ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS: 6, KING GEORGE V ROAD, P. M. B. 12745 LAGOS (NIGERIA) TELEPHONE: 636839, 636841, 636064, 630398 SECRETARIAT



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PRESS RELEASE

Below is the text of the Final Communique issued at the end of the Twelfth Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held at Ouagadougou from 29 to 30 June 1989:

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its Twelfth Ordinary Session at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 29th and 30th June, 1989, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Alhaji Dawda Kairaba JAWARA, President of the Republic of The Gambia.

2. Present at the Summit were the following Heads of State and Government and other accredited representatives:

- His Excellency General Mathieu KEREKOU, Chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, President of the Republic, Head of State, President of the National Executive Council, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN.
- His Excellency Captain Blaise COMPAORE, Chairman of the Popular Front, Head of State, Head of Government, BURKINA FASO.
- His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba JAWARA, President of the Republic of The GAMBIA.

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES



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- His Excellency General Joao Bernardo VIEIRA, President of the Republic of GUINEA BISSAU.
- His Excellency General Moussa TRAORE, Secretary-General of the Malian People's Democratic Union,

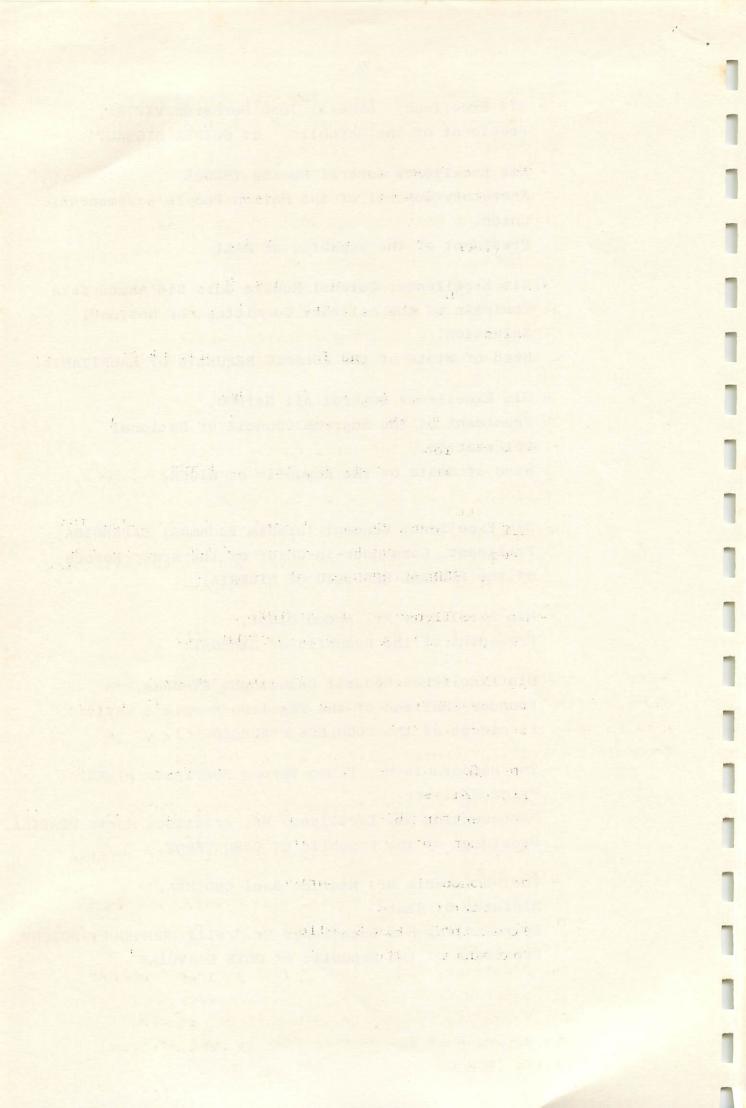
President of the Republic of MALI.

- His Excellency, Colonel Mouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed TAYA, Chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, Head of State of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA.

