel,
- Statement by H.E, Jean-Claude Kassi BROU, President of the Commission
- Statement Chief Audu Ogbeh, Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture.
- Statement by Mr Geoffery Onyema, Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Opening Address by H.E, Professor Yemi OSIBANJO, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Group Photograph

#### **B) CLOSED DOOR SESSION:**

- Consideration of the Report of the Expert Meeting
- Statement of Technical & Financial Partners (3 mn each) : World Bank
- Discussions
- Adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations

#### **C) CLOSING SESSION:**

- Signing Ceremony (ECOWAS Commission & AFD) of an AFD Grant Support to ECOWAS Commission to strengthen "dialogue between Herders & Farmers in west Africa"
  - Statement by Representative of French Cooperation
- Statement by H.E, Jean-Claude Kassi BROU, President of the Commission
- Closing Statement by Lt Gen (rtd) Abdulrahman B DAMBAZAU, Nigeria's Minister of Interior

## **IV) OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS**

### **Consideration of the Report of the Expert Meeting**

22. The Ministers reviewed the Report of the Experts Meeting which centred around four key thematic areas as follows:

- Regulatory Framework;
- Security & Local Governance;
- Livestock Sector Transformation; and
- Sensitization/Communication.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

23. The Ministers in their deliberations noted that most pastoralist-related conflicts in the region stems from a growing competition between herders and farmers over access to water and pasture due to the adverse effect of climate change and fueled by the prevalence of weapons in the region, rural banditry and cattle rustling

24. They underscored the cross-border nature of transhumance activities and stressed that efforts to address the related challenges should preserve the regional integration imperatives of Security and Free Movement of Persons and Goods.

25. They expressed serious concerns on the on-going and wide spread conflicts between farmers and herders in the Region, and strongly condemned these recent developments that have resulted in the loss of human lives.

26. In addition, they condemned the stigmatization of particular sections of the population and called for continuous advocacy, sensitization and media engagement.

27. The Ministers concluded on the urgent need to address the herder – farmer conflicts in the Region through dialogue and implementation of existing Protocols and Regulatory Frameworks relating to Transhumance.

28. In line with the above conclusions, the Ministers recommended as follows:

### **ON REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

- a. Audit the non-implementation of the existing Regulatory frameworks relating to transhumance and the control of proliferation of small arms;

- b. Review and update the existing regional regulatory frameworks relating to the transhumance and the international transhumance certificate taking into consideration the current realities;
- c. Harmonize and implement national legislations in compliance with the community laws on transhumance and small arms control.
- d. Review and development of the existing transhumance routes.

### **ON THE SECURITY & LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

- a. Encourage and strengthen local communities and bilateral dialogue mechanisms for a peaceful and secured trans-border transhumance including the establishment of bi-lateral agreements between member states on Transhumance;
- b. Strengthen Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) within ECOWAS Member States Security Services and ECOWAS neighboring countries for intelligence sharing, collaboration, cooperation and synergy;
- c. Review, update and implement national legislations in line with the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including the control of the local manufacture / fabrication (blacksmiths) and the civilian possession of arms;
- d. Establish and strengthen the inter-state transhumance committees to better secure transhumance;
- e. Promote community dialogue and strengthen traditional conflict prevention mechanisms to revolve herders-farmer's disputes;
- f. Reinforce the Regional and National Early Warning and Response systems and indicators on Transhumance;
- g. Strengthen the role and participation of women and youth as peace builders for community development;
- h. Strengthen the capacity of the justice systems and respect for the rule of law to actively dispense justice in order to prevent self-protection with arms

### **ON THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR TRANSFORMATION**

- a. Strengthen and evaluate monitoring system of transhumance through establishment of a regional policy with the use of ICT surveillance for tracking, identification, movement's control cattle rustling prevention and diseases control of livestock's within member's states.
- b. Identify, develop, formulate and implement projects / programs policies, strategies for the transformation and modernization of the livestock sector in order to address the current and future challenges in the livestock sector taking into account all aspects of livestock (pasture, water, feed, housing,

sanitation, environment, youth employment, health facility, resting point and other ancillary services). To that effect, mobilize the necessary funding to implement relevant regional projects such as PRIDEC, PEPISAO, PACBAO and PREDIP.

- c. Identify and seek support of technical and financial partners to support member countries in the livestock sector.
- d. Encourage Member States, under leadership of ECOWAS to carryout exhaustive census of livestock in the Region using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better valuation of the Sector.

### **ON SENSITIZATION / COMMUNICATION**

- a. Develop a Communication strategy that highlights good practices, encourages conflict prevention and deemphasizes stigmatization of particular sections of the population (Advocacy, Sensitization, Media engagement, etc.)
- b. Sensitize the relevant stakeholders and disseminate the regulations and frameworks on transhumance.
- c. Encourage the media and civil society to ensure honest reporting and communication on the conflicts to avoid misunderstandings and false information.

29. The Ministers agreed for a periodic review meeting to assess the implementation of the adopted recommendations and progress made in the sector. Furthermore the Ministers called on Member States to submit to ECOWAS Commission a report on the existing legal framework within each country and the status of the implementation of the Protocol on Transhumance by end of July 2018.

### **Adoption of the Report**

30. This report was adopted after amendments.

### **Closing Ceremony**

31. The Chairman of Meeting, Lieutenant General Abdulrahman Bello Danbazau, P.hd, in his closing remarks, thanked his fellow ministers for their contributions during the deliberations and for the spirit of camaraderie, which prevailed during their session. Thereafter, he declared the Meeting closed, and wished all participants safe journey back to their respective destinations.

**DONE AT ABUJA THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2018**

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**LIEUTENANT GENERAL AB DANBAZAU  
MINISTER OF INTERIOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**CHAIRMAN  
FOR: THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AND MINISTERS  
INCHARGE OF AGRICULTURE/LIVESTOCK**

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**ECOWAS REGIONAL MEETING OF MINISTERS  
INCHARGE OF SECURITY AND  
AGRICULTURE/LIVESTOCK ON HERDERS-FARMERS  
CONFLICT**

**Abuja, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**VOTE OF THANKS**

The participants at the Meeting of Transhumance held in Abuja, on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 express their profound gratitude to His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the Government and people of Nigeria for the warm African hospitality extended to them during their stay in Abuja and for the facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the success of their meeting.

**DONE AT ABUJA THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2018**