

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES



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

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Fifth Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers
Abuja 22nd and 23rd April, 2002

FINAL REPORT

Executive Secretariat
Abuja, April, 2002

I. INTRODUCTION

The fifth Extra-ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held at the Conference Hall of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, Abuja, Nigeria on 22nd and 23rd of April, 2002.

2. The following Member States were represented:

- Republic of Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Mali
- Republic of Niger
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Republic of Togo
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The full list of participants is annexed to this report.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

3. In his welcome address Ambassador Babacar Ba, the Director of Cabinet in the Senegalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Union and Senegalese abroad, on behalf of Mr. Chieck Tidiane Gadio, the Senegalese Minister of the same Ministry, who was unavoidably absent welcomed all the participants to the meeting.

4. He underscored the importance of the meeting and the timeliness of one of the major items on the agenda. He said that the restructuring of the Executive Secretariat is timely when juxtaposed with the New partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The restructuring of the Executive Secretariat he emphasised, will better place the Community in a position to reap the dividends of regional integration to the benefit of the citizens of the sub-region. He thereafter wished the session successful deliberations.

5. In his own welcome address, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas remarked that this Fifth Extraordinary Session of Council represented another important phase in the efforts of our Leaders to reinvigorate the Community to enable it respond more positively to the new challenges of integration and globalisation.

6. Recalling the decision of the Forty-eight Session of Council held in Dakar, Senegal, in December, 2001, relating to the conclusion of the restructuring of the Executive Secretariat, the Executive Secretary stated that the report of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee which reviewed the evaluation of staff was being presented for consideration.

7. Other issues being tabled for deliberations according to the Executive Secretary, were the report of recent interviews for the statutory posts of Financial Controller of Community Institutions and the President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), proposals on the Rules of Procedure for the Community Court of Justice, recently examined by Legal Experts as well as the report of a recent Special Session of the Commission on Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments.

8. The Executive Secretary concluded his address by urging the Honourable Members of Council to painstakingly examine the various

proposals before them with a view to arriving at decisions that will further move the Community unto greater heights.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

9. Due to the absence of the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Union, and Senegalese Abroad, Mr. Chieck Tidiane Gadio, the Minister of Development and Economic Planning of the Republic of Sierra Leone Dr. Kadi Sesay was designated Chairman of the session. The following bureau was therefore elected:

Chairman:	Republic of Sierra Leone
Rapporteurs:	Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
	Republic of Ghana

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

10. The following agenda was adopted:

- (i) Opening Session (Welcome addresses by the representative of the Chairman, and the Executive Secretary, election of Bureau, adoption of agenda and Work programme)
 - (ii) Consideration of the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Restructuring of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat.
 - (iii) Consideration of the Report of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of Statutory Appointees.
 - (iv) Consideration of the Report of the meeting of Legal Experts.
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- (v) Consideration of the Outcome of the Special Meeting of the Commisison on Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments.
- (vi) Any other Business.
- (vii) Adoption of the report.
- (viii) Swearing in Ceremony of the Statutory Appointees (excluding the Executive Secretary)
- (ix) Closing Session.

Item II: Consideration of the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Restructuring of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat.

11. The Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, Mrs Amelia Ward who had chaired the session presented to Council the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Restructuring of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat held on 20th and 21st April, 2002.

12. The report showed that an evaluation study on the staff of the Executive Secretariat conducted by Messrs Ernst and Young had focused on the following elements:

- Analysis of the organisation and general recommendations;
 - Individual personnel evaluation;
 - Analysis of the evaluation procedure and potentials; and
 - Analysis of the method of governance and decision-making.
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13. After adopting the report of the experts' committee which reviewed the submission of the consultant, the Ad -hoc Ministerial Committee made further recommendations as follows:

- ▣ the Executive Secretariat should devise ways of funding the newly reintroduced post of Financial Controller when it becomes operational. This is in view of the fact that the 2002 budget had been approved by Council before the re-instatement of the Post by the Authority;
- ▣ funds available to the Executive Secretariat should be more rationally utilised by focusing on core activities in the areas of Integration and Policy Harmonization, the search for and sustenance of Peace and Security in the sub-region.
- ▣ To assist the Executive Secretariat, the Committee recommended the services of a Human resource management consultant to, among other things, review the staff regulations, conduct management training for staff especially technical experts and managers and propose ways by which human resource management can be strengthened on a continuous basis.

In this connection, the meeting recommended that the existing administration division be renamed Human Resource Management division within the Department of Administration.

14. In the course of their deliberations, the Ministers made the following observations:

- that the report of the ad-hoc committee was rather scanty;
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- that too many missions are undertaken by staff members of the Secretariat.
- that the report made no recommendations on acting appointments which the consultants found were too many;
- that the position that the present organogram should be retained was at variance with the recommendation for the creation of a Human Resource Management Division;
- Above all Council found that the report of the consultants had not been sent to all other Member-States to place them at the same level of comprehension of its contents with the members of the Ad-hoc Ministerial Committee; and
- The Ministers noted the absence of any recommendation on the observed lack of discipline and respect for Regulations in the Executive Secretariat.

15. Council:

- ☐ decided to consider the present report as an interim report;
- ☐ directed the Executive Secretariat to distribute the Consultants' report to all member states as well as the observations of the Secretariat on the report;
- ☐ directed the Executive Secretariat to avail the Ad-hoc Ministerial Committee of its comprehensive observations on the report of the Consultants as well as the programme for the implementation of the recommendations; and

- regarding the recommendation on recruitment Council decided that staff members of the Executive Secretariat should compete with citizens of member states on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 (5) of the Revised Treaty.

