



TWENTY-EIGHTY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

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**SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL A/SP.1/01/05
— AMENDING THE PREAMBLE AND
ARTICLES 1, 2, 9, 22 AND 30 OF
PROTOCOL A/P.1/7/91 RELATING TO THE
COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE AND
ARTICLE 4 PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE
ENGLISH VERSION OF THE SAID
PROTOCOL**

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 33 of Protocol A/Pol/7/91 relating to amendment to the Protocol on the Community Court of Justice;

MINDFUL of the Rules of Procedure of the Community Court of Justice;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REGo15/01/03 dated 23 January 2003 as amended by Regulation C/REGo5/6/03 of 21 June, 2003 establishing an ad hoc Ministerial Committee on the harmonisation of Community legislative texts, particularly Article 2 thereof, which defines the terms of reference of the Committee;

CONSIDERING that the Articles of the Treaty referred to in the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice are Articles of the Treaty of 28 May 1975 and that it is therefore necessary to harmonise such references with Articles of the revised Treaty adopted on 24 July 1993;

CONSIDERING the need to align the English version of Article 4 paragraph 1 of the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice with the French version of the text so as to ensure consistency;

CONSCIOUS of the role the Court of Justice can play in eliminating obstacles to the realisation of Community objectives and accelerating the integration process;

CONVINCED of the need to empower the Community Court of Justice to play their part in effectively ensuring that Member States fulfil their obligations;

DESIRING to facilitate the task of the Court in this regard expanding its competence and powers;

DESIRING ALSO to take all necessary measures to ensure smooth operations of the Court and guarantee effective implementation of its decisions;

CONSIDERING the report of the fifty-second session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja on 16th and 17th July 2004, on the draft Protocol amending the Preamble and Articles 1, 2, 9, 22 and 30 of Protocol A/P.1/7/91 relating to the Community Court of Justice and Article 4 paragraph 1 of the English version of the Protocol;

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1: References in the Protocol to the Treaty of 28th May 1975 reconciled with references in the Revised Treaty of 1993

All references to the Articles of the Treaty of 28 May 1975 in the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice are hereby deleted and replaced by references to the revised ECOWAS Treaty adopted on 24 July 1993 as follows:

- a. in the Preamble, references to Articles 4(1), 5, 11 and 56 of the Treaty are replaced by Articles 6, 7, 15, and 76(2) of the revised Treaty respectively;
- b. in Article 1, references to Articles 1, 5, 6, 8(1), 8(2), and 11 of the Treaty are replaced by Articles 2, 7, 10, 17(1), 17(2), and 15 of the revised Treaty respectively;
- c. in Article 2, the reference to Article 11 of the Treaty is replaced by Article 15 of the revised Treaty; and
- d. in Article 9, the reference to Article 56 of the Treaty is replaced by Article 76(2) of the revised Treaty.

Article 2: Amendment of Article 4 (1) of English version of the Protocol of the Court reconciled with the French version.

Article 4 paragraph 1 of the English version of the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice is amended as follows:

"Article 4: Terms of office of Members of the Court.

Members of the Court shall be appointed for a period of five (5) years. Their term of office may be renewed for another term of five (5) years only, except that for members of the Court appointed for the first time, the terms of office of three (3) members shall expire at the end of three (3) years and the term of the other four (4) members shall expire at the end of five (5) years".

Article 3: Article 9 of Protocol on Community Court of Justice substituted.

Article 9 of the Protocol relating to the Community Court of Justice is hereby deleted and substituted by the following new provisions:

"Article 9: Jurisdiction of the Court

- 1. The Court has competence to adjudicate on any dispute relating to the following:
 - a) the interpretation and application of the Treaty, Conventions and Protocols of the Community;
 - b) the interpretation and application of the regulations, directives, decisions and other subsidiary legal instruments adopted by ECOWAS;
 - c) the legality of regulations, directives, decisions and other subsidiary legal instruments adopted by ECOWAS;
 - d) the failure by Member States to honour their obligations under the Treaty, Conventions and Protocols, regulations, directives, or decisions of ECOWAS;
 - e) the provisions of the Treaty, Conventions and Protocols, regulations, directives or decisions of ECOWAS Member States;

- f) the Community and its officials; and
- g) the action for damages against a Community institution or an official of the Community for any action or omission in the exercise of official functions.

- 2. The Court shall have the power to determine any non-contractual liability of the Community and may order the Community to pay damages or make reparation for official acts or omissions of any Community institution or Community officials in the performance of official duties or functions.
- 3. Any action by or against a Community Institution or any Member of the Community shall be statute barred after three (3) years from the date when the right of action arose.
- 4. The Court has jurisdiction to determine cases of violation of human rights that occur in any Member State.
- 5. Pending the establishment of the Arbitration Tribunal provided for under Article 16 of the Treaty, the Court shall have power to act as arbitrator for the purpose of Article 16 of the Treaty.
- 6. The Court shall have jurisdiction over any matter provided for in an agreement where the parties provide that the Court shall settle disputes arising from the agreement
- 7. The Court shall have all the powers conferred upon it by the provisions of this Protocol as well as any other powers that may be conferred by subsequent Protocols and Decisions of the Community;
- 8. The Authority of Heads of State and Government shall have the power to grant the Court the power to adjudicate on any specific dispute that it may refer to the Court other than those specified in this Article.

Article 4: Insertion of a new Article 10 in the Protocol of the Community Court of Justice

The Protocol on the Community Court of Justice is amended by the insertion of the following new Article as follows:

"Article 10: Access to the Court

Access to the Court is open to the following:

- a) Member States, and unless otherwise provided in a Protocol, the Executive Secretary, where action is brought for failure by a Member State to fulfil an obligation;
- b) Member States, the Council of Ministers and the Executive Secretary in proceeding for the determination of the legality of an action in relation to any Community text;
- c) individuals and corporate bodies in proceedings for the determination of an act or inaction of a Community official which violates the rights of the individuals or corporate bodies;
- d) individuals on application for relief for violation of their human rights; the submission of application for which shall:
 - i) not be anonymous; nor
 - ii) be made whilst the same matter has been instituted before another International Court for adjudication;
- e) Staff of any Community institution, after the Staff Member has exhausted all appeal processes available to the officer under the ECOWAS Staff Rules and Regulations;
- f) Where in any action before a court of a Member State, an issue arises as to the interpretation of a provision of the Treaty, or the other Protocols or Regulations, the national court may on its own or at the request of any of the parties to the action refer the issue to the Court for interpretation."

Article 5: Renumbering of the former Articles 10 to 22

The former articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 are hereby renumbered to read 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 respectively.

Article 6: Insertion of a new provision which becomes Article 24 of the Protocol of the Court of Justice

The Protocol of the Community Court of Justice is amended by the insertion of a new provision, which becomes the new Article 24 and reads as follows:

"Article 24: Method of implementation of Judgement of the Court:

1. Judgements of the Court that have financial implications for nationals of Member States or Member States are binding.
2. Execution of any decision of the Court shall be in the form of a writ of execution, which shall be submitted by the Registrar of the Court to the relevant Member State for execution according to the rules of civil procedure of that Member State.
3. Upon the verification by the appointed authority of the recipient Member State that the writ is from the Court, the writ shall be enforced.
4. All Member States shall determine the competent national authority for the purpose of receipt and processing of execution and notify the Court accordingly.
5. The writ of execution issued by the Community Court may be suspended only by a decision of the Community Court of Justice."

Article 7: Renumbering of the former articles 23 to 33

The former articles 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 are hereby renumbered to read 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 respectively.

Article 8: Substitution of Article 30 of the Protocol of the Community Court of Justice

The Protocol of the Community Court of Justice is amended by the substitution of Article 30 by the following:

"Article 30: Budget of the Court

The budget of the Community Court of Justice shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Revised Treaty".

Article 9: Substitution of Article 31 of the Protocol of the Court

The Protocol of the Community Court of Justice is amended by the substitution of Article 31 by following:

"Article 31: Official languages

The Official languages of the Court shall be English, French and Portuguese".

Article 10

The provisions of any other prior Protocol that is inconsistent with the provisions of this Protocol shall to the extent of the inconsistency be null and void.

Article 11: Entry into Force

1. This Supplementary Protocol shall enter into force provisionally upon signature by Heads of State and Government. Accordingly, signatory Member States and ECOWAS hereby undertake to start implementing all provisions of this Supplementary Protocol.
2. This Supplementary Protocol shall definitively enter into force upon ratification by at least nine (9) signatory States, in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each Member State.

Article 12: Depository Authority

This Supplementary 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 the instruments of ratification and shall register this Protocol with the African Union, the United Nations Organisation and such other organisations as the Council may determine.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF, WE, THE HEADS OF
STATE AND
GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES
OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
(ECOWAS),
HAVE SIGNED THIS SUPPLEMENTARY
PROTOCOL**

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**

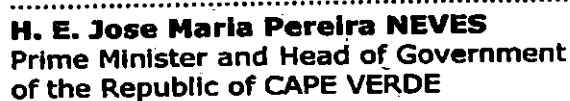
**IN A SINGLE ORIGINAL IN THE ENGLISH,
FRENCH AND
PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES, ALL TEXTS
BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC**



H. E. Mathieu KEREKOU
President of the Republic of BENIN



H. E. Blaise COMPAORE
President of FASO
Chairman of the Council of Ministers



H. E. Jose Maria Pereira NEVES
Prime Minister and Head of Government
of the Republic of CAPE VERDE



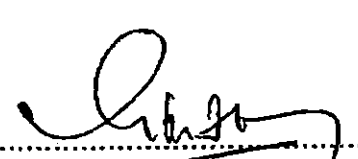
H. E. Laurent GBAGBO
President of the Republic of
CÔTE D'IVOIRE



H. E. Yahya A. J. J. JAMMEH
President of the Republic of The GAMBIA



H. E. John Agyekum KUFUOR
President of the Republic of GHANA



H. E. Cellou DALEIN DIALLO
Prime Minister, representative
Of the President of the Republic
OF GUINEA



H. E. Henrique Pereira ROSA
President of the Republic of
GUINEA BISSAU




H. E. Gyude BRYANT
Chairman of the National Transitional
Government of LIBERIA



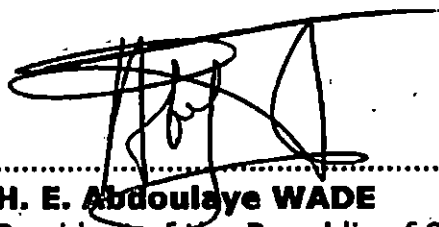
H. E. Amadou Toumani TOURE
President of the Republic of MALI



H. E. Mamadou TANDJA
President of the Republic of NIGER



H. E. Olusegun OBASANJO
President and Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces of the Federal
Republic of NIGERIA



H. E. Abdoulaye WADE
President of the Republic of SENEGAL



H. E. Solomon E. BEREWA
Vice President of the Republic of
SIERRA LEONE, representing the
President of the Republic
of SIERRA LEONE



H.E Koffi SAMA,
Prime Minister of Togo, representing
the President of the TOGOLESE Republic

**DECISION A/DEC.1/01/05 RELATING TO
THE ADOPTION OF THE ECOWAS GENDER
POLICY AND ALL ITS
IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUMENTS**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT;**

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

MINDFUL of Article 63 of the said Treaty on Women and Development which mandates all Member States to formulate, harmonise, coordinate and establish appropriate policies and mechanisms for the enhancement of the economic, social and cultural conditions of women;

RECALLING the directives of the 49th Session of the Council of Ministers for the establishment of a Gender Management Systems Structure in the sub-region, which will facilitate the application of Gender mainstreaming principles within the Community and the evolution of an ECOWAS Gender Policy;

RECOGNISING that within the framework of ECOWAS integration objectives, a Gender Policy will enhance the participation and contribution of all sectors of the population, including women, and key partners in socio-economic development, in a way that brings about social justice and equitable living standards;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.7/12/03 of the Heads of State and Government establishing an ECOWAS Technical Commission to address issues relating to Gender equality;

AWARE of Regulation C/REG.14/12/03 establishing a unit for Gender, Child and Youth matters within the Human Development Department of the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.16/01/03 on the transforming of WAWA into an ECOWAS Gender Development Centre as part of the ECOWAS Gender Policy Development Process;

DESIRING to further this process through the adoption of relevant policies and action plans;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the fifty-second session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja on 16th-17th July 2004;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

An ECOWAS Gender Policy for the Community is hereby adopted as attached.

ARTICLE 2

1. The attached instruments for the application and implementation of the ECOWAS Gender Policy are also adopted.
2. They include:
 - a) The Strategic Plan of Action;
 - b) Guidelines for the establishment of a Gender Management System for ECOWAS;
 - c) Recommendations for the effective transformation of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre and its organogramme.

ARTICLE 3

Member States are mandated to adopt the following measures to facilitate implementation of the Gender Policy:

- i. Mobilize the necessary financial, human and material resources;
- ii. Harmonise national legislations with relevant international conventions;
- iii. Ratify the Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights as well as the Rights of Women in Africa;
- iv. Place gender equity and equality issues on their national development agenda.

ARTICLE 4

The Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS shall on its part

- i. engage in aggressive mobilization of financial, human and material resources;
- ii. facilitate Member States' efforts towards the harmonization of national legislations with relevant international conventions;
- iii. take necessary measures to strengthen the forum of Ministers of Women Affairs as an advisory body, particularly on issues relating to women;
- iv. evolve a mechanism that would involve women in peace and conflict resolution in the sub-region;
- v. take all other necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the gender policy in the sub-region.

ARTICLE 5

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

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**



H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

ECOWAS GENDER POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rationale for the Gender Policy

The ECOWAS Gender Policy will accelerate the execution of ECOWAS' mandate of promoting the social, economic and cultural development of the West African region through cooperation and integration. It will assist the integration of all segments of the population in the attainment of those goals and will build on previous gender equality efforts. For ECOWAS, the Gender Policy represents a new approach that seeks to address the strategic interests of men and women and accelerate the fulfilment of equity and equality objectives. In addition, the Policy commits Member States to fulfilling their obligations under various regional and international protocols/conventions and to the realisation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) objectives and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Gender Situation in ECOWAS

The situation analysis, which examines gender in relation to a number of indicators within the broad categories of social, cultural, economic and legal issues, reveals gender disparities in virtually every sector. In general, women are at a disadvantage in terms of access to education, legal rights, health status, political and other forms of representation, in access to economic resources and in participation in, and benefit from, economic programmes. Some of the salient features are as follows:

- A strong system of patriarchy that affects gender relations
- Child marriages, female genital mutilation and negative widowhood practices that limit women's human rights
- Gender based violence including that associated with armed conflicts
- Weak legal frameworks and/or implementation mechanisms that have negative gender implications
- Disparity in access to economic

resources, such as land, credit and advisory services experienced by men and women, thus leading to different levels of integration into economic activity

Female enrolment rates consistently lower than those of males at primary school level ;

High risk maternal mortality among women aged 15-19

Higher HIV/AIDS infection rates among females than males, with percentages of infected females ranging from 54 -57 of the infected population

The situation analysis identifies certain priority areas based on their bi-directional links in furthering the attainment of gender equity and equality goals. For example education empowers individuals to escape the poverty trap, while economic considerations contribute to the decision of poor families to limit the education of their children and co-opt them into paid and unpaid work. Similarly, there is a bi-directional link between access to economic resources on the one hand and empowerment and the ability to make decisions on the other. There are also associations between education and health, between health and economic participation and between education and the law. The Gender Policy priority areas will address these and other sectors that contribute to the realisation of NEPAD objectives and the MDGs.

Vision

A just and safe West African society in which men and women enjoy equal opportunities to participate, make decisions, have control over and benefit from all development interventions.