- His Excellency General Ali SAIBOU, President of the Supreme Council of National Orientation, Head of State of the Republic of NIGER.
- His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi BABANGIDA, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.
- His Excellency Mr. Abdou DIOUF, President of the Republic of SENEGAL.
- His Excellency General Gnassingbe EYADEMA, Founder-Chairman of the Togolese People's Rally, President of the TOGOLESE REPUBLIC.
- The Honourable Mr. Pedro Verona Rodrigues PIRES, Prime Minister. Representing His Excellency Mr. Aristides Maria PEREIRA, President of the Republic of CABO VERDE.
- The Honourable Mr. Maurice Seri GNOLEBA, Minister of State, Representing His Excellency Mr. Felix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, President of the Republic of COTE D'IVOIRE.

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- The Honourable Dr. Kwesi **BOTCHWEY**, PNDC Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning, Representing His Excellency, Flight-Lieutenant Jerry John RAWLINGS, Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council and Head of State of the Republic of GHANA.

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- The Honourable Mr. Edouard BENJAMIN, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Representing His Excellency General Lansana CONTE, Chairman of the National Recovery Committee, President of the Republic of GUINEA, Head of State.
- The Honourable Dr. Elijah E. TAYLOR,
 Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs,
 Representing His Excellency, Dr. Samuel Kanyon DOE,
 President of the Republic of LIBERIA.
- The Honourable Dr. Sheka H. KANU,
 Minister of National Development and Economic Planning,
 Representing His Excellency Major-General
 Dr. Joseph Saidu MOMOH,
 President of the Republic of SIERRA LEONE.

3. Attending the ECOWAS Summit as a Special Guest was His Excellency General André KOLINGBA, President of the Central African Republic and current Chairman of the Assembly of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

4.

Attending the Twelfth Session as Observers were:

- The Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)
- The Vice-President of the African Development Bank
- The Executive Secretary of the West African Clearing House (W.A.C.H.)
- The President, Federation of West African Cahmbers of Commerce (F.W.A.C.C.)
- The President of ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORP.
- The Governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)

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- The President of the West African Development Bank (BOAD)
- The Secretary General, West African Economic Community (CEAO)
- The Secretary General of O.C. .G.E.
- The Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group
- The Executive Secretary of CILSS
- The Secretary General of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports
- The Secretary General of the Liptako-Gourma
- The Executive Secretary of the Inter-State Committee for Water Studies (CIEH)
- The Director of ECA/MULPOC
- The Director of the Economic Community for Livestock and Meat (CEBV)
- The Director of the Remote Sensing Centre of Ouagadougou (CRTO)
- The Chairman, ECOWAS Ambassadors in Brussels
- The Chairman, ECOWAS Ambassadors and High Commissionners in Lagos.
- The Representative of UNIDO
- The Representative of PANA
- The Representative of the Islamique Development Bank (I.D.B.)
- The Representative of WARDA.

I. REVIEW OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMY

5. In reviewing the economic situation in the sub-region, Heads of State and Government agreed that in spite of the determined and sustained national efforts at economic recovery and structural adjustment, the situation continued to be a source of great concern. The depressed commodity prices, the excruciating debt service burden, continued balance of payments deficits, inadequacy of international development assistance, protectionist policies of industrialised countries, natural disasters such as drought, desertification, locust invasion, erosion and flooding have combined to curtail most severely

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the ability of ECOWAS Member States to implement their national economic recovery and reform programmes, finance critical imports, rehabilitate existing infrastructure, not to mention new development projects so vital for recovery and growth. These developments, coupled with the fact that the international economic landscape was increasingly being dominated by a resurgence of economic regionalism, including in particular the prospect of a single integrated European market being established in 1992, compelled them to take all necessary measures to revitalise and intensify their own integration process in the sub-region. Heads of State and Government agreed that, as a first step in this direction, all Member States must take urgent action to implement in their domestic jurisdictions all existing Community Acts and Decisions.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOWAS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAMME

6. The Authority took note of the progress reported on the implementation of the ECOWAS Recovery Programme by the Meeting of Ministers of Planning and endorsed the proposals for more regular consultation among national policy-makers with a view to achieving better coordination and a more regionallyoriented approach to national economic management. The Authority accepted the Ministers recommendation that priority should be given to the implementation of regional projects and national projects with a high regional impact contained in the investment programme.

III. WEST AFRICA AND EUROPE 1992

7. The Authority expressed the need to monitor the completion of the creation of the single integrated European market, and directed the Executive Secretary to undertake an in-depth study on the implications of the Single Europe Act for the West African economy and to submit appropriate proposals on how the Community and Member States can best respond to the expected changes.

