ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

SIXTH MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

CONAKRY, MAY 28 - 30, 1983

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its Sixth Ordinary Annual Meeting in Conakry, the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea from 28th to 30th May, 1983.

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

- His Excellency Brigadier General Mathieu KEREKOU, President of the People's Republic of Benin.
- His Excellency Aristides PEREIRA,
 President of Cape Verde.
- His Excellency Ahmed Sekou TOURE,
 President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.
- His Excellency Brigadier General Joao Bernado VIEIRA,
 President of the Revolutionary Council, Head of State of the
 Republic of Guinea Bissau.
- His Excellency Commander-In-Chief Samuel Kanyon DOE, President of the Republic of Liberia.
- His Excellency, General Houssa TRAORE,
 President of the Republic of Mali.
- His Excellency, Lt. Col. Mohamed KHOUNA OULD HAIDALLA,
 President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- His Excellency Alhaji Shehu Usman SHAGARI,
 President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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.../2 His Excellency Abdou DIOUF, President of the Republic of Senegal. His Excellency Dr. Siaka STEVENS, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone His Excellency General Gnassingbe EYADEMA, President of the Togolese Republic. His Excellency Oumarou MAMANE, Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger. - Her Excellency Aanaa ENNIN, Vice-Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of the Republic of Ghana. His Excellency Simeon AKE, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Ivory Coast. His Excellecny Dr. Momodou S. K. MANNEH, Minister for Economic Planning and Industrial Development of the Republic of The Gambia. His Excellency Jean-Baptiste ILBOUDO, Ambassador of Upper Volta to Ivory Coast and to the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. Representatives of the following States and Organisations also attended the Summit as observers: The Central African Republic, the Republic of Chad, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). the Economic Commission for Africa, (ECA), Development Bank (ADB), the Arab Bank for Economic the African Development in Africa (BADEA), the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the West African Economic Community (CEAO), the Mano River Union (MRU), the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), the Federation of West African Chambers of the Organisation of All-African Trade Union Unity, Commerce (FWACC), (OATUU), the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO), The Committee of Ambassadors of ECOWAS Member States to the EEC, the European Economic Community (EEC), the International Telecommunications/3

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Union (ITU), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, (IBRD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the African Club (Club d'Afrique), the Pan- African Youth Movement, the West African Sub-Regional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, the Conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Youth and Sports.

After the opening ceremony at which a speech was delivered by the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency Mathieu KEREKOU, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party, President of the Republic, Head of State, Chairman of the National Executive Council, the Authority elected by acclamation, His Excellency Ahmed Sekou TOURE, Supreme Leader of the Revolution, Secretary-General of the Democratic Party of Guinea, the State Party, President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, as the new Chairman of ECOWAS.

His Excellency, President Ahmed Sekou TOURE then delivered a speech to the meeting.

The Authority / the report of the Executive Secretary and those of the November 1982 and May, 1983 Sessions of the Council of Ministers, and took the following decisions:

1. DECISION A/DEC/1/5/83 RELATING TO THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A SINGLE TRADE LIBERALISATION SCHEME FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS ORIGINATING FROM MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY

By this Decision, the Authority reaffirmed the determination of all ECOWAS Member States to work towards a Customs Union and amended the former scheme to reflect this objective. The Authority also appealed to CEAO Member States to implement the new Trade Liberalisation Scheme for Industrial Products originating from Member States of the Community with effect from 28 May, 1983.

2. DECISION A/DEC.2/5/83 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL STRUCTURES IN MEMBER STATES

The provisions of this Authority decision require that each Member State should communicate to the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat information on the organisation of the national body, set up to monitor the implementation of Acts and Decisions of the policy-making 1 authorities of the Community.

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To this end, a special unit is to be established within the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the Community Acts and Decisions.

3. DECISION A/DEC.3/5/83 RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

This Decision concerns the adoption of a development cooperation programme incorporating short, medium and long term measures.