Mission

ECOWAS' mission is to engage the citizens of West Africa in the formulation and implementation of sustainable socio-economic development solutions that eradicate poverty and promote gender equality, good governance and the conditions for peace, through regional cooperation and integration.

Guiding Principles

The policy elaborates a set of principles, which emphasise among other things affirmation of maximum political will, commitment to all global and regional instruments and to Article 63 of the ECOWAS Treaty and which acknowledge the following:

- That the Gender Policy be adopted as a tool for all ECOWAS institutions and stakeholders to plan programme interventions
 - That Gender Assessment, as a basis for gender analysis, be carried out routinely in ECOWAS Member States and Secretariat structures
 - That Gender Management Systems (GMS) be established in Member States and the Secretariat
 - Gender Mainstreaming as a prerequisite to gender equity and equality
 - That there will be partnerships, networking, collaboration and coordination protocols for integration and cooperation

Gender Policy Priority Areas

ECOWAS Member States and institutions commit to:

- Creating an enabling environment for equality and equity for men and women to achieve sustainable development
 - Adopting a sub-regional approach in the implementation of the international, regional and national gender equality and human rights actions
 - Enhancing the participation and leadership roles of women in politics, governance and decision-making
 - Promoting the equitable access to quality education and responding to women's social and cultural concerns
 - Accelerating economic development and more equitable participation in and benefit from economic activity

- Creating an environment for the legal protection of men and women, thus ensuring gender equality
- Addressing the gender perspectives on HIV/AIDS
- Redirecting public resources towards addressing gender equality and equity issues, thereby promoting a higher rate of human capital formation and stronger economic growth.

Policy Strategies

ECOWAS' policy strategies will include:

- Gender mainstreaming of ECOWAS' policies and programmes through the establishment of a Gender Management System(GMS)
 - Capacity building
 - Affirmative action
 - Building strategic partnerships
 - Resource mobilisation
 - Technical assistance
 - Advocacy
 - Utilisation of ICT at various levels in ECOWAS institutions and Member States

Institutional Framework

ECOWAS will establish a Gender Management System, namely the structures, mechanisms and processes that guide, plan, monitor and evaluate the process of

gender mainstreaming within Member States, the Secretariat and other organs. The GMS will facilitate gender mainstreaming, itself a process that puts gender issues at the heart of policies, plans and programmes: with the objective of addressing equity and equality issues.

The Gender Management System structures will consist of the Gender Commission, the ECOWAS Secretariat's Gender Management Team, Gender Division and Gender Focal Points, the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre and the National Bodies Responsible for the Advancement of Women.

Partnerships

In the area of gender equality and mainstreaming issues, ECOWAS will begin a formal partnership

with regional and international organisations in sharing knowledge, experiences, skills and resources. ECOWAS will establish partnerships with international, UN, regional and bilateral organisations. The Secretariat will forge partnerships with Civil Society organisations, including international nongovernmental, universities and research and training institutes, as well as NEPAD structures.

INTRODUCTION

The ECOWAS gender policy document consists of three chapters. The first provides a background to and conceptual frame work for the policy, while the second analyses the situation with regard to gender equity and equality within ECOWAS. These chapters lay the basis for the policy frame work, Chapter 3, which sets out inter alia the policy priority areas, strategies and the institutional framework.

This document will be the ECOWAS reference document in the area of gender equity and equality. The policy document was examined by the Gender Commission which met in its first session from the 16 to 18 February, 2004 and was adopted by the Ministers of Women Affairs which met in Abuja on February 19, 2004.

CHAPTER 1: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

ECOWAS' MANDATE

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has affirmed as its Final goal the accelerated and sustained economic development of its Member States, culminating in the economic union of West Africa. Aiming to promote cooperation and integration in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, the Community has a mandate for promoting the economic, social and cultural development of the West African region (Economic Community of West Africa States, Revised Treaty. Abuja: ECOWAS Secretariat). Given this comprehensive mandate, the Community has programmes in several areas including food and agriculture; industry, science and technology and energy; trade, customs, taxation, money and payments; transport, communication and tourism; environment and natural resources; and education and health.

The ECOWAS Heads of State and Government meeting in an extra ordinary summit in Abuja in April 2001, affirmed and resolved to concentrate every effort to turning West Africa into a haven of peace, progress and stability, in the pursuit of the goals of regional integration and cooperation (ECOWAS Annual Report 2001). They have also set up a Court of Justice and a Parliament, actions that have increased ECOWAS' publicity and credibility as a relevant structure to bring about change. The newly created Africa Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have also given ECOWAS increased opportunities to realise its regional integration objectives and bring about visible and tangible socio-economic and political change in the sub-region. The Secretariat has also undergone an organizational restructuring to improve its culture, governance, operational procedures and systems, enabling it to become a more results-oriented organization.

In this atmosphere of change and resolve, the Community has an opportunity to Institutionalise and implement its commitment to the promotion of gender equity and equality within West Africa.

Gender Equality Efforts in ECOWAS

As far back as the 1980's ECOWAS realised the need for the full involvement of all segments of its population in the development of individual national economies with regional impact. Reduction of poverty, improving living standards, through formal and informal education and building capacity for sustainable interventions are core values in ECOWAS. Thus, ECOWAS adopted the Women in development (WID) approach in order to improve the impact of its development interventions. Its efforts to integrate women in socio-economic development are exemplified in the different decisions of the Authority and relevant articles of the Treaty as follows:

- In 1983 Decision C/DEC6/5/83 granted the West Africa Sub-Region Committee for the Integration of Women in Development observer status. This was based on the conviction that there was a need to integrate women in the process of development.
- In 1987, based on the appreciation of the important role which the West

Africa Women's Association was playing in the development of Member States. Decision A/DEC.3/17/87 granted it the special status of specialised institution of ECOWAS. Based in Dakar Senegal, it enjoyed financial support from the Executive Secretariat and had access to the Heads of State and Government through participation in the meetings of the Authority of Heads of State and Government. With time, WAWA was confronted with multiple management and political problems that limited its effectiveness and efficiency.

- In 1993, ECOWAS formulated a revised treaty. In Articles 61 and 63 of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty, Member States resolved to formulate, harmonize, coordinate and establish appropriate policies and mechanisms for the enhancement of the economic, social and cultural conditions of women based on the existing evidence. ECOWAS affirmed its commitment to women's empowerment and to the promotion of women's organizations as a means of ensuring collective involvement in development activities of the region. The Treaty gives ECOWAS a strong mandate to formulate policies and develop programmes that enhance women's economic, social and cultural conditions. Further, the decisions taken by the Member States, which had established. Since 1975, National Machineries for the Advancement of Women is evidence of Member States' commitment to gender equality issues.

- In 2001, the West African Regional Development Centre of the Economic Commission for Africa based in Niamey, as part of collaborative arrangements with ECOWAS, initiated discussions on the development of a sub-regional gender policy and gender mainstreaming of the Community's programmes. Moreover, the ground work for the policy initiative resulted from a synthesis of discussions between ECOWAS Secretariat and technical experts including regional, international and bi-lateral

partners/stakeholders at a meeting held in March 2002.

- In December 2002, collaborative efforts between ECOWAS, UNIFEM and the Commonwealth Secretariat resulted in the presentation of a draft gender policy to a meeting of Technical Experts. A policy orientation document emerging from this meeting was presented to and adopted by the Meeting of Ministers of Women's Affairs, December 2002.
- The 26th Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, held in Dakar in January, 2003 authorised the establishment of a Gender, Child and Youth Division in the ECOWAS Secretariat, the establishment of a Gender Commission and the transformation of WAWA as the ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre.

RATIONALE FOR A POLICY

The ECOWAS Gender Policy, which builds on the above gender equality initiatives, represents for ECOWAS a new approach that seeks to address the strategic, in addition to the basic, needs of men and women and accelerate the fulfilment of equity and equality objectives. Moreover, it is seen as accelerating the achievement of ECOWAS' integration objectives of peace, security and social and economic development.

The policy also commits countries to fulfilling their obligations under various regional and international protocols/agreements and contributes to the realisation of NEPAD's objectives and the Millennium Development Goals. The global conferences have reiterated gender equality and women's empowerment as cross cutting issues in all sustainable development efforts. The conferences primarily reaffirm the existing evidence that when women and men are relatively equal, have equal voices in the development of the community and a country, are both able to benefit from new opportunities that development brings, have rights and access to resources needed to be productive and share decisions and authority, well being is enhanced. The Plans for Action (PFA) from global meetings are guiding principles to enable governments, development agencies, institutions, civil society

and donors to measure the balance in the conditions, benefits and changes in the lives of women, men and children.

The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 1994, the Beijing Platform for Action 1995, the World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995 and the UN Millennium Summit 2000 have strong gender dimensions. The twelve critical areas of concern agreed on through consensus in Beijing by all UN Member Countries constitute the framework for gender analysis, while CEDAW is a tool for prohibiting discrimination against women.

ECOWAS Integration instruments include many of the twelve critical issues of concerns. Its governance structure and management systems are also based on principles of inclusion and equal opportunities. The Gender Policy and institutional framework will enable ECOWAS to refine its gender efforts and streamline programme responses and systems to align with the global gender equality efforts both at the secretariat and member state levels. They will include provisions for monitoring the implementation of the PFA in the sub region and for effective reporting, especially on the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment targets set up in the Dakar/Africa Platform for Action and reinforced in the recent NEPAD Plan for Action.

The Gender Policy will be an authoritative tool for ECOWAS to address the gender differentials such as discrimination and inequities in the labour market, low women's earnings, unequal economic, social, legal and political rights and livelihood.

The ECOWAS Secretariat will become a more gender sensitive organization that provides quality assistance to Member States in mainstreaming gender in national development plans and budgets. The policy will enhance the participation and contribution of all sectors of the population, including women as key partners, in socio economic development, in a way that brings about social justice and equitable living standards. The policy framework includes ECOWAS' vision, guiding principles and strategies, the objectives of which are to ensure

women's empowerment and gender equality. Additionally it outlines implementation modalities, responsibilities and roles, monitoring and evaluation arrangements and mechanisms for more accountability at secretariat and member state levels.

The situation analysis which follows will assist the determination of priority areas for inclusion in the policy framework.

CHAPTER 2: SITUATION ANALYSIS: MAIN FINDINGS

INSTITUTIONAL SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Department of Human Development of the ECOWAS Secretariat has direct responsibility for gender affairs. Staffed by a Director, a Principal Officer, Social Affairs and an Education Consultant, the Department also has responsibility for the social sectors, namely Education and Health. The Principal Officer, Social Affairs, who is gender aware and has attended conferences on gender issues, currently has responsibility for gender as well as other portfolios. It means that current staffing arrangements do not allow for adequate attention to gender issues and for their mainstreaming within ECOWAS plans and programmes. The administration is aware of this gap in the institution and initiated the process towards gender mainstreaming with the convening of a meeting of Technical Experts in March 2002. This meeting produced guidelines for the development of a gender policy; and secured commitment from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Corporation (CFTC) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for assistance in the formulation of the policy and for the establishment of a Gender Management System, which would include the establishment of a Gender Division within the Secretariat. The meeting also reviewed a study on the West African Women's Association. WAWA, which had been dormant for some time.

WAWA had been established in 1987, as a specialised agency of ECOWAS, to "mobilise women in the region through programmes, projects and activities for their participation in the integration process" (Final Report, Technical Meeting on Policy Development on Gender Mainstreaming, Abuja 25 -28 March, 2002).

Based in Senegal, it was intended to be a regional focal point for the advancement of women's rights and issues. However it experienced a complex of problems that led to a suspension of its funding and its virtual closure. Based on Decision A/DEC.16/1/03. WAWA is being transformed into the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC).

THEMATIC ANALYSIS, MEMBER STATES

The situation analysis examines gender in relation to a number of indicators falling generally within the broad categories of social, cultural, economic, legal and political issues. It conducts gender analysis of data and information to determine gaps and disparities. Based on a review of reports and available statistics, it suggests wide gender disparities in virtually every sector. In general, women are at a disadvantage in terms of access to education, legal rights, health status, political and other forms of representation, in access to economic resources, and in participation in, and benefit from, economic programmes.

Socio-cultural Context, ECOWAS States

African societies are strongly patriarchal, a factor which profoundly affects gender relations. This is indicated in virtually every sphere of activity, notably with regard to decision making, educational access, health status, access to and control of resources. In these societies, men generally hold responsibility for decision making and women's rights are limited, evidenced in cases where women require permission from spouses and community leaders to enter politics and in terms of barriers to their owning and disposing of property. Traditionally, senior members of the family/community are held in high regard and are given priority in resource allocation (UNICEF Nigeria, 2001).

Some African societies place great importance on children within marriage, so that a childless union is likely to be dissolved. Moreover, it is the woman who is made to feel responsible for the couple's situation. Another strong tradition in these traditionally patriarchal societies is that of the preference for having sons and the generally more favoured status enjoyed by boys. Implicit in this preferential arrangement seems to be the belief that boys perform the role of inter-

generational transfer of the family name and traditions. These socio-cultural beliefs contribute to the under-education of girls and to their disinheritance. This in turn leads to the maintenance of the traditionally perceived women's role as home-makers and to the promotion of the cycle of low-pay, low-status work among women: contributors to their invisibility and marginalisation.

Customary and religious laws that serve to negate formal law and constitutional rights have conditioned gender relations in West African countries. Other socio-cultural features that serve to define the gender situation in West African countries include forced and child marriages, the inhumane practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and negative widowhood customs such as confinement, ostracism and disinheritance (Okoye, 2001). These and other practices such as widow inheritance and initiation rights may have serious implications for HIV/AIDS.

Legal Framework and Status

Most African countries have a clause on equal human rights enshrined in their constitutions and have ratified international and regional conventions that mandate gender equality/equity. For example, 13 of 15 ECOWAS countries had ratified the Convention for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) by 2000, while another had signed it (Genderstats.worldbank.org). However, discriminatory legal frameworks and customary practices have worked against the achievement of gender equality. In some cases, even when the laws exist to protect/promote gender equality, they are rendered ineffective by religious practices and customary law or by administrative practices that lack a gender perspective.

The African preparatory meeting organised in Dakar in 1994 towards the Beijing Conference in 1995 set the pace for an African agenda in critical areas of concerns which highlighted the issue of the Girl Child. In spite of achievements made towards the advancement of the status of women since the 1995 Beijing Conference, several constraints affecting the status of women have been highlighted. ECOWAS Member States have more over reported similar findings. For example, women are ignorant of legal provisions and /or lack a willingness to seek redress through the law

(Burkina Faso). There are gaps or weaknesses in the law (The Republic of Guinea, Ivory Coast and Nigeria). In addition, even when the laws exist to protect women, there is often poor implementation of the statutes (Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast. The Republic of Guinea and The Republic of Benin). Contradiction between the formal statutes and customary and religious laws or between different codes is also a factor in gender in equity (Mali, The Republic of Guinea, The Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso and Nigeria).

The 6th Economic Commission of Africa Conference on Women in Addis Ababa 1999 and the 2000 Beijing Plus 5 review in New York confirmed that for most African countries, discrimination against women continued despite the existence of constitutional provisions and progressive laws, policy frameworks, conventions and protocols; because of pluralistic legal systems and weak political will in relation to implementation.

Gender and the Economy

The main issues that this section addresses are the extent of integration of men and women in their economies and the role of gender in determining the nature of participation in and benefit from economic activity. The economic justification for gender equity and equality rests on the desire to release the productive potential of large segments of the population, so that their productivity is enhanced and they contribute to growth and development. This is accomplished through investment in human and physical capital as well as greater market efficiency, mechanisms which will engender growth through increased employment opportunities and income for women and their families, enhanced ability to adopt new technology and respond to change, inter generational effects on child schooling, reduction in time poverty created by poor infrastructure, greater access to productive resources, increased efficiency in the allocation of labour and through the gender differentiated uses of income and capital (World Bank, 2002).