Special consideration should be given to the gender issue.

- requested the ad-hoc Ministerial Committee to continue its work and to produce a comprehensive report to Council by the third week of June, 2002.

Item III: Consideration of the Report of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of Statutory Appointees.

16. The representative of the Senegalese Minister presented the Report of the Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of Statutory Appointees held in Dakar, Senegal on 28 and 29 March, 2002.

17. The report recommended the appointment of Mr. Christian Narcisse Adevolande, one of the three candidates nominated by the Republic of Benin for the post of President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) who had the highest score of 76.5% at the interview.

18. In the case of the post of Financial Controller of Community Institutions, for which only two of the three candidates nominated by the Republic of The Gambia attended the interview, the Committee stated that neither candidate met the qualifications outlined in Council Regulation C/REG.13/10/98 of 28th

October, 1998 concerning recruitment to the post. It therefore did not recommend any of the candidates for appointment.

19. As regards the agenda item relating to the designation of a Sub-Committee of four (4) Member-States to evaluate Statutory appointees, the Committee referred the matter for further consideration of Council owing to perceived ambiguities in the interpretation of Authority Decision A/DEC.3/7/91 of 3rd July, 1991.

20. Following discussions, Council approved the appointment of Mr. Christian Narcisse Adevolande to the post of President of ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development.

21. With respect to the post of Financial Controller, the Gambian Minister appealed to Council to grant a special dispensation by approving the appointment of the candidate who had the higher score and who he also said was a highly placed and experienced government functionary. Council however decided that the Republic of The Gambia be requested to nominate a fresh set of three candidates for consideration by the Ad-hoc Ministerial Committee on the selection and Evaluation of Statutory Appointees.

22. Noting that the existing Authority Decision relating to the evaluation of Statutory officers had become obsolete, Council directed the Executive Secretariat to re-examine it and come up with appropriate recommendations.

Item IV. Consideration of the Report of the meeting of Legal Experts by the Council of Ministers

23. The report of the meeting of legal experts who considered the draft Rules of Procedure for the Community Court of Justice of ECOWAS, held at the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat Abuja from March 26 - 28, 2002, was

presented by the expert from Senegal who was the Chairman of the Bureau of the Legal Experts meeting.

24. There was an exhaustive deliberation on the report particularly on the issue of quorum as only 5 Member States attended and considered the draft Rules.

25. Consequently, Council decided that the Executive Secretary should convene a meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Justice to consider the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Community Court of Justice. Thereafter the Draft Rules shall be submitted to the Council of Ministers for their approval.

Item V: Consideration of the Outcome of the Special Meeting of the Commission on Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments.

26. The Chairman of the Commission, in his presentation, informed Council that an extraordinary meeting of the Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments Commission was held in Abuja, on 5 and 6 April 2002, within the framework of the harmonisation programme for the ECOWAS and UEMOA trade liberalisation schemes, decided by the joint ECOWAS-UEMOA ministerial meeting held in Bamako, on 28 and 29 January 2000.

27. The Commission examined the draft harmonised texts submitted by the Executive Secretariat, and formulated pertinent recommendations thereon. The draft texts examined were the following:

- a) the draft protocol defining the concept of products originating from ECOWAS Member States, taking into account the new WTO agreement on rules of origin;

- b) the draft protocol on application procedures for the compensation of revenue loss, which:
 - ▶ sets a deadline of four years, dating from 1 January 2002, for the expiry of the compensation procedure;
 - ▶ endows the Executive Secretariat with the power to decide on disbursement of sums in payment of compensation;
 - ▶ adopts a degressive formula for the calculation of compensation, terminating on 31 December 2005.
- c) the draft regulation on approval procedure for originating products which aims at giving Member States a bigger share of responsibility, and enhancing the control function of the Executive Secretariat.
- d) the draft regulation defining the components which determine ex-factory cost price and value-added, aimed at simplifying the forms used in the calculation of these components and harmonising them with those in use by UEMOA;
- e) the draft regulation adopting a certificate of origin for originating products, and prescribing its colour and content.

28. Council adopted the report of the Commission and the draft regulations attached thereto, after a paragraph by paragraph examination, and recommended to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the draft protocols annexed to the report.

29. Although Council approved the recommendation of the Commission on the exclusion of goods manufactured in free zones from benefiting from the privileges accorded to originating products, it was strongly of the opinion that the on-going study should look into the advisability of according differential treatment to goods processed in the territory as against imports from third countries.

30. Since the compensation system for Customs revenue lost as a result of trade liberalisation is destined to disappear in the long run, Council underscored the need to define and put in place economic mechanisms such as the structural fund, to reduce the economic disparities between Member States. These funds would primarily be used in favour of the most economically disadvantaged countries of the sub-region. The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and The Fund were directed to work out modalities for the setting up of the structural funds.

Item VI: Any other Business

31. No issue was raised under this item.

Item VII. Swearing in Ceremony of the Statutory Appointees (excluding the Executive Secretary)

32. Statutory appointees with the exception of the Executive Secretary are required under Article 5 (b) of the ECOWAS Staff Regulations to take an oath of office or make a Solemn declaration, during an open session of the Council of Ministers.

33. In accordance with this provision in the Staff Regulations and the Council Regulations which were enacted during its forty-seven session held in Bamako, from 9 - 12 December, 2000 appointing the six statutory appointees, Council

decided to swear in these senior officers of the Community, at this session.

34. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson of Council, Hon. (Dr) Kadi Sesay, underscored the importance of this official ceremony that will bind them with the Institutions of the Community. She expressed the hope that the presence and contributions of the officers would contribute to the smooth functioning of the Community Institutions.

35. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, in his turn cited the legal basis for the swearing in ceremony adding that this essential act which gives the necessary dignity to the posts to which they have been appointed, will empower them to carry out their respective functions with the required sense of responsibility. He reminded them that the oath of office should serve as a motivating force that would give them the moral strength to succeed in the discharge of their onerous duties. He wished them good health and success during their terms of office. He thereafter requested Council to receive the oath sworn by the officers.

36. The Chairperson of Council acknowledged the Executive Secretary's remarks and invited him to read out the instruments appointing the Statutory appointees. Thereafter she invited the officers to individually take the oath of office before members of Council in the following order:

- ❖ General Cheick O. Diarra - Deputy Executive Secretary,
Political Affairs, Defense and
Security;
- ❖ Mr Seybou Gati - Deputy Executive Secretary,
Administration and Finance;

- ❖ Dr (Mrs) Oluremi Aribisaia - Deputy Executive Secretary, Integration Programmes;
- ❖ Mr. Mame Cor Sene - Deputy Executive Secretary, Policy Harmonisation;
- ❖ Mr. Koffi M. Kouakou - Managing Director, ECOWAS Regional Investment Bank
- ❖ Mr. Barthélemy Drabo - Managing Director, ECOWAS Regional Development Fund

37. Council acknowledged the oath sworn to by the officers, authorised them to go forth and execute their functions and directed that a report be prepared for reference purposes. The said report is attached in annex to this report of Council.

Item VIII. Adoption of the report.

38. The Report was adopted.

Item IX: Closing Session

39. In her closing remarks, the Chairperson expressed great pleasure at participating in this extra-ordinary session of the Council of Ministers. She thanked all members of Council for their cooperation in making the meeting such a great success and at an equally great speed.

40. The Chairperson offered special gratitude to the government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their warm hospitality.

41. She expressed the hope that the decisions taken at this meeting would have a tremendous impact on the running of the Community Institutions. In her view the swearing-in the new of statutory officers was one of the landmarks of the session.

42. According to the Minister, the Trade Liberalisation Scheme was a fundamental decision that would certainly move the region forward.

43. Alluding to the statements of His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the last NEPAD Summit in Dakar, she reiterated that NEPAD is neither a Department or an Organisation but a programme. She underscored the need therefore to identify the role of ECOWAS in the implementation of NEPAD programmes.

44. In this connection, she appealed to ECOWAS member states to endeavour to attend the Summit scheduled for May, 2002 in Yamoussoukro to discuss the role of ECOWAS in NEPAD. She expressed the hope that West Africa could thereby play a prominent role within the NEPAD initiatives.

45. The Chairperson also emphasised the need to harmonise the programmes of ECOWAS and UEMOA to enable both organisations derive utmost benefits from globalisation.

46. She concluded her address by thanking her colleagues for their cooperation and wished them safe journeys back home.

47. The Secretary of State for Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, Hon. Kaba Mory read the vote of thanks on behalf of members of Council.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 23RD DAY OF APRIL, 2002



HON. (DR.) KADI SESAY
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL.

**Fifth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers
Abuja, 22nd - 23rd April 2002**

**Regulation C/REG.1/4/02 Relating to the strengthening
of the Internal Organisation of the Executive Secretariat**

The Council of Ministers.

Mindful of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the EOCWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions:

Mindful of Regulation C/REG.9/12/99 of 7 December, 1999 approving the restructuring of the Executive Secretariat;

Considering the need to correct the flaws observed by the study on the structure of the Executive Secretariat;

Desirous of providing the Executive Secretariat with qualified and competent staff capable of meeting the exigencies and achieving the objectives of the tasks assigned to them;

Wishing to provide the Executive Secretariat with the necessary resources to enhance its performance;

On the recommendation of the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Restructuring of the Executive Secretariat, held in Abuja on 21 April, 2002;

ENACTS

Article 1

The following items are hereby integrated into the Executive Secretariat's organisation chart as approved by Regulation C/REG.9/12/99 :

- i) the units created under Article 16 of the Protocol on the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security;
- ii) the post of Financial Controller of the Community Institutions as restored by Decision A/DE-C.4/12/01.

Article 2

This regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of Council. It shall also be published within the same time frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

Done at Abuja this 23rd day of April, 2002.



DR. KADI SESAY
Chairman
For Council

**Fifth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers
Abuja, 22nd - 23rd April 2002**

**Regulation C/REG.2/4/02 Appointing the President of the
ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)**

The Council of Ministers,

Mindful of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

Mindful of Decision A/DEC.4/12/99 relating to the transformation of the ECOWAS Fund into a Regional Holding Company called the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and the establishment of its two subsidiaries, namely the ECOWAS Regional Investment Bank (ERIB) and the ECOWAS Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Mindful of Decision A/DEC.3/7/91 on the Selection and Evaluation of the performance of Statutory Appointees of the Institutions of the Community;

Mindful of Decision A/DEC.22/12/01 allocating the Position of the President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) to the Republic of Benin;

On the Recommendation of the Meeting of the Ad-hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of Statutory Appointees held in Dakar, 28th March 2002.

ENACTS


Article 1

Mr Christian Narcisse Adovelande is hereby appointed the President, ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) for a period of four (4) years with effect from the date he assumed duty.

Article 2

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time-frame.