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IV. WEST AFRICAN INDEBTEDNESS

8. In view of the increasing indebtedness of ECOWAS Member States, almost all of whom are "debt-distressed", the Authority agreed that the Community should press for absolute debt reduction packages for African countries. In this context, Heads of State and Government welcomed the recent debt cancellation packages announced by some of the industrialised countries and, by a Resolution, called on all creditor Governments and Institutions to emulate these magnanimous gestures and put together a comprehensible debt relief package for ECOWAS Member States.

V. NINTH REPLENISHMENT OF IDA

9. The Authority adopted a Resolution addressed to the international donor community, and especially to the Group of Seven, to contribute generously to the Ninth Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA-9) with a view to bringing it to at least the level of IDA-8 in real terms, and ensure that Africa's current share of 50 per cent of IDA resources is at least maintained under IDA-9. This is necessary in order to help sustain the reform programmes being implemented by African countries.

VI. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES

10. The Authority considered a recommendation for the adoption of a new assessment formula for contributions by Member States to the Budgets of the Institutions of the Community. In view of its implications, the Authority decided to establish a Committee of Five comprising Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria and Togo to negotiate the new assessment formula. The Committee was requested to endeavour to complete its work before the end of 1989. The Committee's recommendations would be considered by the Authority at its Thirteenth Session in 1990 and, if adopted, would apply as from 1 January 1991.

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11. In arriving at this decision, the Authority was conscious of the fact that contrary to the provisions of the Protocol on Contributions, which stipulate for a triennial review of the assessment formula, no such review had been done since 1976. It was also acknowledged that the new assessment co-efficient should be the product of negotiations as was the case in 1976.

I2. In the meantime, the Authority called upon all Member States with outstanding balances in their contributions to liquidate these balances without further delay and, in any case, before the end of June 1990. Those Member States unable to settle all their arrears immediately must pay such arrears in equal quarterly instalments over a period of one year beginning from 1 July 1989.

13. The Executive Secretary was directed to monitor the implementation of this decision and to report to the Authority at its Thirteenth Session.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY ACTS AND DECISIONS

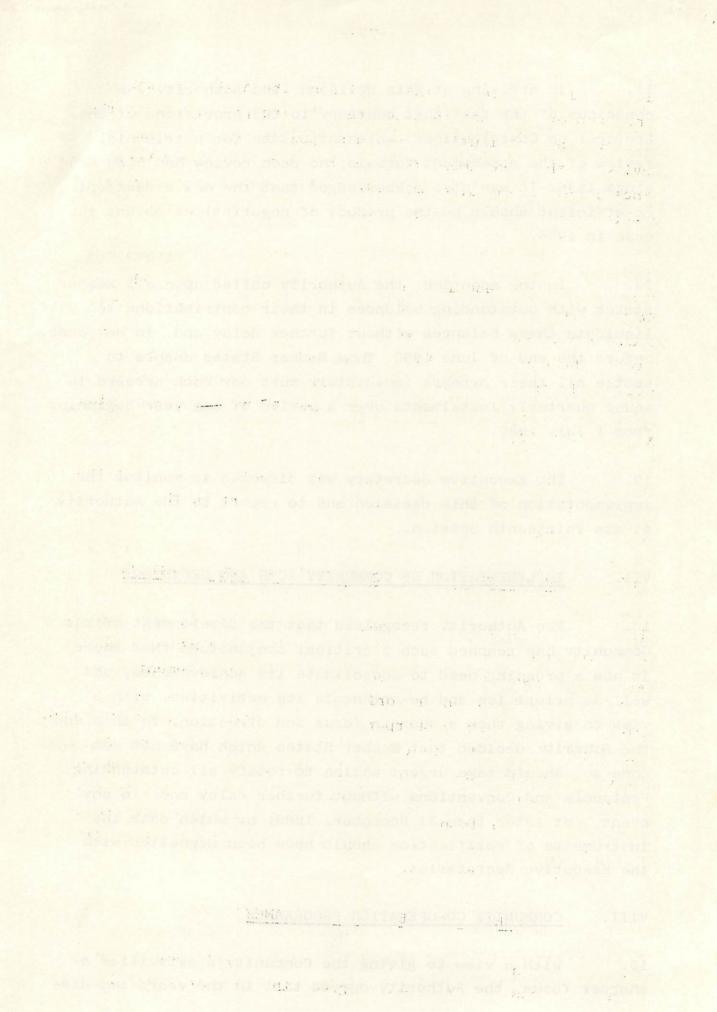
14. The Authority recognised that the development of the Community has reached such a critical conjuncture that there is now a pressing need to consolidate its achievements, as well as prioritise and re-orientate its activities, with a view to giving them a sharper focus and direction. To this end, the Authority decided that Member States which have not yet done so, should take urgent action to ratify all outstanding Protocols and Conventions without further delay and, in any event, not later than 31 December, 1989, by which date the instruments of ratification should have been deposited with the Executive Secretariat.