An examination of economic activity rates and labour force participation rates by Gender for ECOWAS countries suggests that women are less integrated than men into economic activity and tend to be more heavily concentrated into

the informal sector. Table 1, Annex 1 shows female economic activity rates ranging from 43.9 per cent in Cote d'Ivoire to 80 per cent in Ghana in 2000. Moreover, there is a gender gap, indicated by a higher male participation. It also indicates that while some countries have progressed in terms of participation by women in the economy during the period 1990 to 2000, others have retrogressed (indicated by an index of less than 100). Labour force participation rates by gender indicate that women and men tend to be concentrated in agriculture and services. However higher percentages of men are employed in industry than is the case with females (Tables 2 and 3, Annex 1).

The above illustrates the gender spread in sector activities, namely the way in which total male or female employment is divided among the sectors. A more useful comparison would be to analyse the gender distribution of total employment by sector, that is, the "gender intensity" of production. The limited data available suggests that women are concentrated in agriculture and services; with men forming the bulk of the industrial labour force as well as being reasonably well represented in agriculture and services (Annex 1).

It has been suggested that African women are often found in informal activities and subsistence agriculture. The evidence from a limited number of ECOWAS countries tends to support this view. In the case of Niger, 43 per cent of its female workforce is engaged in the informal sector. Comparative figures for Ghana and The Gambia are 49 per cent in 1997 and 51 per cent in 1992 respectively (Genderstats.worldbank.org). When allowance is made for the fact that a number of the service activities are likely to be in the informal sector, the "gender intensity" of production data tends to confirm the view that women are principally integrated into subsistence agriculture and the informal sector.

Gender and Cross Border Trade

Petty trading is one of the main forms of informal activity within ECOWAS countries. Women's involvement in cross border trade is estimated as substantial, based on the fact that they constitute the principal users (70%) of regional transportation (Dejene, 2001). Their contribution to the volume and value of intra-regional trade has not been estimated; one of the difficulties

being the informal nature of their operations. An examination of data on the direction of trade and the principal items of export of ECOWAS countries helps to locate the informal trading sector within the overall trade operations and to provide a gender perspective.

Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana are the countries with the largest international trade sectors. Of these, Cote d'Ivoire has the highest level of integration into Community trade; with 17 per cent of its imports originating in the Community and 20 per cent of its exports consigned to it. Ghana's comparative percentages are 5.1 and 5.5 respectively. Only 1.9 per cent of Nigeria's imports originate in the Community, while 7.1 per cent of its exports are sold to Member States (ECOWAS Handbook on International Trade 1999). The principal categories of export by ECOWAS countries are food industry products, textiles, vegetable based products, minerals, pearls, gemstones and precious stones, wood and petroleum products. Women are said to be active in the trading of basin or dyed fabric, food products such as gari and ateké, smoked and dried fish, palm oil, shea butter and fermented nere seeds, locally made soaps, kitchen utensils including enamel bowls, plastics and pharmaceuticals (Dejene, 2001). They not only contribute to food security, but also to the promotion of intra-regional trade.

These traders are constrained by a number of factors, including inadequate transportation, several road blocks for customs and other payments within a given country, inadequate financial services (including a month's delay on some inter-country bank transactions), inadequate security in cross border trade, limited literacy and numeracy skills, lack of information and knowledge of the trade policies in effect (Dejene, 2001). It does appear that ECOWAS' decisions on the elimination of tariffs and quantitative restrictions are not being implemented at country levels.

Gender and Agriculture

The main issues in gender and agriculture revolve around the participation rates, access to land and other resources /services, including credit, extension services and education and technology. It is estimated that African women produce approximately 75 per cent of the

Continent's food (ECA and World Bank, *Gender in Africa*). They also form a vital part of the work force. With specific reference to ECOWAS countries, a large percentage of the female labour force was found to engage in agricultural activities. However, the limited data available on the percentage of females employed in the total agricultural labour force (male and female) showed figures ranging from 44 per cent to 58 per cent. While these do not conform to the high percentages often cited for the Continent; they nonetheless indicate a reasonably high level of female involvement in the agricultural sector. Yet women's participation in the sector is limited by a number of barriers.

Reference has been made to the legal issues affecting women's right to own and dispose of property (Legal framework). There are also gender gaps in education (Gender Issues in Education) as well as inequity in the practice of delivering extension services. Access to credit is another limiting factor. These barriers serve to perpetuate insecurity. Insecure land tenure in turn limits the incentive to invest in improvements as well as implies a lack of collateral to facilitate access to credit (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2001; ECA and World Bank, *Gender in Africa*).

Gender and poverty

The literature makes reference to the growing feminisation of poverty and the fact that the bulk of the world's poor tend to be women (World Bank, 2002; Ghosh, 2000; Baden, 1997; Kwankwenda et al, 2000). Poverty is indicated by household income and poverty line statistics as well as by a lack of access to basic services and resources. Some of the key issues in the poverty debate include the profile of the poor, the possible links with macro-economic reform and the association between gender-based inequities and poverty. Micro-level studies indicate "a consistent picture of asset-based inequality acting as a constraint on growth and poverty reduction... These gender-based differences affect supply response, resource allocation within the household and, significantly, labour productivity. They have implications for the flexibility, responsiveness, and dynamism of African economies, and limit growth" (World Bank, 2002). These studies include an example from Burkina Faso where sharp productivity differentials resulted from the inequities in the

distribution of inputs between male-run and female-run farms.

Poverty studies as carried out on ECOWAS countries are not gender-differentiated. However, based on the activities that women are principally engaged in (namely low pay, low status and informal sector jobs) and the fact that in public sector retrenchments, women tend to be among the first to lose their jobs, poverty incidence appears to be higher among women than among men (Ghosh, 2001).

Studies on the impact of macro-economic and structural adjustment programmes on poverty appear to be inconclusive. However Latin America and Africa have shown negative growth and increasing poverty as a result of implementing such programmes. Moreover, while men and women have been affected, women tend to find it harder to "regain employment or become self-employed, due to lack of education and skills, life cycle issues ... and lack of independent access to capital" (Baden, 1997 p.8). One notes that increasingly, macro-economic measures have been showing sensitivity to the situation of poor countries. One such initiative that is expected to assist the alleviation of the poverty situation in some ECOWAS countries is that designed for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). It provides debt relief for countries with heavy debt burdens and mandates that they utilise the savings from debt relief for the development of the social sectors such as education and health, including HIV/AIDS.

Gender and the Environment

The natural environment sustains human development through its positive impact on sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism. However, human actions can sustain or deplete environmental resources. Thus, the Millennium Development Goals include a provision for the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and the reversal of the loss of environmental resources.

The gender issues related to the environment revolve around the utilisation and preservation of resources such as wood, water and land. In rural Africa, women are the principal harvesters of fire

wood and collectors of water for domestic usage. In the current division of labour, men are more integrated than women into the commercial exploitation of environmental resources. There is a need for education programmes linked to environmental sustainability, as well as for policies and programmes to provide alternative energy sources and to ensure the availability of potable water, which would contribute to health, but which would also alleviate women's time burden.

Gender Issues in Education

Significant gender gaps exist in access to education at primary and secondary levels, evidenced in enrolment and literacy rates in ECOWAS countries. While these gaps have narrowed since 1970, significant disparities remain. However, the point needs to be made that, by international standards, in most cases these measures of educational achievement are low for both sexes.

While all ECOWAS countries have succeeded in improving the enrolment of boys and girls at primary level, less than half have managed to reduce the gender disparities. There have been cases of widening gender gaps, while in other cases the disparities have lessened. Cape Verde stands out as having achieved a remarkably equitable enrolment rate at primary school level (Table 4, Annex I). In addition, some ECOWAS countries have been taking steps to redress these imbalances. Measures include the institution of free education and the establishment of institutions to cater specifically to girls.

With regard to the internal efficiency of the system, it appears that there is no marked, gender disparity and in fact such gaps as occur seem to favour girls. Girls and boys repeat and survive at approximately the same rates (UNESCO, 2000).

Gross enrolment data for secondary schools indicate generally low achievements for boys and girls. However there are gender gaps which have widened in most cases. On the other hand, Senegal achieved parity in 1997 and there were two cases of reverse gender gap, in the cases of Cape Verde and Guinea in 1997 (Table 6, Annex 1).

The data with respect to illiteracy shows that adult illiteracy rates have declined appreciably between 1970 and 2000. However the gender gap has widened in most cases, with the exceptions being Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Cape Verde and Nigeria. Similarly in the case of the youth (aged 15 - 25), the illiteracy rates have fallen between 1970 and 2000. However, gender gaps have widened in approximately half of ECOWAS countries (Tables 7 and 8 of Annex I).

A number of factors, socio-cultural and economic, have accounted for the gender gaps in education. Factors cited by the Education for All country reports as conditioning the late entry into primary schools may be classified as impeding general access. These include economic hardship, paid and unpaid child labour, distance from school and access to transportation (UNESCO, 2000). However, there are other factors that serve to limit the access of girls and women to educational facilities. Among them are socio-cultural practices such as child marriages, preference for sons over daughters and patriarchy.

Gender Issues in Health

The main issues affecting women's health and nutrition in African countries have been identified as high rates of maternal mortality, high levels of malnutrition caused by food deprivation and maternal malnutrition, disease and death from infection, caused by abortions and female circumcisions performed in un-sterile conditions and the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (ECA and World Bank, *Gender in Africa*).

Health issues of concern to the ECOWAS region include maternal health, malaria and HIV / AIDS. Maternal mortality rates in Sub-Saharan Africa have historically been above the average for developing countries and continue to be among the highest in the world; ranging between 600 and 1, 500 (per 100, 000 live births). Moreover, while Africa accounts for 20 per cent of births globally, it is associated with 40 per cent of maternal deaths (World Bank., 1994; ECA. 1999b). In the case of ECOWAS countries, maternal death rates range between 210 and 2. 100 per 100.000 live births (Table 9, Annex I).

The risks faced by persons in child marriages and the percentage of births attended by health professionals are factors linked to the high maternal death ratios. The risks posed by early pregnancies appear to be high in ECOWAS countries. In the case of the percentages of births attended by health professionals, there have been improvements over time. However, there have also been cases of decline (Tables 9 and 10, Annex I). The data exposes health system deficiencies that need to be addressed to meet the special needs of women. In addition, there are socio-cultural and economic issues affecting gender and women's health.

Data is required to determine the gender dimensions of malaria. It is known, however, that the incidence and treatment of malaria are linked to income level and that children are particularly vulnerable to the disease. Thus the poor are more likely to contract malaria and less likely to be in a position to prevent or treat it.

In the area of infectious diseases, the issue of HIV / AIDS is of great global significance; but is especially topical on the African continent, which is said to be the region with the highest prevalence rate. HIV / AIDS is as much a socio-cultural and economic issue as a health one. The importance of understanding the socially constructed aspects of relations, between women and men, that underpin individual behaviour as well as the gender based rules, norms and laws governing the broader social and institutional context, has been stressed by the Commonwealth Secretariat (Commonwealth Secretariat. 2002). There is a whole complex of issues that impinge on women's ability to negotiate with men; a factor in the transmission of the disease. Thus gender equality and the empowerment of women are stressed as fundamental to the reduction of the "vulnerability of women and girls to HIV / AIDS (United Nations General Assembly Twenty-sixth Special Session, June 2001).

Recent trends indicate that the infection rates among women worldwide have been increasing rapidly. The percentage of women infected with the virus increased from 41 in 1997 to 47 in 2000. However, sub-Saharan Africa indicates the highest infection rate among women. In the case of ECOWAS countries, the prevalence rates are higher for women than for men. Table II, Annex 1,

which shows prevalence rates and female infection rates, confirms the magnitude of the problem for both sexes; but more so for women in the ECOWAS region. Infection rates among females range from 53 - 57 per cent of the infected population, thus confirming suggestions of their vulnerability.

HIV/AIDS presents serious problems for policy makers and planners: in that it has debilitating effects on individuals as well as societies. Not only does it disrupt livelihoods and shortens life expectancy, but it also imposes heavy economic and social costs evidenced in the loss of human resources, productivity and incomes, the increased costs of health care, the increased burden on care givers, the cost of increasing numbers of orphans and the increased burden on female orphans who are sometimes left to care and provide for their siblings. It is clear that HIV/AIDS is a phenomenon that threatens the sustainability of societies and economies and requires comprehensive and sustained policy, planning and implementation. The latter includes the use of a gender sensitive approach; given the manner in which the disease has been unfolding in ECOWAS countries.

Gender based Violence, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building

Gender based violence is defined as involving physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, including economic deprivation. It is felt to be rooted in unequal power relations between men and women and discriminatory socio-cultural practices. Moreover, it is perpetuated through inadequate legal frameworks and weak law enforcement mechanisms (Oguli-Oumo, Molokomme, Gwaba. Mogegeh and Kiwala. 2002).

Several Member States of ECOWAS have identified violence against women as a critical activity. Common forms of violence experienced by women include domestic violence, FGM, sexual violence (including rape) and torture associated with armed conflict. The measures being used to address the issue include research, awareness and sensitization campaigns and legal arrangements. The constraints identified include the need to increase the number of reported cases, contradiction between the statutory and

common law, inadequate financial resources to run activities, inadequate involvement of men and the state in programmes to combat violence against women, a slow and expensive judicial process, weak solidarity among women and socio-cultural practices.

The ECOWAS Protocol relating to the mechanism for conflict prevention, management, resolution, peace keeping and security addresses issues of security, conflict and peace building. In addition, ECOWAS has an active programme indicated in efforts to restore peace in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. However, a key concern seems to be that the groups who are the most affected by armed conflict are the least involved in these areas. Sierra Leone, nevertheless, provides an example of good practice in the National Consultation held in Freetown in 2001 to highlight the roles of women and children in the reconstruction process. Women's representation in critical areas of public life is recommended as essential for peace, democracy and economic recovery (*Link In 2002*).

Gender Issues in Power and Decision Making

Gender disparities exist in representation at the political level and in terms of managerial, administrative and decision-making posts in most African countries. This is evidenced in a low female presence in key posts dealing with the management of the economy, such as finance, trade and banking (ECA and World Bank, Gender in Africa). Tables 12 and 13 (Annex 1) present data on political representation by women in ECOWAS countries. The percentage of women participating in parliament ranges from as low as 1 in Niger to 12 per cent in Mali and Senegal. The relatively low female representation is also evidenced in Cabinet positions - from 3 per cent in Nigeria to 19 per cent in Liberia. While women's presence in political institutions can be regarded as low, they have registered some achievements over time, as evidenced in the data on Ministerial postings (Table 13, Annex 1). However, ECOWAS countries have not yet met the target, of at least 30 per cent female representation at decision-making levels, set by the United Nations. The constraints to greater female representation have been identified as including inadequate sensitization, lack of confidence on the part of women, lack of interest by the latter,

inadequate education and socio-cultural factors limiting women's rights.

Gender and Democracy and Governance

Governance and democracy are over-arching principles in gender equity and equality. They affect the status of implementation of laws, Empowerment, leadership and representation and the equitable distribution of resources. ECOWAS has formulated *The Supplementary Protocol on Good Governance*, in an effort to tackle the "root causes of conflict, promote democracy and the rule of law ... " However, some Member States have not yet ratified it (*ECOWAS Annual Report 2002*).