Done at Abuja, this 23rd day of April 2002



Dr. Kadi SESAAY
Chairman
For Council

**Fifth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers
Abuja, 22nd - 23rd April 2002**

**REGULATION C/REG.3/4/02 ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE FOR
THE APPROVAL OF ORIGINATING PRODUCTS TO BENEFIT
UNDER THE ECOWAS TRADE LIBERALISATION SCHEME**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Mindful of articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

Recognising the need to facilitate the application and effectiveness of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme;

Bearing in mind the directives of the Authority of Heads of State and Government issued at Lome on 10 December 1999 on the need for the coordination of the Integration Programmes of ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA);

Also bearing in mind the conclusions of the ECOWAS/UEMOA Ministerial Meetings held in Bamako on 28th and 29th January 2000 on the need for the harmonisation of the Trade Liberalisation Schemes of ECOWAS and UEMOA;

Recalling its directives issued to the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS on 12th December 2000, to elaborate and submit legal texts for the harmonisation of the Trade Liberalisation schemes of ECOWAS and UEMOA;

On the Recommendation of the Extraordinary meeting of the Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments Commissions meeting at Abuja, from 5th to 6th April, 2002;

E N A C T S

Section 1: Approval Procedure for Originating Products

Article 1: Approval

Approval of originating industrial products to benefit under the intra-ECOWAS preferential trade regime shall be granted by an authority designated by each

Member State on the recommendation of a National Approvals Committee (NAC) established for the purpose.

Article 2: Composition of the National Approvals Committee

The members of the National Approvals Committee shall be the representatives of the following Ministries and services:

- The Ministry of Trade
- The Ministry of Industry
- The Ministry of Finance (Department of Customs)
- The ECOWAS National Unit
- The Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- All such structures or institutions as may be deemed appropriate.

The Committee shall be presided by the representative of the national authority designated to grant approval in this circumstance.

Article 3: Functions of the National Approvals Committee

The National Approvals Committee shall be responsible for the screening of applications, and the making of recommendations thereon to the designated authority of the Member State concerned.

Article 4: Applications to the National Approvals Committee

Industrial enterprises desiring to benefit under the trade liberalisation scheme shall complete an application form, the prototype of which is attached to this regulation, and submit it to the Chairperson of the National Approvals Committee.

Article 5: Screening of Applications for Approval

The Chairperson of the Committee shall convene meetings, in accordance with a preset timetable, for the purpose of screening applications received.

Enterprises fulfilling the conditions for approval shall be recommended for approval to the appropriate authority.

All applications must be processed and approval granted or denied within a period of three months.

Article 6: Notice of Approval

Member States shall transmit the list of approved products and the dossiers relating thereto, to the Executive Secretariat.

The Executive Secretariat shall transmit the list of approved products to the Member States.

Article 7: Enterprise Registration Number

Enterprises whose products have received approval shall be issued a seven-digit registration number.

The first three digits shall represent the country geographical code as defined by the United Nations; the four subsequent digits are the sequence number, representing the position of the enterprise within the Member State according to numerical order.

Article 3: Product Approval Number

Approved industrial enterprises and products shall be issued an eleven-digit approval number as indicated in the table hereunder:

Product Approval Number (11 digits)			
Enterprise Registration Number (7 digits)		Product Sequence Number	Year
Country code (3 digits)	Sequence Number of Enterprise (4 digits)	(2 digits)	(2 (digits)

Section 2: Provisions Covering the Transition Period

Article 9:

Industrial products whose ECOWAS origin is determined by the criterion of value-added, in accordance with the provisions of the protocol defining the concept of originating product, shall remain eligible for approval for a 3-year transition period under the conditions stated hereunder.

Article 10:

Applications for approval to benefit from the preferential tariffs granted under the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme must be submitted on the form, the prototype of which is attached to this regulation;

Article 11:

Applications for approval must be duly completed and submitted to the appropriate national authority;

Article 12:

Applications for approval shall be screened, at the national level, within the time-limit stipulated in article 5 above, by a National Approvals Committee which shall authenticate the ECOWAS origin of the products submitted for approval.

Article 13:

Successful applications shall be transmitted to the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat by the ECOWAS National Unit;

Article 14:

The applications shall be scrutinised by the Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments Commission, which shall recommend their approval by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers who shall approve and sign on behalf of Council.

The Commission shall meet at least twice yearly to scrutinise applications for approval.

Section 3: Final Provisions

Article 15:

The prototype application form attached hereto shall replace all former application forms.

Article 16:

The approval procedure for products of ECOWAS origin established by decision C/DEC/3/6/86, dated 21/06/88, is hereby abrogated.

Article 17:

This regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

It shall also be published within the same time-frame by each Member State in its National Gazette.

✓ DR. KADI SESAY
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL

**Fifth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers
Abuja, 22nd - 23rd April 2002**

**REGULATION C/REG.5/4/02 RELATING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF
THE COMPONENTS MAKING UP THE EX-FACTORY PRICE OF A
FINISHED PRODUCT BEFORE TAX, AND THE VALUE- ADDED**

The Council of Ministers,

Mindful of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

Bearing in mind the directives of the Authority of Heads of State and Government issued at Lome on 10 December 1999 on the need for the coordination of the Integration Programmes of ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA);

Also bearing in mind the conclusions of the ECOWAS/UEMOA Ministerial Meetings held in Bamako on 28th and 29th January 2000 on the need for the harmonisation of the Trade Liberalisation Schemes of ECOWAS and UEMOA.

