

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATESMEETING OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTOF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATESFINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met in Lagos on 21st and 22nd April, 1978.

The meeting was attended by the following Heads of State and Government and accredited Representatives :-

- H.E. Lt. Colonel Mathieu KEREKOU
President of the People's Republic of Benin
- H.E. Mr. Aristides PEREIRA
President of the Republic of Cape Verde
- H.E. Alhaji Sir Dauda JAWARA
President of the Republic of Gambia
- H.E. Mr. Luiz CABRAL
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- H.E. Mr. Felix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY
President of the Republic of Ivory-Coast
- H.E. Dr. William R. TOLBERT, Jr.
President of the Republic of Liberia
- H.E. Mr. Moktar Ould DADDAH
President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- H.E. Lt. General Olusegun OBI.SANJO
Head of the Federal Military Government of the
Republic of Nigeria
- H.E. Mr. Leopold Sedar Senghor
President of the Republic of Senegal
- H.E. Dr. Siaka STEVENS
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

*H.E. General Gnassingbe EYADEMA
President of the Republic of Togo*

*H.E. General A. Sangoule LAMIZANA
President of the Republic of Upper Volta*

*H.E. Major General George Yaw BOAKE
Member of the Supreme Military Council of Ghana*

*Mr. Ismael TOURE
Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the
Republic of Guinea*

*Mr. Founেকে KEITA
Minister of Finance and Trade of the
Republic of Mali*

*Intendant Militaire Moussa TONDI
Minister of Finance of the Republic of Niger*

The Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity,

Mr. W. Eteli Mboumoua, Ambassador Eastman, Secretary General of the Mano River Union, Mr. Moussa N'gom, Secretary General of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) and representatives of several intergovernmental organisations in West Africa such as the Liptako-Courma Authority, the West African Health Community Secretariat, and the Federation of the West African Chambers of Commerce, attended the meeting as observers.

After the formal opening ceremony marked by a welcome address by His Excellency, Lt. General Olusegun Obasanjo, as Head of State and Government of the Host Country, and a speech by the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, President of the Republic of Togo, the Head of State and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Lt. General Olusegun Obasanjo, was elected Chairman by acclamation.

The Authority adopted its Rules of Procedure, and ratified the appointment of the Executive Secretary who then took the Oath of Office.

The reports of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and of the Executive Secretary on the work of the Council and the activities of the Community respectively, were noted with satisfaction.

After examining the proposals related to the duties and responsibilities of the External Auditors, Sierra Leone was designated to nominate

The Authority adopted 28th May 1979 as the effective date for Customs Tariff Consolidation in accordance with Article 13(2) of the Treaty.

The General Convention on Privileges and Immunities for the Community and its staff, the Protocol on Non-Aggression and the Declaration on the Procedure for disseminating the decisions of the Authority and the Council of Ministers were adopted.

7 The Recommendations of the Council of Ministers on Institutional Matters were adopted with slight amendments.

The Authority also decided to place on record its appreciation of the thoroughness and objectivity with which the Ministerial Investigation Committee carried out the task entrusted to it culminating in the Recommendations on Institutional Matters made by the Council of Ministers.

The Authority decided in principle to adopt a multi-lateral agreement on the free movement of persons within the Community. To that end, the Authority directed the Council of Ministers to propose a text which will be considered at the next Summit.

The Authority decided that as a rule its ordinary meetings should be held in future on the anniversary of the signing of the ECOWAS Treaty, i.e. on the 28th of May of each year.

Presidents Tolbert, Jawara and Eyadema were heartily congratulated by the Authority for their efforts in settling the differences between the Republic of Guinea on the one hand and the Republics of Ivory Coast and Senegal on the other. The Authority also congratulated the Republics of Guinea, Ivory Coast and Senegal for their display of the African spirit of understanding demonstrated in resolving their differences.

It was decided that the Republic of Cape Verde be exempted from contributing to the budgets of the Community and the capital of the Fund for the next two years. The amount which should have been contributed by Cape Verde is to be divided pro rata among the remaining Member States.

The Authority expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Secretariat and the manner in which it has organised the meeting.

The Authority also expressed its gratitude to His Excellency, Lt. General Olusegun Obasanjo, Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government and the people of Nigeria for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to them and for the support given to the Secretariat of the Community.