Priority Areas of Concern

The situation analysis has revealed gender inequities in the legal framework, economic participation, poverty incidence, education access, health and representation and decision making. It has also demonstrated that the various sectors are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. For example education empowers individuals to escape the poverty trap. At the same time, considerations of opportunity cost (earnings foregone) contribute to the decision of poor families to limit the education of their children and co-opt them into both paid and unpaid work. Similarly, there is a link between access to economic resources on the one hand and empowerment and ability to make decisions on the other hand. There is also an association between education and health and between health and access to economic resources. Education and the law are also inter-related, in that the former empowers individuals so that they are knowledgeable about their legal rights.

One area that stands out as pervading all others is the socio-cultural. It is within this milieu that socialization, gender stereo-typing, patriarchy, traditional practices, customary and religious laws are rooted. It is at the heart of society's perception of the relative importance of boys and girls and beliefs concerning the respective roles of women and men. It is being suggested that socio-cultural practices be accorded priority attention in the gender policy. The legal framework and its relations to customary law and traditional practices are also pivotal in redefining the gender situation in ECOWAS countries; On

the basis of its ability to empower individuals economically, legally and socially, the education sector is also being recommended as a priority area for inclusion in the policy. In general, women's health status has implications for the health of their children and other family members for whom they provide care, and indirectly affects the productivity of others. However, in view of the extremely heavy human and economic costs exacted by HIV / AIDS, the latter presents itself as an area for sustained policy intervention. Moreover, because of its dire implications not only for adults, but also for children, HIV / AIDS presents itself as an area for urgent attention.

ECOWAS will focus on these and other activities that conform to the attainment of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) objectives and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and which lend themselves to implementation as regional solutions.

CHAPTER 3: POLICY FRAMEWORK

The policy framework sets out ECOWAS' vision, mission and guiding principles and elaborates a series of policy commitments and strategies. An institutional framework that sets out the structures, roles and responsibilities for policy implementation is included in the framework. A five-year action plan also forms part of the policy framework.

VISION

A just and safe West African society in which men and women enjoy equal opportunities to participate, make decisions, have control over and benefit from all development interventions.

MISSION

ECOWAS' mission is to engage the citizens of West Africa in the formulation and implementation of sustainable socio-economic development solutions that eradicate poverty and promote gender equality, good governance and the conditions for peace, through regional cooperation and integration.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The policy elaborates a set of principles, which emphasise among other things affirmation of maximum political will, commitment to all global and regional instruments and to Article 63 of the ECOWAS Treaty and which acknowledge the following:

- That the Gender Policy be adopted as a tool for all ECOWAS Sectors and stakeholders to plan programme interventions
- That Gender Assessment, as a basis for gender analysis, be carried out routinely in ECOWAS Member States and the Secretariat structures
- That Gender Management Systems (GMS) be established in Member States and the Secretariat
- Gender Mainstreaming as a prerequisite to gender equity and equality
- That there will be partnerships, networking, collaboration and coordination protocols for integration and cooperation

CORE VALUES

The core values of mutual respect, social justice, equity and equality and security will drive the formulation and implementation of the Gender Policy and main streaming process; based on the belief that social transformation needs to be linked to the espoused values of society and organizations. Positive change will be enhanced where there are linkages between the gender issues and the organizational or societal values.

OBJECTIVES

- To establish a framework for ensuring sensitivity and the incorporation of gender concerns in ECOWAS' policies, programmes, structures and processes towards the empowerment of women
- To apply gender mainstreaming principles

to persistent, emerging and development issues that affect women and require a multi-sectoral and holistic approach, recognising that gender main streaming should not be independent, but should operate within the context of other socio-economic issues

- To incorporate the principles as contained in CEDAW, its Optional Protocol and in the ECOWAS Treaty and Protocols
- To- ensure ratification by all Member States of International and Regional Conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment
- To promote equal opportunities for involvement in policy formulation and access to markets, finance, technology and technical support providing support for women to be at the cutting edge of emerging economic issues
- To create a conducive environment for dialogue between ECOWAS, civil society and the private sector
- To establish the institutional framework for the implementation of the Gender Policy
- To promote equal opportunities and participation of men and women in all areas of governance, policy making, programme development.. resource allocation and other decision making processes
- To sensitise women to play an active role in political activities from within the political parties for elective/appointive office at the local, municipal/regional and national levels
- To assist Member States to create the enabling environment to establish, manage and sustain viable enterprises including the provision of Social Security especially for women engaged in the informal sector of the economy

GENDER POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

Commitment 1: Political Will

A commitment to ensuring that political will exists in creating an enabling environment for equality and equity for men and women to achieve sustainable development in the sub-region,

This includes:

- Adopting and implementing the Platforms for Action of the global and regional meetings including Dakar, Beijing Platforms for Action, Beijing plus five 12000, International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), UN Millennium Summit, UN Special Session on Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty First Century, The Africa Peoples Charter on Human Rights, Africa Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the World Summit on the Child (2002), Africa Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the ECOWAS Treaty as a basis for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the sub-region
- Setting up effective institutional structures and mechanisms and allocating human and financial resources for the implementation of the ECOWAS Gender Policy
- Urging Member States to adopt sub-regional and collective approaches, consultations, dialogue and consensus building in order to reach agreements on solution frames and reporting mechanisms on gender equality and women's empowerment issues
- Urging Member States to fully respect their commitments to essential issues of human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, especially social, cultural, economic, political and legal rights as key issues for advancing gender equality and

women's empowerment in the sub-region.

Commitment 2: Compliance with Regional and International Instruments

A commitment to adopt a sub-regional approach in the implementation of the international, regional and national gender equality and women's human rights actions.

This includes:

- Reviewing and strengthening existing mechanisms and machineries protecting the human rights of women and encouraging the ratification, full implementation and reporting of/on CEDAW
- Urging Member States to ensure increasing representation of women in all regional, national and other institutional mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict in the sub-region
- Urging actors involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements to adopt gender perspectives including inter alia the special needs of women and girls in early warnings and conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as peace building
- Including gender issues in all regional integration and cooperation projects and programmes including poverty reduction, trade, energy, communication and transport, human development HIV / AIDS and health, conflict management and peace keeping, using rights based approaches
- Commissioning quantitative and qualitative research studies on emerging issues and concerns, affecting vulnerable groups, such as sexual violence including rape, domestic violence, child prostitution and slavery

Commitment 3: Governance, Representation and Decision-making A commitment to enhance the participation and leadership roles of women in politics, governance, and decision-making in ECOWAS

This includes:

- Establishing structures and measurable goals to improve the gender balance in decision-making, broadening women's opportunities and adopting affirmative action where necessary to include women in decision-making. Member States will comply with the international minimum requirement of at least 30 per cent representation of women in decision-making in private and public sectors (including ministerial appointments, cooperative boards, national commissions, legal and other technical commissions, country delegations to conferences and funding negotiations, budgetary commissions, parliamentary groupings and other statutory structures)
- Reporting achievements of the targets to the necessary bureaus at national, regional and international levels. Barriers to the compliance to be identified and corrective actions taken
- Investing in capacity building for the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the Parliament to begin political participation education for women with a focus on leadership skills, politics and legal issues and parliamentary voting procedures to adapt to changing conditions in the sub-region
- Investing in assessment studies of determinants, barriers and future trends and conditions required for women's participation in politics. The findings will contribute to re-orienting government strategies towards strengthening women's participation interventions

- Using education, the media and other means to establish and build capacity for effective lobby groups and caucuses to advocate increase in women's representation both in the national and ECOWAS parliaments

- Ensuring that the ECOWAS Gender Commission promote the involvement of women in the decision-making machinery in the sub-region.

Commitment 4: Socio-cultural Issues A commitment to achieving equitable access to quality education and responding to women's social and cultural concerns in the sub-region

This includes:

- Ensuring compliance with national educational policies and the ECOWAS Education Protocol, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other United Nations actions. Monitoring compliance with policy measures addressing the concerns of girls and developing broad based education programmes on human rights
- Promoting education and other programmes for the elimination of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriages and human trafficking
- Increasing efforts to eliminate violence against women and promoting enforcement of internationally recognised actions for combating political, domestic and sexual violence

Commitment 5: Economic Development Issues. A commitment to accelerating economic development and more equitable participation in and benefit from economic activity within the sub-region

This includes:

- Providing an economic environment that promotes more equitable access to income, resources and social services and which accelerates poverty reduction programmes
- Developing frameworks for mainstreaming gender in existing national economic policies, national accounts, budgetary processes and integrating women's unpaid work into national accounts
- Enabling women to have access to economic ventures and publicly provided services, from which they are excluded because of their multiple roles and/or the inexistence of such services
- Supporting women to get organised, to gain bargaining power and to collectively engage in innovative entrepreneurship programmes, especially in industry and manufacturing
- Strengthening women's capacities to enter into professional and managerial occupations in public and private sectors and to participate in the formulation of economic policies
- Forging and sustaining partnerships with the private sector, financial and other institutions to support women in setting up women's banking systems, using existing local and other savings models such as the SUSU in Ghana and Nigeria and the Grameen Banking system - a good practice in Asia
- Supporting innovative social and economic ventures such as cultural exchanges, dress and fashion design, tourism, health care and nutrition, energy and conservation
- Documenting and publishing good-practices of female entrepreneurs in the sub-region through trade fairs, internet and websites, publications, conferences and seminars, exchange of experiences, enrichment programmes, intergenerational dialogues, internships and women's testimonies
- Establishing sub-regional business information centres, and funding opportunities for women's business ventures (Africa Women's Development Fund - A WDF - is a good example). AWDF is able to mobilise appropriate funding for women's ventures in the sub-region.

Commitment 6: Legal Issues A commitment to creating an environment that enables women and men to achieve legal protection, thus ensuring gender equality in the sub-region.

This includes:

- Reviewing and modifying legal, constitutional and regulatory frameworks to improve women's access to assets and services; translating bills and legislation into laws and monitoring their enforcement tracking violations and awarding adequate punishment
- Working actively with men to protect the rights of women using the life cycle approach
- Establishing mechanisms for the harmonisation of national laws with conventions, such as CEDAW and the African Charter on Human Rights, ratified by Member States and ensuring their equitable application, thus addressing the systematic and systemic nature of discrimination against women and

girls. Allocating resources to address persistent inequalities, paying attention to women's strategic needs such as land ownership, sexual and reproductive health and rights, inheritance, widowhood rights, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). These issues are an integral part of development.

- Improving cooperation and coordination between human rights groups, the UN individual experts, thematic groups, Commissions, the UN agencies and other international bodies represented in the sub-region
- Educating women in the use of the legal system to exercise their rights. Legal literacy programmes and media strategies are effective mechanisms in this regard.

Commitment 7: HIV/AIDS Concerns

A commitment on Gender and HIV/AIDS in the sub region

This includes:

- Strengthening gender perspectives including men's perceptions of HIV/AIDS education, prevention and care support services
- Enabling men and women to understand masculinity and femininity and to dialogue on matters of sexuality. Improving women's bargaining power and finding other long term solutions to the pandemic
- Enforcement of policies on Sex and Family Life Education in schools, public and community education and special education programmes for mothers and children living with HIV/AIDS
- Partnerships with civil society and NGOs to deliver special programmes on HIV/AIDS in the Workplace, on Mother to Child Transmission, PLWHA and HIV

Orphans

- Enforce policies to prevent discrimination against persons living with AIDS
- Propose laws to sanction those who deliberately infect their partners with HIV/AIDS
- Call for strengthening of penalties against rape
- Eliminate cultural practices, notably circumcision, polygamy, FGM and even some traditional medical practices, that favour contamination by HIV/AIDS

Commitment 8: Resource Mobilisation A commitment to redirect public resources towards the gender policy and projects that reduce gender inequality and increase labour productivity, promote a higher rate of human capital formation and stronger socioeconomic growth

This entails

- ECOWAS Secretariat committing itself to providing resources necessary to implement the Gender Policy
- ECOWAS Member States reinforcing commitments as agreed in the Beijing Women's Conference to allocate 20 per cent of national budgets to Ministries of Women's Affairs; to coordinate and monitor effectively gender equality, women's advancement and empowerment programmes
- Securing agreement by donors to allocate at least 20 per cent of their assistance to gender equality actions in keeping with the Beijing Conference guideline on official development assistance
- Establishing a mechanism to reduce waste and corruption and ensure accountability in the use of funds earmarked for promoting gender equality

- Requesting International agencies to provide increased technical and financial assistance to implement the Gender Policy at the ECOWAS secretariat and member state levels
- Inviting regional development banks, regional business associations and other regional institutions to contribute financial support
- The sub-regional organisations and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, within their existing mandates, assisting in mobilising funds for the implementation of the Gender Policy.

POLICY STRATEGIES

The following strategies will be used for implementing the gender policy:

- Mainstream gender in ECOWAS' policies and programmes, including institutional building through the establishment of a Gender Management System (GMS) and development of a system for gender disaggregated data
- Build capacity in all ECOWAS organs, in particular strengthen Member States' capacity to develop gender indicators for monitoring the advancement in gender equality; and for facilitating awareness raising and training on policy
- Empower women and girls through affirmative action and the promotion of the visibility of women in peace keeping, trade and finance, by formulating programmes that specifically address gender equality at all levels
- Build strategic partnerships with regional and continental organisations
- Mobilise resources

- Seek technical assistance and policy advice
- Advocate for behaviour change
- Use ICT at various levels

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

ECOWAS will establish a Gender Management System (GMS), namely the structures, mechanisms and processes, that will guide, plan, monitor and evaluate the process of gender mainstreaming within Member States, the Secretariat and other organs. The GMS will facilitate gender mainstreaming, which is itself a process that puts gender issues at the heart of policies, plans and programmes; with the objective of addressing equity and equality issues. Because of the pervasive nature of the gender equity problem, gender mainstreaming is a process involving a number of activities as follows:

- forging and strengthening the political will to achieve gender equality and equity
- Incorporating a gender perspective into the planning processes of all ministries and departments of governments, including those concerned with macro economic development and planning
- Integrating a gender perspective into sectoral planning cycles, including analysis, development, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- The use of sex disaggregated data to indicate the differential impacts of policies and programmes on men and women
- Forging linkages between governments, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure coordination (Commonwealth Secretariat. *A quick guide to Gender Management System*).

GMS is results-oriented and evidence-based. It seeks to improve on approaches such as Women in Development, WID and Women and Development. WAD as methods for changing the status of women. Some Member States have already started implementing the GMS approach. ECOWAS will take this to scale within the next five years. In the case of the Secretariat, GMS is a window of opportunity in the ongoing transformation process within the institution. Its methodological approach will make an effective shift from the traditional way of doing things to a more sustainable organisational culture.

Structure and Functions

The Gender Management System will be comprised of the following:

- A Gender Commission consisting of member states' experts. The Commission will assist in policy formulation and will monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Gender Policy, protocols and strategic plan
- A Gender Division, which will play the lead role in gender mainstreaming within the ECOWAS Secretariat and will be the corner stone for advancing gender equality and mainstreaming within the ECOWAS sub-region and will work with the Gender Management Team (GMT) and the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC). It will be staffed by the Director/Head of Division who will coordinate activities and guide the Secretariat in gender mainstreaming.
- A Gender Management Team (GMT), comprised of Directors of Departments within the Secretariat and which will be led by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Integration Programmes. The Deputy Chairperson will be the Director/Head of the Gender Division (GO). The GMT will define priority areas (existing and emerging) that will drive the gender mainstreaming process.

- Secretariat Departmental Focal Points (FP), who will facilitate the integration of gender issues into all policies, plans and programmes and will be designated by the Directors.
- ECOWAS Gender Development Centre, which will work with Member States to implement the Gender Policy and Strategic Plan
- National Bodies Responsible for the Advancement of Women, which will be the lead agencies in Member States for advancing gender mainstreaming and equality at the national level. They will work with Ministries of Integration, Focal Points of line ministries and other institutions within the national Gender Management System. Ministers of Women's Affairs will initiate the establishment of Inter-ministerial Committees and Parliamentary Gender Caucuses.