Recalling its directives issued to the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS on 12th December 2000, to elaborate and submit legal texts for the harmonisation of the Trade Liberalisation schemes of ECOWAS and UEMOA;

Considering Decision C/DEC.4/7/87 relating to the assessment of the components making up the ex-factory price of a finished product before tax, and the value-added;

On the recommendation of the Extraordinary meeting of the Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments Commission held from 5th to 6th April 2002;

ENACTS

Article 1

1. The components making up the ex-factory price of a finished product before tax are as follows:
 - i) CIF value of raw materials of Community or foreign origin employed in production;
 - ii) CIF value of consumables of Community or foreign origin;
 - iii) CIF value of none recoverable packaging material of Community or foreign origin;
 - iv) wages and salaries, which may not exceed 20% of cost price;
 - v) duties and taxes which are payable by the enterprise;
 - vi) works, supplies and external services, which shall not exceed 10% of cost price. Works supplies and external services not intervening directly in the production process shall be excluded;
 - vii) transport and travel;
 - viii) financial charges, which may not exceed 3% of cost price;
 - ix) depreciation charges, which shall be recorded on a separate form detailing capital invested and rate and mode of amortisement.
2. Shall be excluded from the determination of ex-factory price before tax:
 - i) tax on profit;
 - ii) value-added tax;
 - iii) turnover tax

Article 2

Value-added is defined as the difference expressed as a percentage of the ex-factory price before tax of the finished product concerned and the CIF value of raw materials, consumables and packaging of foreign origin, utilised in obtaining the final product in the form under which it is released for consumption.

Article 3

This Regulation repeals and replaces all existing provisions which are incompatible with the above provisions.

Article 4

This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) of its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published in the Official Gazette of each Member State within the same time frame.

DONE AT ABUJA THIS 23RD DAY OF APRIL 2002



**DR. KADI SESAY
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**Fifth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers
Abuja, 22nd - 23rd April 2002**

**RECOMMENDATION. C/REC.1/4/02 RELATING TO THE
DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF PRODUCTS ORIGINATING
FROM MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES**

The Council of Ministers,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of paragraph 3, Article 38 of the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States relating to possible amendments to the definition of the concept of products originating from Member States;

Recognising the pressing need to harmonise the integration programmes of the Economic Community of West African States with those of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, with a view to creating a single economic zone in West Africa;

Desirous of ensuring that the definition of the concept of products originating from Member States is in conformity with the new regulations of the World Trade Organisation, and of amending the Protocol relating thereto accordingly.

On the proposal of the Extraordinary meeting of the Trade, Customs, Tax, Statistics, Money and Payments Commission held in Abuja, from 5th to 6th April 2002.

Recommends to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the attached Draft Protocol Relating to the Definition of the Concept of Products originating from Member States of the Economic Community of West African States.

Done at Abuja, this 23rd day of April 2002



DR. KADI SESAY
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES

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

Rev.1(a)

PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF
THE CONCEPT OF PRODUCTS ORIGINATING
FROM MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC

Executive Secretariat
Abuja, April 2002

Protocol A/P.../.../02 relating to the definition of the concept of products originating from the ECOWAS Member States.

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8, and 9 of the Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of paragraph 3, Article 38 of the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States relating to possible amendments to the definition of the concept of products originating from Member States;

RECOGNISING the pressing need to harmonise the integration programmes of the Economic Community of West African States with those of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, with a view to creating a single economic zone in West Africa;

DESIROUS of ensuring that the definition of the concept of products originating from Member States is in conformity with the new regulations of the World Trade Organisation, and of amending the protocol relating thereto accordingly;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1: Definitions

In this Protocol,

"Treaty" means the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States signed in Cotonou on 24 July 1993;

"Community" means the Economic Community of West African States whose establishment is reaffirmed in Article 2 of the Treaty;

"Member State" means a Member State of the Community;

"Authority" means the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Community, established by Article 7 of the Treaty;

"Council" means the Council of Ministers of the Community established by Article 10 of the Treaty;

"Executive Secretariat" means the Executive Secretariat established by Article 17 of the Treaty;

"Commission" means the Trade, Customs, Taxation, Statistics, Money and Payments Commission established by Article 22 of the Treaty;

"Manufacture" means any form of processing or transformation, including assembly or any other special operation;

"Material" means any ingredient, raw material, component or part used in the manufacture of goods;

"Product" means a finished product, even if the product is to be used thereafter in the manufacture of another product;

"Goods" means materials and products;

"Import Duties" means all Customs duties and taxes of equivalent effect levied on goods upon importation;

"Customs value" means the value of an article determined in conformity with the 1994 agreement relating to the implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Agreement on the WTO Customs value);

"Value of materials" means the Customs value at the time of importation of non-originating materials to be used in a process of production or, where such value is not known or cannot be determined, the earliest ascertainable price paid for them in the Member State where they are used in a process of production;

"Value-added" means the difference, expressed as a percentage, between the ex-factory price of the finished product before tax, and the CIF value of raw materials consumables and packaging of non-ECOWAS origin, used in the manufacture of the final product in the form under which it is released into circulation.

"Input" means any material, product used in the manufacturing process;

"Chapters" means the chapters used in the nomenclature of the harmonised system of designation and codification of goods, referred to in this protocol as the "Harmonised System" or "HS";

"Sub-headings" means the sub-headings (4 figures) used in the nomenclature of the harmonised system of designation and codification of goods, referred to in this protocol as the "Harmonised System" or "HS";

"Classified" means the classification of a product or a material under a particular sub-heading;

"Consignment" means all the products forwarded at the same time by an exporter to a consignee, or transported under the cover of a single document from an exporter to a consignee, or, in the absence of such a document, under the cover of a single invoice.

