



COMMUNIQUE

JOINT HIGH-LEVEL SOLIDARITY MISSION

**ECOWAS-AFRICAN UNION AND UNITED NATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF
CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT AND PEACEFUL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE**

ABIDJAN, 4th to 7th OCTOBER 2020

ABIDJAN, 7th october 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized letter 'B' with a checkmark-like flourish.

1. A joint high-level mission visited the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire from 4 to 7 October 2020, as part of preventive diplomacy efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN) and the Council of the Entente, with a view to promoting a credible, transparent and peaceful presidential election in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 31 October 2020.

2. The Joint Mission was consecutive to:
 - the ECOWAS-UN video-conference held by ECOWAS and the UN with the President of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on 24 June 2020 to review the preparations for the presidential elections of 31 October 2020;
 - the consultative meeting with stakeholders and institutions involved in the organisation of the 31 October presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire, jointly organised by ECOWAS, the AU, UN and Conseil de l'Entente on 31 August 2020;
 - the videoconference training workshop for representatives of political parties, to enable them to build their capacity in the areas of communication, the conduct and financing of an electoral campaign and internal democracy, among others, on 21 and 22 September 2020 organised by the ECOWAS Commission;
 - the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in West Africa and the Sahel from 20 to 26 September 2020 in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

3. The delegation of the Joint Mission was composed of the following personalities:
 - H.E. Shirley Ayorkor BOTCHWEY, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers;
 - H.E. Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS);

- H.E. Minata Samaté CESSOUMA, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union;
 - General Francis A. BEHANZIN, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security;
 - Mr. Patrice Kouame, Executive Secretary of the Council of the Entente, also attended all the meeting at the invitation of the President of the ECOWAS Commission.
4. The purpose of the joint mission was to provide Ivorian stakeholders with an additional high level consultative platform, in addition to ongoing efforts to establish communication and interaction among political actors, to agree on consensual commitments for an inclusive, transparent and peaceful presidential election.
 5. During its stay in Abidjan, the Joint Mission was received in audience by His Excellency, Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. He welcomed the members of the Joint Mission and expressed his gratitude for the manifestation of international solidarity with the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. He reaffirmed to the Mission his determination to promote peace in Cote d'Ivoire and the entire sub-region. In this regard, he assured the Mission that he would spare no effort to ensure the holding of a credible, inclusive, transparent and peaceful presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire.
 6. The Joint Mission held consultations with various institutional actors, including the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Security and Civil Protection, as well as the Presidents of the IEC and the Constitutional Council on the state of preparations for the presidential election of 31 October 2020.
 7. The Joint Mission also held consultations with stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire, including political parties in the ruling coalition, opposition parties, candidates, the group of African, European and partner ambassadors accredited to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as various civil society organizations, women and youth associations.