Training and Capacity Building

The Gender Management System entails capacity building to facilitate gender mainstreaming. The Secretariat will coordinate capacity building activities within the organs emanating from its structure. At the Secretariat level, a priority will be to conduct gender-awareness training for all cadres of staff. In-depth training is also needed for technical and professional staff to ensure the integration of gender planning into the policies, plans and programmes and resource allocation of the Organisation. This will enhance the sustainability of gender mainstreaming. The Secretariat will also provide technical support for gender capacity building in Member States. The elements included are training needs assessment, training designing, training of trainers and training materials.

The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre will work with the Gender Division and Member States to design and conduct training programmes and to identify additional capacity building needs, such as in ICT, research and advocacy. Included in its programmes will be training in gender issues for women's organisations.

Member states will take national inventories of the training conducted to date in order to establish training needs. The rapid turnover experienced in some National Bodies for the Advancement of Women suggests that training is often lost to the Organisation. There is therefore a need for new training policies and programmes.

Coordination Functions

There will be regular communication and consultative meetings between the ECOWAS Secretariat and the National Bodies Responsible for the Advancement of Women of Member States; on both national and international gender issues. These entities will be the Secretariat's Focal Points within Member States. The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre will implement the Gender Policy and will build a bridge between civil society and governments to advocate and lobby for support for policies and programmes. The Centre will work with the Secretariat to strengthen the database for gender analysis. It will assemble a critical mass of professionals at the sub-regional level to conduct research and form a think tank for developing solution frames on matters of gender equality in the sub-region.

Partnerships

In the area of gender equality and mainstreaming issues, ECOWAS will begin a formal partnership with regional and international organisations in sharing knowledge, experiences, skills and resources. ECOWAS will establish partnerships with international organisations, UN agencies and regional and bilateral organisations. The Secretariat will forge partnerships with Civil Society organisations, including international non-governmental, universities and research and training institutes, as well as NEPAD structures.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The objective of a monitoring and evaluation system is to determine whether targets are being met and behavioural changes are visible. It is also intended to indicate whether resources are being used efficiently. At the level of the Secretariat, a Management Information System will be established. There is also the need for a monitoring and evaluation plan that can be generally applied across countries. The use of a

common tool would facilitate comparability of results. Included in the monitoring and evaluation system will be performance indicators of gender equality.

CONCLUSION

Much emphasis is placed on the wide dissemination, publication and implementation of the ECOWAS gender policy. To this end, the attached Action Plan constitutes an integral part of the policy framework.

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www.adva.org/genderbudgets

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ACTION PLAN FRAMEWORK 2004 - 2006

STRATEGY	ACTION	INDICATORS	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERS
Gender Mainstreaming	Implement GSM guidelines		2004 - 2006		
1. Preparation of tools for gender analysis 2. Gender sensitization 3. Orientation/training on techniques for gender mainstreaming of policies, plans, programmes and budgets		Types of documentation produced Number of workshops Number of professionals sensitized Number of States/Organs with gender sensitive policies, programmes & budgets.	2004 - 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat, the EGDC and Member States	Commonwealth Secretariat UNIFEM
4. Implementation of gender mainstreaming in priority sectors (education, HIV/AIDS and malaria, legal frameworks, economy, peace and conflict resolution, representation and decision-making.		Improvement in, and reduction in gender disparities in, these sectors	2004 - 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat, WAHO, EGDC, ECOWAS Parliament, ECOWAS Court of Justice, Member States	Commonwealth Secretariat, UNIFEM, ADB, SADC, AU, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF
4. Integrating gender into workplace (Secretariat) policies and plans		Percentage of men and women employed in various cadres. Types of services available to meet the needs of men and women Extent to which equal opportunity policies are implemented. Existence of HIV/AIDS	2004 - 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat	

5. Setting up of Gender Management Team and system of Secretariat Focal Points		programs in the work place. Formal appointment of Officials Number of GMT meetings Number of meetings of Focal Points Number of departmental programmes with gender sensitivity.	2004 2004 – 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat	
6. Facilitating start-up activities of the EGDC					
1. Development of short term and long term actions plans		Existence of action plan documents	2005	ECOWAS Secretariat and EGDC	
2. Preparation of job descriptions and implementing the approved organogram		Number of staff recruited and existence of job description	2004	ECOWAS Secretariat	
3. Develop Terms of Reference for technical working groups				ECOWAS Secretariat and EGDC	
4. Development of operational systems		Existence of operational systems manual		Secretariat & EGDC	Management Consultants
CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING	Provision of Training, Resources & Equipment		004 - 2006		
1. Training needs assessments in ECOWAS region		Report generated Existence of ECOWAS		ECOWAS Secretariat	Development Partners

2. Design of training modules/manual		training manual	2004		
3. Setting up database of training resources		Existence of database	2005	ECOWAS Secretariat	
4. Setting up database on gender experts in sub region and the diaspora		Existence of database	2005		
5. Provision of equipment and software, with relevant skills training		Relevant equipment in place in the Secretariat, EGDC and Member States. Existence of capabilities for managing the equipment	2005	ECOWAS Secretariat	Bilateral & International agencies
6. Orientation and training attachments for personnel.		Number of attachments undertaken	2005 – 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat	Bilateral & International agencies
7. Internships for gender skill development		Number of internships undertaken			
8. Establishing/strengthening systems for data collection, collation and disaggregation.		Number of workshops Number of personnel trained in techniques Existence of systems for data collection, collation and disaggregation.	2004 – 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat	Commonwealth Secretariat & international agencies
Building Partnerships for Gender Policy Implementation	Establishing dialogue, relationships and initiatives with partners				
1. Dialoguing with partners		Number of meetings and	2004 - 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat	

2. Formalising relationships with partners		interactive sessions		and EGDC	
3. Developing joint initiatives for mainstreaming gender in the NEPAD programme responses		Number of memoranda of understanding			
		Number of NEPAD programme responses with gender sensitivity			
Resource Mobilization	Organising Donor Meetings, Preparing financial proposals & Negotiating finance				
1. Organising donor meetings		Number of meetings	2005	ECOWAS Secretariat	
2. Preparing fund raising proposals		Number of type of proposals submitted	2005		
3. Negotiating financial assistance from private sector and other sources		Number of financial commitments obtained			
Technical Support	Support for National policy formulation, establishing data systems, for law revision & monitoring compliance				

27	1. Technical support for developing & harmonizing national gender policies	Number of countries with harmonized policies	2004 - 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat & EGDC ECOWAS CCC	Commonwealth Secretariat, UNIFEM and other development partners.
	2. technical support for establishment of database and data management systems	Existence of database and data management systems			
	3. Coordinate with ECA in the collection, and collation of data and in monitoring the implementation of Beijing + 5	Number of collaborative efforts.			
	4. Technical support in revision and harmonization of laws.	More gender sensitive legal frameworks	2005	ECOWAS Secretariat	
	5. Technical support in monitoring compliance with the gender perspectives in the ECOWAS Education Protocol and the Millennium Development Goals	Ratio of boys to girls enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Ratio of literate boys to girls. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments. Extent of diversification in women's economic activities.	2004 - 2006	ECOWAS Secretariat, EGDC	
Advocacy		Building capacity and networking			
1. Building capacity for advocacy in EGDC and		Existence of an advocacy		ECOWAS Secretariat	Development

Member States	manual		and EGDC	Partners.
2. Building networks with civil society to promote advocacy for implementation of the Gender Policy	Number of workshops with opinion leaders, law enforcement agencies and other groups Existence of a newsletter.			

GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ECOWAS

Introduction

The following is intended as a guide for the establishment of a Gender Management System for ECOWAS. It is intended as a multi-sector and stakeholder approach to gender mainstreaming.

Background

Notwithstanding the gender equality and equity efforts implemented to date by ECOWAS both at community and national levels, significant gender disparities exist within the Community. These are evidenced in the socio-cultural, educational, health, legal, economic and governance and representational areas. The following are some salient features and indicators:

- Strong system of patriarchy that affects gender relations
- Child marriages, female genital mutilation and negative widowhood practices, that limit women's human rights
- Weak legal frameworks and/or implementation mechanisms that have negative gender implications, namely discriminating against women
- Disparity in access to economic resources, such as land, credit and advisory services experienced by men and women, thus leading to different levels of integration into economic activity
- Female economic activity rate as a percentage of male economic activity rate ranges from 51 % in Cote d'Ivoire to 98% in Ghana
- While improvement has been shown in primary school enrolments between 1970 and 1990, female enrolment rates are consistently lower than those of males for ECOWAS countries
- Generally low secondary school enrolment rates (male and female).

Gender disparities exist, disfavours females in all but two cases

- High risk maternal mortality among women aged 15 - 19
- Higher HIV/AIDS infection rates among females than males, with percentages of infected females ranging from 53 - 57 of the infected population

ECOWAS is committed to addressing these and other critical gender issues through the formulation of a gender policy. A draft policy has been prepared and the Authority of Heads of State and Government has approved the proposal for institutionalizing a Gender Management System for Gender Mainstreaming.

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender Mainstreaming is a strategy through which gender issues are integrated into mainstream policy formulation, planning and programming at macro and sector levels in governments and institutions. It seeks to transform planning and programming so that planners/programmers become cognizant of the needs of men and women and the possibility that activities, which in their design appear to be gender blind, may have gender biases in terms of their outcomes. Gender Mainstreaming is accomplished through the establishment of a Gender Management System (GMS) that puts in place structures, mechanisms and processes. Much emphasis is placed on the appropriate institutional structures as well as on the mechanisms for gender analysis, gender training and monitoring and evaluation.

Guidelines for Gender Management System for Gender mainstreaming

It is proposed that the ECOWAS Gender Management system be comprised of the following:

- Gender Management Team (GMT)
- Gender Division (the Lead Agency)
- Secretariat Departmental Focal Points
- The ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre

- National Bodies for the Advancement of Women
- Gender Commission
- Civil society organisations
- Public Sector training institutes

Roles and Responsibilities

The Gender Management Team (GMT)

The GMT should be comprised of Directors of departments that are strategically placed to produce results, have access to empirical data and demonstrate some sensitivity towards gender equality/equity issues. Its role will be:

- To provide operational guidelines for the entities of the Gender Management System
- To monitor the implementation of the ECOWAS Gender Policy and Strategic Plan
- To review reports on the progress of Gender Mainstreaming of programmes in ECOWAS Secretariat institutions and Member States
- Commission research and surveys on critical areas for policy formulation
- To advocate for resources to implement the Gender Policy
- To encourage the development of partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, international agencies for promoting gender equality
- To support the work of the Gender Division and the Focal Points
- Approve a gender training plan for the entities in the GMS

The Gender Division

The Gender Division will be the Lead Agency within the Gender Management System, having the coordination function for the Secretariat's gender equality/equity efforts. Its role will be:

- To coordinate the implementation of the Gender Policy and Strategic Plan
- To coordinate data collection, collation and disaggregation and to establish a Management Information System
- To report to the GMT on the

implementation of the Gender Policy and Gender Mainstreaming

- To review and research global trends in gender equality issues and report on them to the GMT
- To conduct gender sensitization and training exercises for the Secretariat and other ECOWAS institutions
- To assist national agencies in the development of gender-sensitive databases and indicators
- To establish linkages with the Focal Points
- To integrate private sector entities into the implementation of the Gender Policy
- To develop partnerships with regional and international agencies
- To prepare a budget for submission to the GMT for transmission to the Council for approval
- To procure resources for the implementation of the Gender Policy

The Departmental Focal Points

The Departmental Gender Focal Point should be a senior officer within the Department. The FP's role will be:

- To integrate gender concerns into all departmental programmes.
- To perform the role of departmental resource person on gender
- To collect and collate sex-disaggregated data relative to the sector from various data sources including national entities
- To carry out gender analysis as a basis for planning, programming and impact analysis
- To contribute to the Management Information System through exchange of information
- To assist the GMT and the GD in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Gender Policy and Plan

The Gender Commission

Based on the roles and responsibilities defined for special technical commissions within the ECOWAS Treaty, the Gender Commission will:

- Assist with policy formulation
- Monitor and facilitate the implementation of the gender policy, protocols and

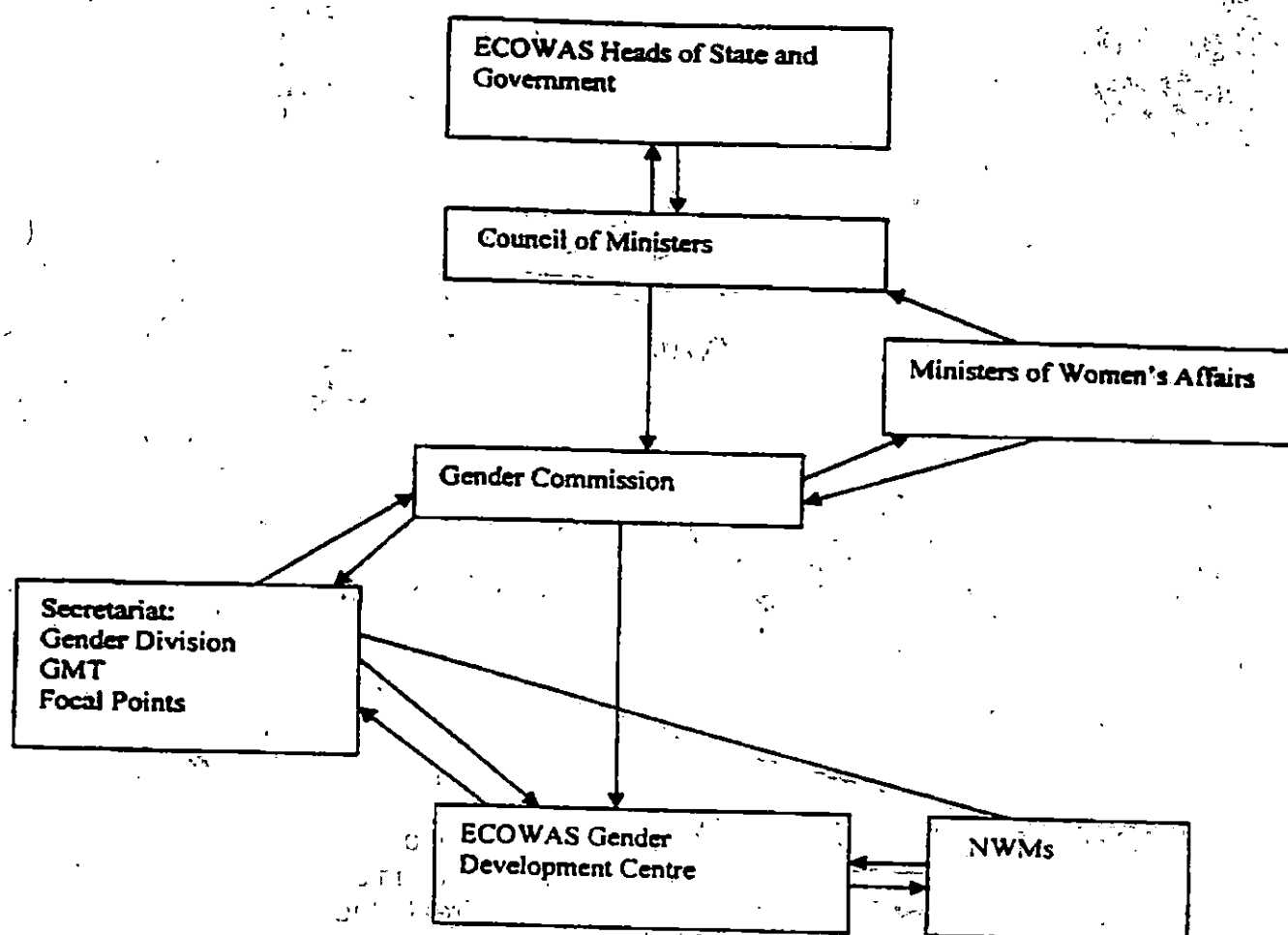
strategic plan in the Secretariat other ECOWAS institutions and Member States

- Participate in and initiate gender sensitive research, advocacy, and community-based project design and implementation
- Ensure harmonisation and coordination of projects and programmes at the secretariat and community levels and institutionalise documentation of best practices
- Ensure participation of ECOWAS Secretariat and Member States in global and regional conferences, monitor the implementation of global commitments and facilitate reporting of results/outcomes
- Carry out any other functions assigned to it for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty.