Article 2: Rules of Origin of Community Goods

1. For the purpose of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Treaty relating to trade liberalisation, goods shall be considered as originating from Member States if:
 - a) they have been wholly produced in Member States, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of this protocol;
 - b) they have been produced in Member States but contain raw materials which were not wholly obtained from Member States, provided that such materials have undergone operations and processes that confer Community origin, as defined in Article 4 of this protocol.
2. Originating products consisting of materials wholly produced or sufficiently transformed in one or several Member States shall be considered as products originating from the Member State in which the last processing or transformation took place, inasmuch as the processing or transformation carried out there exceeds the processing and transformation defined in Article 5 of this protocol.

Article 3: Goods wholly produced in Member States

1. The following products shall be regarded as wholly produced in the Member States:
 - a) live animals born and raised within the Member States;
 - b) mineral products extracted from the ground, sub-soil or sea bed of Member States;
 - c) vegetable products harvested within the Member States;

- d) products obtained from animals living or raised in Member States;
- e) products obtained by hunting or fishing within the Member States;
- f) products obtained from the sea, rivers and lakes within the Member States by vessels belonging to the Member States;
- g) products manufactured aboard ship factories belonging to Member States, exclusively from the products referred to in paragraph (f) of this Article;
- h) used articles fit only for the recovery of raw materials, provided that such articles have been collected from users within the Member States;
- i) scrap and waste resulting from manufacturing operations within Member States;
- j) goods produced from the materials listed in paragraphs (b) to (i) of this article, used alone or mixed with other materials, provided that they represent at least 60% of the total quantity of raw materials used;
- k) electric energy produced in the Member States.

2. The terms "vessels" and "factory ships" used in paragraph 1 (f) and (g) shall apply only to vessels and factory ships:

- which are registered in a Member State;
- which sail under the flag of a Member State;
- which carry a complement, inclusive of the Master thereof, of which not less than 50% are nationals of Member States.

Article 4: Operations and processes conferring origin

For the purpose of this protocol, the following operations and processes shall be considered as sufficient to support a claim of origin from a Member State:

Where

- 1) goods are not wholly produced in Member States and where their production requires the exclusive use of materials which are to be classified under a different tariff sub-heading from that of the product;

The above rule shall be accompanied by a list of exemptions mentioning the cases where the change in the sub-heading is not a determining factor, or imposing additional conditions. The list shall be established in by a Regulation of the Council of Ministers.

Or

- 2) goods are not wholly produced in Member States and where their production requires the use of materials which have received a value-added of at least 30% of the ex-factory price of the finished goods.

Article 5: The concept of originating industrial products

Originating industrial goods shall be those referred to in articles 2 and 3 (j) of this protocol, with the exception of hand-made articles or articles produced without the use of tools, instruments or implements directly operated by the manufacturer.

Article 6: Operations and processes not conferring origin

For the purpose of this Protocol, the following operations and processes shall be considered as insufficient to support a claim that goods originate from a Member State:

- a) operations to ensure the preservation of merchandise in good condition during transportation and storage such as ventilation, spreading out, drying, freezing, placing in brine, sulphur dioxide or other aqueous solutions, removal of damaged parts and similar operations;
- b) simple operations consisting of removal of dust, sifting or screening, sorting, classifying, matching, including the making up of sets of goods, washing, painting and cutting up;
- c) (i) changes of packaging and breaking up or assembly of consignments;

- (ii) simple bottling, placing in flasks, bags, cases, boxes, fixing on cards or boards and all other simple packing operations;
- d) marking or labelling in order to distinguish products or their packages;
- e) simple mixing of products, even of different types, where one or several of the components do not satisfy the Community origin criteria set out in this Protocol;
- f) simple assembly of parts of a product to constitute a complete product;
- g) a combination of two or more operations specified in subparagraphs (a) to (f) of this Article;
- h) slaughter of animals;
- i) salting, placing in brine, drying or smoking of meat, fish, and shellfish;
- j) freezing of meat, offal, fish, shellfish, fruits, vegetables or garden plants;
- k) preparation and conservation of meat, offal, blood, fish, and shellfish from products listed in Chapters 2 and 3 of the nomenclature of the harmonised system;
- l) cutting and processing of leaves and foliage of all types.

Article 7: Goods produced in free zones or under special economic regimes

Goods transformed within the framework of economic or suspensive Customs regimes or certain special regimes involving the suspension or partial or total exemption from Customs duties on inputs shall in no case be considered as originating products.

Article 8: Unit of qualification

1. For the purpose of this Protocol, the unit of qualification shall be the product used as the base unit in order to determine classification under the nomenclature of the harmonised system.

Consequently:

- where a group, set or assembly of products is to be classified

under a single heading, such group, set or assembly shall be treated as one product;

- where a consignment is composed of a number of identical products classified under the same heading in the harmonised system, each product in the consignment shall be considered separately;

2. Where, in application of the General Rule N° 5 of the harmonised system, packaging is considered as forming a whole with the goods, the packaging shall be considered as forming a whole with the goods when determining origin.

Article 9: Accessories, spare parts and tools

Accessories, spare parts and tools which are imported with a material, machine, appliance or vehicle, and whose price is included in that of the product or for which no separate charge is made, shall be considered as forming a whole with the material, machine, appliance or vehicle under consideration.