VIII. COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES

15. With a view to giving the Community's activities a sharper focus, the Authority agreed that in the years immedia-

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tely ahead, the Community's Institutions should accord the highest priority to the promotion and expansion of intra-Community trade and related trade-development sub-sectors like the monetary co-operation programme, the free movement of persons and goods, trade liberalisation scheme, economic recovery programme, and programmes in agriculture and industry.

16. With regard to the trade liberalisation scheme for industrial products originating from Member States, the Authority decided that 1 January 1990 shall be the take-off date for the scheme.

17. In this connection, the Authority appealed to the Member States whose industrial enterprises and products have been approved to make prompt payment into the Compensation Budget, in any event not later than 31 December 1989.

IX. FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

18. The Authority expressed a very strong commitment to the principle of free movement of Community citizens across national frontiers. It was acknowledged that such movement constitutes the bedrock of the integration process and therefore called on all Member States to take appropriate measures to remove all obstacles and impediments to the free movement of Community citizens.

19. At Community level, the Authority approved the recommendations of the Banjul Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Internal Affairs and adopted a Supplementary Protocol which provides for the establishment of fact-finding missions to investigate complaints of systematic or gross violations of the Protocol on free movement of persons.

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20. At national level, the Authority requested all Member States to print without further delay the ECOWAS Travel Certificate for use by their citizens; establish and intensify programmes for educating and sensitising their

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immigration officials on the provisions of the Protocols; and disseminate information among their citizens and set up public enlightenment campaigns. To facilitate this, it was requested that the provisions of the Protocols should be translated into national languages.

21. Furthermore, the Authority called on Member States to take all necessary measures to prevent and stop violations of the Protocols as well as avoid taking any unilateral action that might impede their smooth implementation.

22. The Authority also requested Member States to consider setting up within their domestic jurisdiction special commissions for the promotion and protection of the rights of Community citizens under the Protocols.

X. THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE ECOWAS FUND

23. Recalling the decision taken at its Lome Meeting in 1988, in which it had conditionally accepted the principle of enhancing the resources of the ECOWAS Fund, including the opening-up of its capital to non-regional participation, the Authority decided to establish a Six-Member Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee comprising of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo to explore the possibilities of mobilising maximum resources in collaboration with non-regional partners.

XI. APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

24. The Authority ratified the appointment of Dr. Abass BUNDU as the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

XII. HEADQUARTERS OF WEST AFRICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

25. The Authority approved the choice of the Republic of Senegal as the seat of the Headquarters of the West African Women's Association (WAWA).

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XIII. FEDERATION OF WEST AFRICAN ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

26. The Federation of West African Associations for the Advancement of Handicapped Persons was accorded formal recognition by the Authority and granted observer status within the Institutions of the Community.

XIV. PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON TERRORISM

27. In the context of safeguarding the principle of free movement of Community citizens, the Authority considered a proposal for the adoption of a resolution on the prevention of terrorism in the sub-region. In view of its legal and other technical implications, it was referred to the Governments of Member States for further consideration.

XV. VOTE OF THANKS

28. The Authority expressed its sincere gratitude to His Excellency Captain Blaise COMPAORE, Chairman of the Popular Front, Head of State, Head of Government and to the Burkinabe Government and People for the very warm welcome extended to all delegations and for the excellent facilities made available to ensure the success of the ECOWAS Statutory Meetings.

XVI. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

29. The Authority elected Burkina Faso as its Chairman for the year 1989/1990.

XVIII. VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT SUMMIT

30. The Authority accepted the invitation of the Republic of The Gambia to hold its Thirteenth Session in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia at a date to be communicated later.

DONE AT OUAGADOUGOU THIS 30TH DAY OF JUNE 1989.

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