ECOWAS Gender Development Centre

- Work with Member States to implement the Gender Policy and Strategic Plan
- Research into gender issues
- Work with Member States to collect, collate and analyse sex-disaggregated data
- Conduct sensitisation, training and capacity building in Member States
- Perform an advocacy role
- Network and form partnerships with Civil Society
- To disseminate information through various media including a news letter

ECOWAS GENDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STRUCTURE



Gender Analysis

This entails the use of sex-disaggregated data and the indicators derived from them; as well as qualitative-data to engender policy formulation, planning and programming. It enables the appraisal of alternative policy or programme options as well as impact assessments from a gender perspective. Gender analysis is based on the premise that programmes, though intended to be gender-neutral in their outcomes.

Database and Indication

- Identify primary and secondary sources for sex-disaggregated data
- Work towards disaggregating data received by the Department/Institution
- Work closely with national statistical agencies towards disaggregating data
- Carry out periodic research and surveys on specific topics as may be necessary to provide qualitative and quantitative data
- Assess gender indicators on an ongoing basis
- Collect information on global trends and international mandates

Sample of Gender Indicators

Composite Measures

GDI: Gender-related Development Index developed by the UNDP, based on its Human Development Index (HDI). The GDI is the HDI discounted for gender inequality. The HDI measures a country's average achievement in the following areas:

1. longevity (life expectancy)
2. knowledge (educational attainment)
3. access to basic resources needed to provide a decent standard of living (real income)

GDI is based on the same measures, but takes gender inequality into consideration. The GDI then is a composite measure of gender inequality.

GEM: Gender Empowerment Measure also developed by UNDP measures the level of participation in economic, political and decision-making spheres of women relative to that of men. This also is a composite gender equality measure (UNDP, 1995).

Indicators at Lower Levels of Aggregation

- Female economic activity rate as a ratio of male economic activity rate
- Comparative female and male labour force participation rates
- Comparative male and female employment rates by activity e. g. Agriculture, informal sector, industry, services
- Wage rates/earnings by male/female-distribution
- Disease prevalence and infection rates among male and female
- Male/female mortality rates
- Maternal mortality rates
- Adult literacy rates by sex
- Sex distribution of out-of-school youth
- Gross primary and secondary enrolment ratios by sex
- Net primary and secondary enrolment ratios by sex
- School drop-out rates by sex

Guidelines for Gender-Sensitive Policy Formulation, Planning and Programming

Mainstreaming Gender in Economic Planning and Programming

- Analyse the division of labour in. and the gender dimensions of, the formal-sector, the informal and subsistence sectors and the "care economy"
- Seek to integrate these sectors into National Accounting to arrive at a meaningful valuation of the contribution of men and women to the economy. The "care economy" or reproductive activities (defined as child bearing, rearing, care of the sick and elderly) is vital in producing labour for the informal and formal sectors. Thus women's unpaid labour contributes indirectly to the national product. This has implications for planning and resource allocation. It raises the question as to how resources are to be allocated to ensure the provision of health, education and

infrastructure facilities benefiting women and ultimately their families

- Identify the poor and disadvantaged so as to address their needs through planning and programming. Design poverty eradication programmes to promote gender equality
- Assess how policy and planning are likely to impact on male/female employment, earnings and access to resources, such as land, credit, technology, markets.
- Research and evaluate the impact of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) from a gender perspective. How do the fiscal and trade liberalisation policies implemented within these programmes affect:
 - employment of men and women in the formal sector
 - employment of men and women in the informal and subsistence sectors
 - unpaid labour
 - budgetary provisions for services and infrastructure (is there a social fall-out from such programmes?)

Mainstreaming Gender in Sectors

- Using quantitative and qualitative data, undertake gender analysis relative to the sector and identify key sector issues
 - During the design stage, appraise programmes from a gender perspective. Ask questions concerning whether the programme will have skewed results in terms of the benefits to men and women.
 - Carry out impact assessments of ongoing and completed programmes.
 - Ask what programming actions will promote gender equity.
 - Give visibility to the role of the Gender Focal Point

Agriculture

The key-issues in gender and agriculture are

- Access to resources such as land, credit and other support services. Women are affected by discriminatory inheritance and property laws or by situations where the formal law is negated by customary law

- Agricultural research and extension services have tended not to reach women as they do men because of gender bias in the delivery of such

services or the level of education reached by women

- For similar reasons, women tend to be excluded from programmes for the commercialisation of agriculture
- They also tend to be excluded from policy and decision making, in particular with respect to the design of water and sanitation programmes in rural areas. Yet, women hold the principal responsibility for carrying water and disposing of waste (World Bank in Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture...).

Mainstreaming Gender in the Sector

- Establish and support the role of the Gender Focal Point
 - Set up a database including sex disaggregated information
 - Integrate women into mainstream programmes which provide agricultural services and resources e.g. credit, technical skills and other training, extension services and research to men and women
 - Build safe-guards into mainstream programming to ensure the involvement of women
 - Build in education and training components to prepare women for integration into these programmes
 - Use a stakeholder approach to encourage the role of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in advocacy, monitoring and evaluation
 - Make budgetary provisions to support the role of the Focal Point and cover costs that might be incurred in the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming
 - Work with legal entities to promote a review of laws that limit women's access to resources such as land and credit

Education

The Key issues in gender and education relate to

- the disparities in literacy rates between men and women,
- the gaps in enrolment rates at primary level

- the generally low level of secondary school enrolments in addition to the gender gap

Mainstreaming Gender in the Sector

- Adopt a multi-sector approach to mainstreaming gender in education based on its bi-directional links with many issues and sectors such as agriculture, health, economy, empowerment and decision-making

- Conduct on-going research into and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to inform policy and planning
 - Examine qualitative data underlying the statistical trends in literacy and enrolment rates with a view to taking corrective action
- Develop programmes that specifically target the girl child
- Adopt or implement laws that promote educational access to girls and boys
- Encourage consensus building on socio-cultural issues
- Engender the education curricula to address stereo-typing of gender roles
- Allocate resources to address gender inequality in education
- Examine the gender composition of educational administration and school staffing and evaluate working conditions as a basis for promoting equal employment opportunity and gender sensitive working environments

Industry and trade

The key gender-related issues in industry and trade in the West African context are:

- The relatively high concentration of men in industrial activity
 - Concentration of women in informal sector activity, mainly petty trading
- The disparities in earnings between men and women

- Women traders are important to food security, given their involvement in the regional trade of food items such as *gari*, *ateke*, smoked dried fish, palm oil, shea butter and fermented *nere* seeds

- However they face obstacles such as inadequate transportation, security, customs and other road blocks

Mainstreaming Gender in Industry and Trade

- Develop a database and indicators for the sector
- Conduct gender analysis and a valuation of the informal sector
- Address the constraints, such as legal barriers to finance and ownership of assets, to greater participation of women in the formal sector
- Address the constraints facing women in cross border trade, such as inadequate transportation, security, customs and other road blocks that are counter to the spirit of the ECOWAS trade agreement
- Promote access to information on trade policy and regulations by men and women
- Recognize and address the cross-linkages with other sectors such as the legal and educational for gender mainstreaming the industry and trade sectors
- Evaluate the impact of trade liberalisation and globalisation. To what extent they
 - open up new employment opportunities for men and women
 - displace indigenous activities through trade diversion
 - lead to a fall in government revenue and a resultant reduction of expenditure on social programmes

Health Sector

The key issues in gender and health are:

- high rates of maternal mortality, including that in the high risk group of teen pregnancies
- high levels of malnutrition caused by food deprivation and maternal malnutrition

- disease and death from infection. caused by abortions and female circumcisions performed in sterile conditions
- the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (ECA and World Bank *Gender in Africa*)

The causal factors are cross disciplinary in nature, stemming from biological, socio-cultural, economic, educational, empowerment and inequality issues. In the case of HIV/AIDS, which is problematic for men and women, infection rates are higher among the latter. The gender bias stems from women's lack of negotiating power, arising from socio-cultural norms, educational factors and poverty

Mainstreaming Gender in the Sector

- Establish and support the role of the Gender Focal Point
 - Establish a health database capable of providing sex disaggregated as well as qualitative data
 - Conduct gender analysis to determine the relative weights of biological and other causes of gender differentials in health status
 - Formulate policies and programmes that address the gender inequities and recognize women's multiple roles
 - Adopt a multi-sector approach to the resolution of gender issues in health
 - Address the adverse impact of poverty on health through creative health care financing that focuses on sub-groups such as poor women and men, female headed households, mothers, young/adolescent women and men and older women
 - Encourage partnerships and stakeholder participation in mainstreaming gender in the health sector

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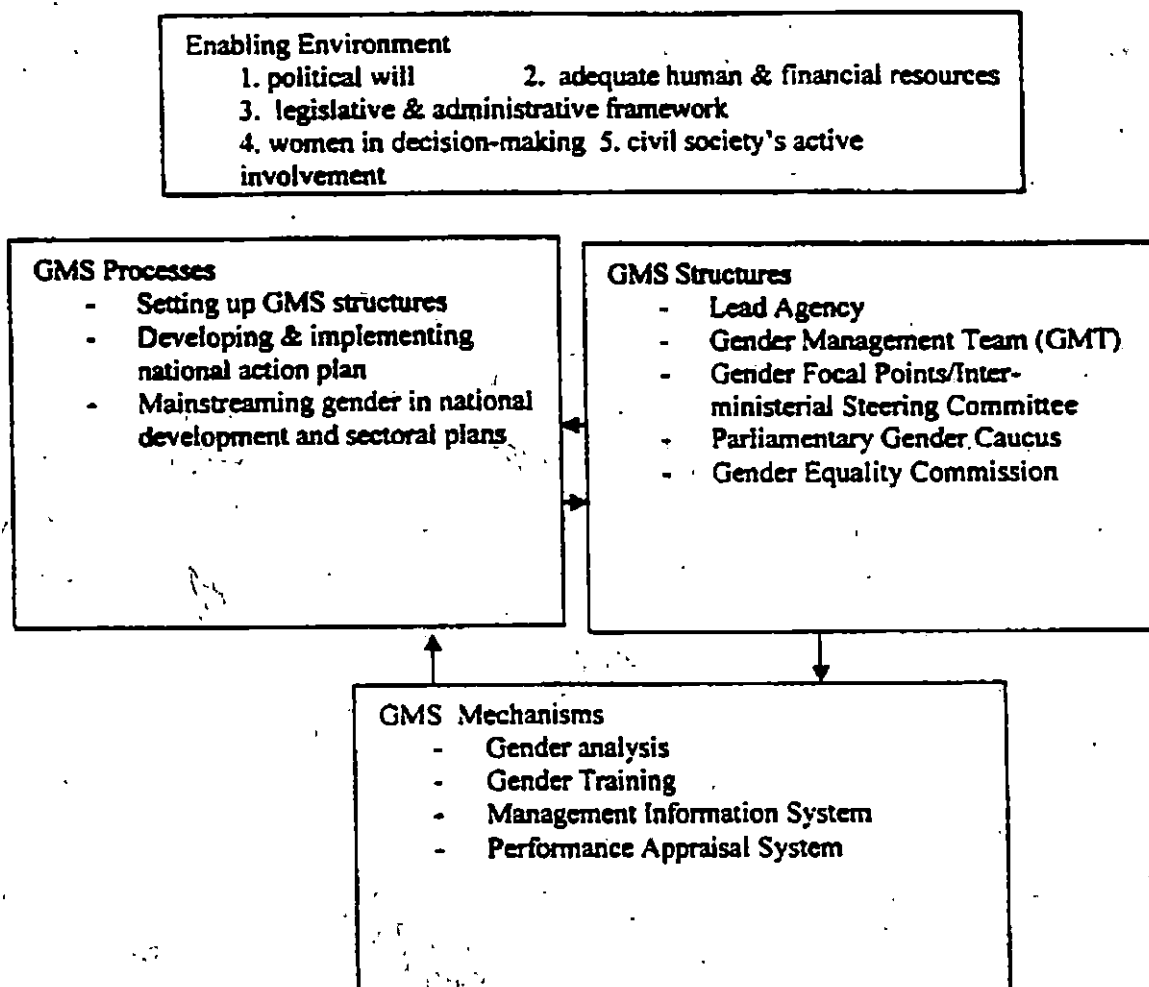
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Appendix 1

Recommended Gender Management System for National Women's Machineries (NWMs)/ Bodies Responsible for the Advancement of Women



Source: Commonwealth Secretariat. A quick guide to the Gender Management System. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, 1999.

ECOWAS GENDER POLICY

ANNEX 1 : SITUATION ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN

INSTITUTIONAL SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Department of Human Development of the ECOWAS Secretariat has direct responsibility for gender affairs. Staffed by a Director, a Principal Officer, Social Affairs and an Education Consultant, the Department also has responsibility for the social sectors, namely Education and Health. The Principal Officer, Social Affairs who is gender aware and has attended conferences on gender issues, currently has responsibility for gender as well as other portfolios. It means that current staffing arrangements do not allow for adequate attention to gender issues and for their mainstreaming within ECOWAS plans and programmes. The administration is aware of this gap in the institution and commenced the process towards a gender mainstreaming programme with the convening of a meeting of Technical Experts in March 2002. This meeting produced guidelines for the development of a gender mainstreaming policy; and secured commitment from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CITC) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for assistance in the formulation of the policy and for the establishment of a Gender Directorate within the Secretariat. The meeting also reviewed a study on the West African Women's Association, WAWA, which had been dormant for some time.

WAWA had been established in 1987, as a specialised agency of ECOWAS, to mobilise women in the region through programmes, projects and activities for their participation in the integration process" (Final Report, Technical Meeting on Policy Development on Gender Mainstreaming, Abuja 25 - 28 March, 2002). Based in Dakar, it was intended to be a regional focal point for the advancement of women's rights and issues. However, it experienced a complex of problems that led to a suspension of its funding and its virtual closure. Based on Decision A/DEC.16/1/03, WAWA is being transformed into the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre.

THEMATIC ANALYSIS, MEMBER STATES

This section of the policy applies a gender perspective to the current situation obtaining in ECOWAS Member States in social, cultural, economic, legal and political terms. Its objective is to examine issues of equity, parity and equality among women and men by analysing a number of focus areas/sectors which fall generally under the broad headings of social, economic, cultural, legal and political issues. It will examine gender in relation to participation in economy, poverty incidence, access to education, health and economic resources, socialisation, representation and decision-making and power relations, with the objective of defining priority areas for integration into policy and planning. The underlying objective is the promotion of equity and equality among women and men. The methodology will be that of conducting gender analysis of data and information to determine gaps and disparities.

A review of reports and available statistics suggests wide gender disparities in virtually every sector. Moreover, women trail men in terms of access to education, legal rights, health status, political and other forms of decision-making, representation, in access to economic resources, in economic participation, and benefit from economic programmes. These disparities appear to be rooted in socialisation and gender stereotyping, cultural and social practices as well as formal and customary law. The use of international gender indicators (GDI and GEM) confirms wide gender disparities among West African countries. In addition, a comparison with other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa using a World Bank "spider web" approach indicates areas of congruence, of less favourable and more favourable achievement.