Article 10: Proof of origin

Proof of the Community origin of goods shall be supported by a certificate of origin stating the conditions set out in this protocol.

However, a certificate of origin shall not be required for agricultural and livestock products as well as hand-made articles or articles produced without the use of tools, instruments or implements directly operated by the manufacturer.

The certificate of origin shall be issued by the competent authority designated for that purpose by the Member State of origin and countersigned by the Customs Department of that Member State.

Article 11: Identification of originating industrial products

Originating industrial products shall, where it is technically possible, carry an identification mark on them or on their packaging.

Article 12: Cooperation in administrative procedure

In order to ensure the proper and uniform implementation of this protocol, Member States shall, through the intermediary of their respective administrations and services, give mutual aid and assistance in the authentication of certificates of origin.

Article 13: Settlement of disputes

1. In the event that the origin of a product is contested, the Member State contesting the Community origin of the product shall, on its own initiative or that of any other party concerned, bring the issue to the attention of the competent authority in the issuing country.
2. The exporting Member State shall, within a period of forty-five (45) working days, furnish all necessary information on the conditions under which the contested certificate was issued.
3. Products whose origin is in dispute shall not be denied the advantages granted to originating products, provided that the importer deposits an amount as guarantee for the duties and taxes payable in the importing Member State.

Article 14:

Disputes which remain unresolved by the Member States concerned within the time-limit prescribed in article 13 above, shall be brought before the Commission by any of the parties concerned through the intermediary of the Executive Secretariat.

Article 15:

The Commission shall determine the merits and demerits of the case at its next session, and transmit the dossier of the case to the Council of Ministers which shall take a decision thereon and inform the parties concerned accordingly.

Article 16: Amendment and Revision

1. Any Member State may submit proposals for the amendment or revision of this protocol.
2. Any such proposals shall be submitted to the Executive Secretariat which shall send notice thereof to the Member States not later than thirty (30) days after their receipt. Amendments or revisions shall not be considered by the Authority unless Member States have been received one month's notice thereof.
3. Amendments or revisions shall be adopted by the Authority.

Article 17: Entry into force

1. This protocol shall enter into force provisionally upon signature by the Heads of State and Government. Accordingly, signatory Member States

- and the Executive Secretariat hereby undertake to commence implementation of all provisions of the protocol upon signature.
2. This protocol shall enter fully into force upon ratification by at least nine (9) signatory States, and in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each Member State.
3. This protocol and all instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretariat which shall transmit certified true copies thereof to all Member States and notify them of the dates of deposit of instruments of ratification by the Member States and shall register this protocol with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Organisation (UNO), and such other organisations as the Council may determine.

Article 18:

This protocol repeals and replaces all existing provisions which are incompatible with the above provisions.

IN FAITH WHEREOF WE THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES HAVE SIGNED
THIS PROTOCOL

DONE AT THIS DAY OF 2002 IN SINGLE ORIGINAL
IN THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES, THE THREE
TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC

**Fifth Extra-Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers
Abuja, 22nd - 23rd April 2002**

**RECOMMENDATION .C/REC.2/4/02 RELATING TO THE
APPLICATION OF COMPENSATION PROCEDURES FOR LOSS OF
REVENUE INCURRED BY ECOWAS MEMBER STATES AS
A RESULT OF THE TRADE LIBERALISATION SCHEME**

The Council of Ministers,

Mindful of articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

Mindful of article 48 of the Treaty relating to compensation for loss of revenue incurred by a Member State as a result of trade liberalisation;

Mindful of the Protocol relating to the evaluation of loss of revenue registered by the ECOWAS Member States;

Mindful of Protocol A/P1/7/96 relating to the conditions for the application of the Community levy;

Mindful of Decision A/DEC.6/7/92 amending Decision /1/5/83 relating to the adoption and implementation of a single ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme;

Mindful of Decision A/DEC.19/5/80, dated 28 May, relating to the application of compensation procedures for loss of revenue incurred by the Member States;

Considering that one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme stems from the inadequacies observed in the system adopted for the compensation of the loss of Customs revenue;

Conscious that harmonisation of the trade liberalisation schemes operating in the sub-region is a necessary condition for the creation of a common market;

Desirous of enacting a protocol introducing a judicious and effective compensation system for loss of revenue;

On the proposal of the Extraordinary meeting of the Trade, Customs, Tax, Statistics, Money and Payments Commission held in Abuja, from 5th to 6th April 2002.

Recommends to the Authority of Heads of State and Government to adopt the Draft Protocol Relating to the Application of Compensation Procedures for loss of Revenue incurred by ECOWAS Member States as a result of the Trade Liberalisation Scheme.

Done at Abuja, this 23rd day of April 2002



DR. KADI SESAY
CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES

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

Rev.1(b)

PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF
COMPENSATION PROCEDURES FOR LOSS OF
REVENUE INCURRED BY ECOWAS MEMBER
STATES AS A RESULT OF THE TRADE
LIBERALISATION SCHEME

Executive Secretariat
Abuja, April 2002

**PROTOCOL A/P.../.../01 RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF
COMPENSATION PROCEDURES FOR LOSS OF REVENUE INCURRED
BY ECOWAS MEMBER STATES AS A RESULT OF THE
TRADE LIBERALISATION SCHEME**

The High Contracting Parties,

Mindful of articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

Mindful of article 48 of the Treaty relating to compensation for loss of revenue incurred by a Member State as a result of trade liberalisation;

Mindful of the protocol relating to the evaluation of loss of revenue registered by the ECOWAS Member States;