4. DECISION A/DEC.4/5/83 RELATING TO A REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY

This Decision gives priority to those industries which contribute to the development of the following sectors:

- the rural sector, in order to achieve self-sufficiency in food and to raise the standard of living of the rural population
- transport and communications
- natural resources
- energy sector.
- 5. DECISION A/DEC.5/5/83 RELATING TO THE SUPPORT TO BE GIVEN BY ECOWAS MEMBER STATES TO THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF YOURH AND SPORTS OF THE COMMUNITY

In view of the importance which Member States attach to youth activities in the Community, they are requested, by the provisions of this Decision, to give moral and financial support to the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports to ensure the achievement of all its objectives.

6. DECISION A/DEC.6/5/83 RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A SINGLE MONETARY ZONE FOR THE SUB-REGION

The Authority gave its current Chairman mandate to take all necessary steps, and in particular to contact the relevant international organisations for necessary assistance so as to carry out necessary studies aimed at the creation of an ECOWAS Monetary zone. The Chairman may consider the necessity of forming an Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State to assist him in this task.

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7. DECISION A/DEC.7/5/83 RELATING TO THE GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS
TO THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF
WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

In view of the need to integrate women in the process of development, the Authority decided to accord Observer Status in ECOWAS to the West African Sub-Regional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development.

8. DECISION A/DEC.8/5/83 RELATING TO THE RATIONALISATION OF COOPERATION EFFORTS WITHIN THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGION

The Authority requested the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, in collaboration with the ECA Secretariat, to expedite the completion of the study on the rationalisation, restructuring and harmonisation of West African Inter-Governmental Organisations. The Authority, in this Decision, also requested Member States to send in their comments on the Study Report so that a document on the rationalisation of cooperation arrangements within the Sub-region could be presented to the next Summit of the Authority.

9. DECISON A/DEC.9/5/83 RELATING TO THE RENEWAL OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The term of office of the External Auditors was extended to May, 1984.

10. A/RES.1/5/83 RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)

The Authority adopted a resolution on the present situation in the OAU.

11. A/RES.2/5/83 RESOLUTION ON THE APPEAL FOR SUPPORT TO CHAD AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Authority also made an appeal to Member States, the International Community, friendly countries and international organisations to give material support to Chad and the Central African Republic.

12. RECOMMENDATION A/REC.1/5/83 RELATING TO THE MOBIL. SATION OF THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

For the purpose of effectively mobilising the different sections of the West African population in the integration process, the Authority recommended to all Member States to cooperate in the formation at the Sub-Regional level, West African Associations for the Youth, for Women, for Labour and for the Universities and Research Institutions.

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13. ACP-EEC COOPERATION

On ACP -EEC Cooperation, the Authority heard a presentation from the Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors of ECOWAS Member countries to the EEC highlighting the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Lome II Convention as well as the conditions under which the forthcoming negotiations for the renewal of this Convention will take place.

The Authority expressed concern over this situation, and urged ACP States to maintain and consolidate their unity and solidarity. The Authority urged the adoption of more concrete programmes of action in respect of intra ACP cooperation. The Authority invited the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat to take all necessary steps to assist the group of Ambassadors of ECOWAS Member States to the EEC during the various stages of the negotiations.

14. The Heads of State and Government congratulated the Council of Ministers, the Chief Executives and all other officials of the Institutions of the Community for the excellent work done which ensured the smooth running of the Meeting and also for their continued efforts towards the realisation of the objectives of the Community.

The Heads of State and Government expressed their special gratitude to all the friendly countries, African and International organisations as well as the Development Financing Institutions for their important financial and technical contributions to the implementation of Community projects.

Their Excellencies the Heads of State and Government thanked their Brother and Friend, His Excellency Ahmed Sekou TOURE, President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, the Government and People of Guinea for the very warm and African welcome, for the friendly and brotherly atmosphere and for all the facilities they enjoyed during their stay in the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

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15. DATE AND VENUE OF THE 7TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY

The Authority decided to hold its 7th ordinary Session on 28 and 29 May, 1984 in either Accra (Republic of Ghana) or in Conakry (People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea) = the current Chairman of the Authority shall inform Member States in due course.

DONE AT CONAKRY, THIS 30TH DAY OF MAY, 1983

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