Socio-Cultural Context, ECOWAS States

African societies are strongly patriarchal, a factor which profoundly affects gender relations as will be evidenced in virtually every sphere of activity, notably with regard to decision making, educational access, health status, access to and control of resources. In these societies, men

generally hold responsibility for decision making and women's rights are limited. evidenced in women requiring permission from spouses and community leaders to enter politics and in terms of barriers to their owning and disposing of property. Traditionally, male senior members of the family/community are held in high regard and are given priority in resource allocation (UNICEF Nigeria, 2001).

Some African societies place great importance on children in marriage, so that a childless union is likely to be dissolved. Moreover, it is the woman who is made to feel responsible for the couple's misfortune. Another strong tradition in these traditionally patriarchal societies is that of preference for having sons and the generally more favoured status enjoyed by boys. Implicit in this preferential arrangement seems to be the belief that boys perform the role of inter-generational transfer of the family name and traditions. These socio-cultural beliefs contribute to the under-education of girls and to their disinheritance. This in turn leads to the maintenance of the traditionally perceived women's role as home-makers and to the promotion of the cycle of low-pay, low-status work among women: contributors to the invisibility and marginalisation of women.

Customary and religious laws that serve to negate formal law and constitutional rights have conditioned the gender relations in West African countries. Other socio-cultural features that serve to define the gender situation in West African countries include forced and child marriages, the inhumane practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and negative widowhood customs such as confinement ostracism and disinheritance (Okoye, 2001). These and other practices such as widow inheritance and initiation rights may have serious implications for HIV/AIDS.

Legal Framework and Status

Most countries have a clause on equal human rights enshrined in their constitutions and have ratified international and regional conventions that mandate gender equality/equity. For

example, 13 of 15 ECOWAS countries had ratified the *C011Venlion for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women* by 2000, while another had signed it (Genderstats.worldbank.org). However, discriminatory legal frameworks and customary practices have worked against the achievement of gender equality. In some cases, even where the laws exist to protect/promote gender equality, they are rendered ineffective by religious practices and customary law or by administrative practices that lack a gender perspective. The work group on the legal and human rights of women, established during the 6th Economic Commission of Africa Conference on Women, Addis Ababa 1999, confirmed that for most African countries, discrimination against women continued despite the existence of constitutional provisions and progressive laws, policy frameworks, conventions and protocols: because of the co-existence of two or three judicial systems and weak political will in relation to implementation.

Individual Member States of ECOWAS have moreover reported similar findings. Burkina Faso reported that in 1995, most women were ignorant of their rights and did not willingly use the law to assert their rights or to seek justice. Further the legal instruments that promoted women's rights were scarcely implemented. Since then progress had been made as follows

- Adoption of the Work Code, which guarantees equality in employment in public service.
- Repeal of the 1920 law which forbade the publicity of contraceptives.
- Creation of legal counselling centres.
- Initiation of a project to sensitize and publicize the Family Code and Personal Code.
- Formulation of a teaching programme on human rights.
- Formulation of a National Plan of Action on the protection of children.
- Creation of a children's parliament.
- Seminars, workshops, conferences on women's human rights by NGOs and women's professional associations.

- ☐ Translation of the Personal and Family Codes into national languages.
- ☐ Initiation of an information bulletin as well as radio and TV productions on women's rights.
- ☐ Creation of unit for women's and children's rights in organisations that defend human rights.
- ☐ Creation of a coalition for the protection of women's rights.

Despite these achievements, there remain some difficulties in implementation. Among these are the poor knowledge of the practitioners and enforcers of the law; inadequate resources - equipment financial, and human, dissemination of the law and sensitization, silence on the part of victims of violations, social pressure and contradiction between the Work Code and the Social Security Code.

The Republic of Guinea has reported the development of a table depicting the strengths and weaknesses of the women's legal status. In addition, there exists strong political will and donor support, as well as several NGOs together with a coordinating mechanism of NGOs centred on women, the creation of a legal support centre, partnership between the Ministry for Women's Affairs and other partners and an Association of Women Lawyers. However, there are certain constraints, including the difficulty faced by the Ministry of Women's Affairs in performing a leadership role in promoting women; low literacy rates among women; socio-cultural constraints that remain in force; contradiction between the formal, Moslem and customary laws; lack of information on legal procedures; coordination problems; weakness in certain laws and poor implementation of the legislation by the courts.

Senegal similarly reported difficulties in the implementation of existing laws, together with insufficient resources in terms of knowledge, finance and disseminated documents. Achievements included the completion of a study on violence against women, the harmonization of national laws with CEDAW, a support programme for displaced women and refugees; creation of an observatory on the status of women and the promotion of the employment of women.

In the case of the Republic of Benin, the country report on the status of women indicates that there is a contradiction between the statutory and common laws and that the Law of July 1920 that prevents abortion and promotion of the use of contraceptives is still in force. However there have been achievements in terms of a public awareness campaign against genital mutilation and other harmful practices; the creation of legal assistance centres by Benin female lawyers; and missionary-run reception centres for the victims of early marriages. Other measures include the implementation of a project on the rights of girls and women through advocacy and measures taken with regard to fair labour standards, including that related to civil servants.

While the Republic of Togo has outlined its recent achievements, it has not stated whether there are constraints. The achievements include creation of the management of the Legal Statute, establishment of a listening centre, training of traditional leaders and paralegals, campaigns against violence, adoption of a law prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation and the establishment of a legal data bank on women.

As in the case of most African countries, Mali's formal laws contain little or no discrimination by gender. However, traditional beliefs and customary law (including a perceived division of labour and gender stereo-typing), certain interpretations of Islamic faith and established practice have impeded the implementation of women's rights. Activities, which have been implemented to promote women's rights, include:

- ☐ Actions by the Commission for the Promotion of Women and the Ministry for Women's Affairs to invest in informing and training women.
- ☐ The formulation of a Plan of Action on violence against women.
- ☐ The second reading of the text of the marriage code, work code, penal code, the commercial code (so that the husband's consent is no longer necessary to enable a woman to engage in trade), the general tax code on wages and salaries.
- ☐ It is anticipated that the Family Code will take on board all issues related to

marriage and tutelage, succession, liberties, relationships: all aspects relative to the protection of the woman. In addition these actions will pave the way for equality in commerce; access to employment, to training, to state lands and to the payment of taxes on wages and salaries.

- Actions have been taken by associations and NGOs as well as the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, the Child and the Family to ensure dissemination of information, training and sensitization in the urban and rural areas on the subject of women's rights.

The Ivory Coast has the principle of equality included in its Constitution. In addition it has ratified the *Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women* (CEDAW). However, there are gaps in the law as well as deficiencies in implementation. In addition the cost of legal action has been reported as high and there remain socio-cultural impediments to the achievement of women's rights.

In their report on the progress of implementation of the Beijing platform, The Gambia has focused on two legal areas, namely those pertaining to violence against women and to property ownership. In the case of violence against women, incidents are scarcely ever reported and it is felt that additional legal protection is required and greater enforcement of the laws is also needed. With regard to property ownership, it is reported that the right to inherit is gender based. The constraints to equitable land allocation include traditions and customs, illiteracy among women that tends to limit their knowledge of their rights and the absence of women from land administration boards.

In the case of Nigeria contradictions exist between constitutional provisions and state laws as well as between statutory and customary and religious laws. Certain constitutional provisions on non-discrimination on the basis of gender are not binding on state laws. In addition, national laws have not been harmonised with CEDAW. Some of the problem areas are the legal provisions in relation to marriage, tutelage and property rights. For example, a Nigerian male can confer citizenship status on his foreign wife,

while a Nigerian female cannot do so in the case of a foreign spouse. In addition, a Nigerian spouse cannot apply for a passport on behalf of her children. Factors identified as constraining measures to protect the legal rights of women and children include socio-cultural tradition, poverty, illiteracy and ignorance (Country Reports on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform; Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille, Mali, 2000 ; UNICEF, 2000).

Gender and the Economy

The main issues that this section addresses are the extent of integration of men and women in their economies and the role of gender in determining the nature of participation in and benefit from economic activities. It draws on theoretical and empirical findings on gender relations and their implications for growth and poverty; as a basis for examining the situation in ECOWAS member states. It seeks to analyse gender-differentiated data by sector on employment and owner-operated enterprises. It also discusses macro-economic policies and gender as well as structural adjustment and gender and examines focus areas such as gender issues in trade, land and agriculture and poverty.

The economic justification for gender equity and equality rests on the desire to release the productive potential of large segments of the population, so that their productivity is enhanced and they contribute to growth and development. In what is termed the business case for gender equity, the World Bank succinctly outlines the pathways through which gender relations affect growth. These are through labour productivity and the economy's allocative efficiency. The mechanisms through which gender impacts on growth are investments in human and physical capital and greater market efficiency. These in turn serve to engender growth through:

- Improved employment opportunities and higher incomes for women and their families.
- Ability to adopt new technology and respond to economic change.
- Intergenerational effects on child schooling.
- Intergenerational effects on child health and survival.
- Lowering the rate of population growth.

- Women's empowerment.
- Reduction in time poverty created by poor infrastructure.
- Access to productive assets and resources.
- Gender-differentiated uses of income and capital.
- Increased efficiency in allocation of labour.
- Improved quality of governance (World Bank, 2002).

An examination of economic participation by gender suggests that in general African women are highly integrated into the informal sector and enjoy only limited participation in formal sector activity. Moreover, the tendency towards job segmentation leads to women being concentrated in lower paid professions (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and World Bank. *Gender in Africa*). The gender bias in employment seems to stem from the gender disparities in access to education and resources: a factor that tends to demonstrate the linkage between the various gender deficiencies and the vicious circle at work. The following presents economic activity rates and employment distribution by gender in ECOWAS territories.

Table 1 indicates female economic activity rates ranging from 43.9% in Cote d'Ivoire to 80% in Ghana in 2000. It also indicates that while some countries have progressed during the period 1990 to 2000 in terms of participation by women in the economy, others have declined. This is shown in the index which uses 1990 as the base year. Ghana has the highest level of female participation in economic activity; but nonetheless shows a decline over the decade. Cape Verde on the other hand has shown the biggest increase in the index, but has one of the lowest percentages of women economically active. There is a gender gap in economic activity in all countries, with Ghana showing the smallest disparity. Tables 2 and 3 outline the labour force rates by gender and sector. In most cases, agriculture is the principal activity for men and women; while services are the secondary

field. However the percentage of women engaged in agriculture tends to be higher than that of men; while the proportion of men engaged in industries is usually higher than is the case for women. Moreover a sectoral shift, notably from agriculture to services, has occurred over the period 1980 to 1990.

The above illustrates the gender spread in sector activities; namely the way in which total male or female employment is divided among the sectors. A more useful comparison would be to analyse the gender distribution of total employment by sector, that is, the "gender intensity" of production. However, data is only available for a few ECOWAS countries. In the case of Cote d'Ivoire, women account for 48 per cent of agricultural production, 67 per cent of services and 10 per cent of industry. Men, on the other hand carry out 90 per cent of industrial production and 52 per cent of agricultural output. In the case of Mali also, women are found principally in services and agriculture, accounting for 47 per cent, 44 per cent and 29 per cent of the work force in services, agriculture and industry respectively in 1994. A fairly similar picture is presented by Guinea, where in 1994 females comprised 56 per cent, 58 per cent and 25 per cent respectively of the labour force in services, agriculture and industry. In 1997 Ghana, with a more even sector spread, had 59 per cent of its services' labour force provided by females, compared with 51 per cent in agriculture and 50 per cent in industry (Genderstats. Worldbank.org).

It has been argued that women are often found in informal activities and subsistence agriculture. Data for a limited number of countries suggest that 43 per cent of Niger's female workforce is engaged in the informal sector. Comparative figures for Ghana and The Gambia were 49 per cent in 1997 and 51 per cent in 1992 respectively (Genderstats.worldbank.org). Given that a number of the service activities are likely to be in the informal sector, the "gender intensity" of production data seems to confirm the view that women are principally integrated into subsistence agriculture and the informal sector.

Table 1: Female Economic Activity Rates 2000

Country	Rate (%) 2000	Index (1990 = 100) 2000	As % of Male Rate 2000
Benin	73.6	96	90
Burkina Faso	75.0	97	85
Cape Verde	46.1	108	53
Cote d'Ivoire	43.9	102	51
Gambia	69.7	101	78
Ghana	80.1	98	98
Guinea-Bissau	57.0	100	63
Guinea-Conakry	77.3	98	89
Liberia			
Mali	70.1	97	79
Niger	69.4	99	75
Nigeria	47.6	102	56
Senegal	61.6	101	72
Sierra Leone	44.6	105	54
	53.4	101	62

Source: United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report 2002*

Table 2: Female Labour Force Rates by Sector

Country	Early Year (1980)				Recent Year (1990)			
	Agric. %	Ind. %	Serv. %	Total	Agric. %	Ind. %	Serv. %	Total
Benin	69	4	27	100	65	4	30	99
Burkina Faso	93	2	5	100	94	2	5	101
Cape Verde	39	18	42	99	33	16	51	100
Cote d'Ivoire	75	5	20	100	72	6	22	100
Gambia	93	3	5	101	92	2	6	100
Ghana	57	14	29	100	55	14	31	100
Guinea-Bissau	98	0	3	101	96	1	3	100
Guinea-Conakry	97	1	3	101	92	1	7	100
Liberia	89	1	10	100	84	1	16	101
Mali	92	1	7	100	88	2	9	99
Niger	6	29	66	101	5	18	78	101
Nigeria	57	5	38	100	44	3	53	100
Senegal	90	2	8	100	74	9	17	100
Sierra Leone	82	4	14	100	81	4	16	101
Togo	67	7	26	100	65	7	29	101

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Table 3: Male Labour Force Rates by Sector

Country	Early Year				Recent Year			
	Agric. %	Ind. %	Serv. %	Total	Agric. %	Ind. %	Serv. %	Total
Benin	66	10	24	100	62	12	27	101
Burkina Faso	92	3	5	100	91	2	7	100
Cape Verde	34	38	28	100	30	38	22?	90?

Cote d'Ivoire	60	10	30	100	54	12	34	100
Gambia	78	10	13	101	74	12	14	100
Ghana	66	12	22	100	64	12	24	100
Guinea-Bissau	81	3	27?	111?	78	3	19	100
Guinea-Conakry	86	2	12	100	74	5	22	101
Liberia	69	9	22	100	65	9	26	100
Mali	86	2	12	100	84	2	15	101
Niger	7	69	25	101	8	52	40	100
Nigeria	52	10	38	100	43	9	49	101
Senegal	74	9	17	100	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Sierra Leone	63	20	17	100	60	22	18	100
Togo	70	12	19	101	66	12	22	100

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Gender and Cross Border Trade

The above suggests a high gender concentration in the informal sector. In petty trading, an important area of informal activity, there is also a high gender concentration, with women constituting some 70 per cent of the users of regional transportation (Dejene, 2001). The contribution of women to cross border trade has not been estimated. However, an examination of data on the direction of trade and the principal items of export helps to locate the informal sector within the overall trade and to provide a gender perspective.

Based on the value of their exports and imports, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana have the largest international trade sectors among ECOWAS countries. They accounted for 35.26.9 and 12.9 per cent respectively of total exports by ECOWAS countries in 1998; and 27.9, 17.3 and 16.8 respectively of imports. Of these three, Cote d'Ivoire shows the highest level of integration into Community trade, with 17 per cent of its imports being sourced from the Community and 20 per cent of its exports being

consigned to the latter. Comparative figures for Nigeria were 1.9 and 7.1 per cent respectively and for Ghana 5.1 per cent and 5.5 per cent. The percentages of imports originating in the Community range from as low as 1.9 per cent in Nigeria to as high as 99 per cent in the case of Liberia (*ECOWAS Handbook on International Trade 1999*).