Mindful of protocol A/P1/7/96 relating to the conditions for the application of the Community levy;

Mindful of decision A/DEC.6/7/92 amending decision /1/5/83 relating to the adoption and implementation of a single ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme;

Mindful of decision A/DEC.19/5/80, dated 28 May, relating to the application of compensation procedures for loss of revenue incurred by the Member States;

Considering that one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme stems from the inadequacies observed in the system adopted for the compensation of the loss of Customs revenue;

Conscious that harmonisation of the trade liberalisation schemes operating in the sub-region is a necessary condition for the creation of a common market;

Desirous of enacting a protocol introducing a judicious and effective compensation system for loss of revenue;

Hereby agree as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

Article 1

For the purposes of this protocol,

"Treaty"	means the revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States signed in Cotonou, on 24 July 1993;
"Community"	means the Economic Community of West African States whose creation was reaffirmed by article 2 of the Treaty;
"Member State"	means a Member State of ECOWAS;
"Authority"	means the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government of established by article 7 of the Treaty;
"Council"	means the ECOWAS Council of Ministers established by article 10 of the Treaty;
"Executive Secretariat and Executive Secretary"	mean the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat provided for and Executive Secretary appointed under articles 17 and 18 of the Treaty respectively.

Article 2

Under the terms of article 48 of the Treaty, compensation shall be paid to Member States incurring loss of Customs revenue from imports as a result of the implementation of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme.

II. EVALUATION OF REVENUE LOST

Article 3

Loss of customs revenue incurred by a Member State is defined as total shortfall in receipts recorded by the Member State as a result of its importation of approved originating industrial products.

Article 4

Total loss of Customs revenue incurred by an ECOWAS Member State importing industrial products originating from another ECOWAS Member State, as a result of the application of the preferential intra-Community regime shall be assessed according to the following formula:

$$\text{CRL} = (\text{Cde} + \text{Str}) \times \text{Vcif}$$

where

CRL	=	Customs revenue lost
Cde	=	Customs duty and taxes of equivalent effect
Str	=	statistical taxation rate
Vcif	=	CIF value of product.

Article 5

Shall be compensated, any Customs revenue lost as a result of the imposition of import duties and taxes assessed on the basis of the formula stipulated in article 4 above.

This provisions shall not be applicable to domestic taxes levied on locally produced goods or goods imported from within the Community.

III. DURATION

Article 6

The duration of the compensation mechanism is fixed at four (4) years, dating from 1 January 2002.

Amounts payable as compensation shall be calculated on a decreasing scale in the following manner:

- 100% of loss incurred, in 2002
- 80% of loss incurred, in 2003
- 60% of loss incurred, in 2004
- 30% of loss incurred, in 2005
- 0% of loss incurred, with effect from 1 January 2006.

Article 7

Member States shall transmit to the Executive Secretariat, within a time-limit not exceeding six months from the date of reference, a list of Customs declarations processed under the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme, accompanied by the originals of the certificates of origin of each product, and copies of the declarations of release for consumption.

V. COMPENSATION PROCEDURE

Article 8

The Executive Secretariat shall be given a time-limit of 90 days from the date of receipt of applications for compensation, to screen the applications, determine the amounts payable as compensation and effect payment.

Article 9

Payment of compensation shall be effected by the Executive Secretary who shall render account thereof to the Council of Ministers.

VI. FINANCING

Article 10

Compensation for loss of revenue incurred by Member States shall be financed from the proceeds of the Community levy.

VII. INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

Article 11

Pending the entry into full force of the Community levy, the Executive Secretariat shall effect payment of the compensation, in consultation with the Member States, in accordance with the current rules.

VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 12: Amendment and Revision

1. Any Member State may submit proposals for the amendment or revision of this Protocol.

2. Any such proposals shall be submitted to the Executive Secretariat which shall notify the Member States, not later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the proposals. Amendments or revisions shall not be considered by the Authority unless Member States have been given at least one month's notice thereof.
3. Amendments or revisions shall be adopted by the Authority.

Article 13: Entry into force

1. This Protocol shall enter into force provisionally upon signature by the Heads of State and Government. Accordingly, signatory Member States and the Executive Secretariat hereby undertake to start implementation of all provision of the protocol upon signature.
2. This protocol shall enter into force upon ratification by at least nine (9) signatory State in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each Member State.
3. This protocol and all instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretariat which shall transmit certified true copies to all Member States and notify them of the dates of deposit of instruments of ratification by the Member States and shall register it with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Organisation (UNO), and such other organisation as the Council may determine.

Article 14

The protocol relating to the assessment of loss of revenue and decision A/DEC.19/5/80, dated 28 May 1980, relating to the application of compensation procedure for loss of revenue and all the provisions therein shall be abrogated upon the entry into force of this protocol.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, WE, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES HAVE SIGNED THIS PROTOCOL

DONE ATTHISDAY OF 2002 IN SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES. ALL THREE TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

**Fifth Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council
of Ministers**

Abuja, 22nd and 23rd April, 2002

VOTE OF THANKS

The participants at the fifth Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers holding their session at the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja, on the 22nd and 23rd April, 2002, express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the government and people of Nigeria for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations and the excellent facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the success of their meeting.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'R. A. A.', written over a horizontal line.

FOR COUNCIL

**Fifth Extraordinary Session of the
ECOWAS Council of Ministers
Abuja, 22nd and 23rd April, 2002**

**Cinquième Session Extraordinaire du Conseil
des Ministres de la CEDEAO
Abuja, 22 et 23 avril 2002**

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

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