The main categories of commodities exported by ECOWAS in 1998 were food industry products, textiles, minerals, vegetable based products, natural pearls, gemstones and precious metals, petroleum and wood. Within these categories the main items of cross border trade have been identified as processed agricultural goods such as *gari* and *atelce*; smoked and dried fish; palm oil, shea butter and fermented *nere* seeds; locally made soaps, *basin* or dyed cloth, kitchen utensils including enamel bowls, plastics and pharmaceuticals (Dejene, 2001). Women traders contribute to food security and the promotion of intra-regional trade. The precise level of their contribution has probably been under-valued because of the informal nature of the trade.

Despite their contribution to food security and to furthering the regional integration goals, these traders operate within severe constraints including inadequate transportation, customs and other payments problems, lack of knowledge and information on trading arrangements and trade policies in effect, inadequate financial services or access to them, limited numeracy and literacy skills and poor security along the routes. One of the main concerns here is the apparent lack of implementation of the ECOWAS trade and related mechanisms at the country levels. ECOWAS' instruments provide for the elimination of tariffs on all unprocessed commodities, traditional handicrafts and on an approved list of some 1500 industrial products that qualify under the rules of origin, as well as quantitative restrictions on Community trade (*ECOWAS Annual Report 2002*). Yet traders have reported having to face several customs road blocks and requirements for fees within a given country (Dejene, 2001). This is compounded by the traders' lack of knowledge of the policies in effect. Another critical problem is that related to financial arrangements in that transactions could take one month for finalisation in the cross border banking system (Dejene, 2001).

The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat is aware of the difficulties in the implementation of the regional trade instruments. It notes that, although there has been harmonisation of trade instruments between ECOWAS and UEMOA, there remain problems of implementation, including the imposition of non-tariff barriers on goods of ECOWAS origin (*ECOWAS Annual Report 2002*).

Gender in Land and Agriculture

The main issues in gender and agriculture revolve around the participation rates, access to land and other resources/services, including credit extension services and education and technology. It is estimated that African women produce approximately 75 per cent of the continent's food (ECA and World Bank, *Gender in Africa*). They also form a vital part of the labour force. With specific reference to ECOWAS countries, a large percentage of the female labour force was found to engage in agricultural activities. However, the limited data available on the percentage of females employed in the total

agricultural labour force (male and female) showed figures ranging from 44 per cent to 58 per cent. While these do not conform to the high percentages often cited for the Continent; they nonetheless indicate a reasonably high level of female involvement in the agricultural sector. Yet women's participation in the sector is limited by a number of barriers.

Reference has been made to the legal issues affecting women's right to own and dispose of property (Legal framework). There are also gender gaps in education and inequity in the practice of delivery of extension services. Access to credit is another limiting factor. These barriers serve to perpetuate insecurity. Insecure land tenure in turn limits the incentive to invest in improvements as well as implies a lack of collateral to facilitate access to credit (Commonwealth Secretariat 2001; ECA and World Bank, *Gender in Africa*).

Gender and Poverty

The literature makes reference to the increasing feminisation of poverty and the fact that the bulk of the poor tend to be women (Blackden and Bhanu, 1999; Ghosh, 2000; Baden, 1997; UNDP, 2000). This section examines the situation in ECOWAS countries from a gender perspective. Poverty is indicated in household income and poverty line statistics as well as access to basic services and resources. The UNDP definition is inclusive, regarding poverty as "including a lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life" (Kankwenda et al, 2000, pp. 62 - 63). However, in this section, the discussion on poverty will centre mainly on income poverty. Other aspects will be treated under separate headings.

Some of the key issues in the poverty debate include the profile of the poor, the association between gender-based inequities and poverty and the possible links between macro-economic reform and poverty. The profile suggests that the poor are engaged in low-pay, low-status, informal

activity as well as subsistence agriculture. They are characterized by low incomes as well as limited access to education, health facilities and economic resources. It is estimated that 39% of the African population, the majority of whom are female, live below the poverty line of US\$1 per person per day, while 45 % are considered income-poor (Kankwenda et al, 2000). Since 1995 women have continued to bear a disproportionate burden of poverty. Moreover, even in countries where national indicators show improvement, a good number of urban and most rural women continue to live in conditions of economic deprivation and social marginalisation (UNECA, 1999b).

It has been argued that gender-based inequalities constrain growth and poverty reduction. World Bank micro-level analyses indicate "a consistent picture of asset based gender inequality acting as a constraint on growth and poverty reduction ... These gender-based differences affect supply response, resource allocation within the household and, significantly, labour productivity. They have implications for the flexibility, responsiveness, and dynamism of African economies, and limit growth" (Blackden and Bhanu, 1999). In addition, differences in access to inputs (labour and fertilizer) between male and female farmers within the same households in Burkina Faso led to sharp productivity differentials. Male-run farms had a greater command over labour and fertilizer than was the case of female managed plots. Moreover, it was estimated that output could be increased by between 10 and 20 per cent by shifting resources between plots controlled by men and women. Similar findings have been recorded in respect of farmers in Kenya, where providing female farmers with the same levels of education and inputs as men could increase yields on female-managed farms by 20 per cent (Saito and Spurling in Sen, 1999). A UNDP study, which suggests that the productivity of African female farmers is not commensurate with their share in production (70 - 75 per cent), also supports these findings. It notes, moreover, that their potential productivity is enormous when considered in the light of the inequalities they face in terms of access to and control over resources. Thus, an improvement in the situation of women, particularly farmers, could lead to substantial increases in production and food security (Kankwenda et al. 2000).

The arguments concerning the impact of macro-economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes on the poor have not been conclusive; as the experiences of countries that have undergone long adjustment periods have been mixed. The Asian countries for example have demonstrated continued growth while implementing such programmes; while Latin America and Africa have had negative growth and increasing poverty (Baden). Adjustment has often been associated with deteriorating income distribution and higher levels of poverty. Moreover, while men and women have been affected, it has often been the case that women find it harder to "regain employment or become self-employed, due to lack of education and skills, lifecycle issues ... and lack of independent access to capital" (Baden, 1997. p.8). With specific reference to Sub-Saharan Africa, UNDP notes that structural adjustment programmes have not had the desired impact on poverty.

Increasingly, however, macro-economic initiatives implemented by governments in conjunction with multilateral agencies have been showing some sensitivity to the plight of the poor. One such programme is that for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), which provides debt relief, but mandates that participating countries ear-mark the proceeds/savings for poverty alleviation and social programmes, such as in education and health, including HIV/AIDS. Given that debt and debt service ratios within ECOWAS countries are high, with obvious constraints on their ability to respond to the social and economic needs of their populations, thirteen of fifteen Member States are participants in the HIPC initiative (worldbank.org/hipc). Yet, HIPC is forecast to have only limited impact on these countries, given the difficulties involved in formulating Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP's) and in attracting substantial amounts of additional funding for the strategies; and the over-ambitious growth targets set for the countries in terms of production and exports (*ECOWAS Annual Report 2002*).

The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat has in the past not formulated a regional poverty initiative. However, it was mandated by the Authority in 2001 to formulate a regional poverty reduction programme. Among the activities that the Secretariat plans to undertake are the analysis and synthesis of national PRSPs, organising a meeting of Heads of national PRSPs for

reviewing progress, harmonising concepts and methods for addressing the poverty problem and formation of thematic groups on poverty related issues (*ECOWAS Annual Report 2002*).

An examination of the gender dimensions of poverty in West African countries indicates that while poverty affects male and female, its incidence appears to be higher on women. In the Ivory Coast, women account for 63% of the labour force in the informal sector. Moreover, the average wage for women is 33% of the average male wage in the informal sector. In addition, the average wage in the informal sector is estimated at only one-sixth of that of the formal sector (Ed. Halvorson-Quevedo and Schneider, 2000).

In the case of Nigeria, it is estimated that over the period 1980-1996, the proportion of the population living below the poverty line¹ rose from 28 to 66 per cent (UNICEF Nigeria, 2001). Moreover a vicious circle is indicated between income poverty and access to education and other facilities and resources.

Poverty line/threshold data is provided for some West African countries as well as other countries of Sub-Saharan Africa by the UNDP. While these statistics are of little comparative value across countries, given the differing calculation methods used; they can be useful in comparing the situation in a country at two different time periods. The statistics suggest that 44.5% of the Burkina Faso population live below the national threshold, based on daily caloric intake. In addition, poverty is severe among farmers and is especially acute among those producing food crops. It is also acute among the inactive and unemployed (Kankwenda, 2000).

In the case of Mali, the majority of the population is reported to be living below the poverty line, where women constitute the greater percentage (Republique du Mali Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille, 2000). Based on different methods of calculation, the percentage of persons living below the poverty line ranges from 40 to 91% (Kankwenda, 2000).

The procedure used by Ghana to determine the number of persons living below the national poverty line is that of establishing a yardstick at expenditure that is 2/3 the national average expenditure per capita. Based on this methodology, 36 per cent of Ghanaians are

estimated to live below the poverty line (Kankwenda, 2000).

It should be noted that poverty line surveys are not usually gender differentiated. This means that there are no hard data on which to base the gender incidence of poverty. However, one can draw certain conclusions based on the type of activities women and men are engaged in; and their access to resources, economic, educational and health. A Commonwealth Secretariat study notes that women make up the majority of the global poor and that poor households tend to have a disproportionately large number of female members. In addition, female headed households show a much higher incidence of poverty and within households; women and children tend to have inferior access to food, other items of basic consumption, family assets and other resources, education and health. With specific reference to Africa, the study notes that subsistence production has declined and has implied a loss in a decision-making activity by women as well as a fall in per capita consumption. In addition, women make up the bulk of retrenched employees from the public sector since they are principally found in the non-professional cadres of the public service (Ghosh, 2000).

Gender and Environment

The natural environment sustains human development through its positive impact on sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism. However, human actions can sustain or deplete environmental resources. Thus, the Millennium Development Goals include a provision for the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and the reversal of the loss of environmental resources.

The gender issues related to the environment revolve around the utilisation and preservation of resources such as wood, water and land. In rural Africa, women are the principal harvesters of fire wood and collectors of water for domestic usage. In the current division of labour, men are more integrated into commercial exploitation of environmental resources. There is a need for education programmes linked to environmental sustainability as well as for policies and programmes to provide alternative energy sources as well as to ensure the availability of

potable water, which contributes to health, but which will also alleviate women's time burden.

Gender Issues in Education

Significant gender gaps exist in access to education at primary and secondary levels, evidenced in enrolment and literacy rates in virtually all West African countries. While these gaps have narrowed since 1970, significant disparities remain. However, the point needs to be made that, by international Standards, in most cases these measures of educational achievement are low for both sexes. Tables 4 - 8 indicate the gender disparities in enrolment and illiteracy rates in ECOWAS Member States.

In analysing the education statistics, one should note the data limitations that present a problem of comparability among countries in addition to not necessarily indicating the latest situation with regard to enrolments in these states. Table 4 shows that in most cases there is a gender gap in terms of primary school enrolments. However, ECOWAS Member States have had mixed achievements in terms of the direction of the disparity. While all ECOWAS countries have succeeded in improving enrolments of boys and girls at primary level, less than half have managed to reduce the gender disparities. There have been cases of widening gender gaps, while in other cases the disparities have lessened. Cape Verde stands out as having managed to achieve a remarkably equitable enrolment rate at the primary school level. Between 1990 and 1998, the gender gap, based on net primary enrolment rates, had decreased in all of the world's less developed countries except in Sub-Saharan Africa (Table 5). Moreover, for some ECOWAS countries (Liberia, Niger, Burkina Faso), the proportion of out-of-school children (both sexes) far exceeds that of enrolled students (UNESCO, 2000).

With regard to the internal efficiency of the system, it appears that there is no marked gender disparity and in fact such gaps as occur seem to favour girls. Girls and boys repeat and survive at approximately the same rates (UNESCO, 2000).

Gross enrolment data for secondary schools indicate generally low achievements for boys and girls. However there are gender gaps which have widened in most cases Senegal achieved

parity in 1997 and there were two cases of reverse gender gap, noted in the cases of Cape Verde and Guinea in 1997 (Table 6).

The data with respect to illiteracy shows that adult illiteracy rates have declined appreciably during 1970 and 2000. However, the gender gap has widened in most cases, with the exceptions being Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Cape Verde and Nigeria. Similarly in the case of the youth (aged 15 - 25), the illiteracy rates have fallen between 1970 and 2000. However gender gaps have widened in approximately half of ECOWAS countries (Tables 7 and 8).

It should be noted that some ECOWAS countries have been taking steps to redress the imbalances. Measures include the institution of free education as in the case of The Gambia (Final Report, Technical Meeting ... Abuja, March 25 - 28 2002) and the establishment of institutions to cater specifically to girls. Moreover, the ECOWAS Education Protocol is intended as a collective response to the region's education problems, including gender issues.

A number of factors, socio-cultural and economic, have accounted for the gender gaps in education. Factors cited by the Education for All country reports as conditioning the late entry into primary schools may be classified as impeding general access. These include economic hardship, paid and unpaid child labour, distance from school and access to transportation (UNESCO, 2000). However there are other factors that serve to limit the access of girls and women to educational facilities. Among them are socio-cultural practices such as early marriages, preference for sons over daughters and patriarchy.

Table: 4: Gross enrolment Rates by Gender, Primary Tier ECOWAS Countries.

	Earlier Year			Recent Year		
Country	Female	Year	Male	Female	Year	Male
Benin	20	1970	45	57	1996	98
Burkina Faso	9	1970	16	31	1995	48
Cape Verde	120	1975	133	147	1997	150
Cote d'Ivoire	43	1970	75	61	1996	82
Gambia	15	1070	35	67	1995	87
Ghana	54	1970	71	74	1994	84
Guinea-Bissau	24	1970	57	45	1994	79
Guinea-Conakry	20	1970	42	41	1997	70
Liberia	27	1975	52	28	1984	51
Mali	16	1970	30	40	1997	58
Niger	9	1970	18	23	1997	36
Nigeria	32	1970	5	87	1994	109
Senegal	30	1970	48	65	1997	78
Sierra Leone	28	1970	42	41	1990	60
Togo	44	1970	99	99	1996	140

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

**Table 5: Net Enrolment Ratios by Sex and Gender Parity Index by Region
1990 – 1998**

Region	1990			1998		
	Boys	Girls	Gender Parity Index	Boys	Girls	Gender Parity Index
World	84	76	0.91	87	80	0.93
More developed regions	97	97	1.00	97	98	1.01
Less developed regions	82	73	0.89	86	78	0.91
Countries in transition	91	91	1.00	96	96	1.00
Sub-Saharan Africa	59	50	0.84	66	54	0.82
Latin America and Caribbean	85	84	0.99	94	93	0.99

Central Asia	87	89	1.02	91	92	1.01
East Asia/Pacific	97	95	0.98	97	96	0.99
South and West Asia	75	59	0.78	79	67	0.85
Arab States/North Africa	82	65	0.79	80	71	0.89
Central & East Europe	86	83	0.96	95	91	0.96

Source: UNESCO. Education for All Year 2000 Assessment – Statistical Document

Table 6: Gross Enrolment Rates by Gender, Secondary Tier, ECOWAS Countries

Country	Earlier Year			Recent Year		
	Female	Year	Male	Female	Year	Male
Benin	3	1970	6	11	1997	26
Burkina Faso	1	1970	2	6	1993	11
Cape Verde	9	1970	11	56	1997	54
Cote d'Ivoire	4	1970	14	16	1997	34
Gambia	4	1970	13	19	1995	30
Ghana	8	1970	21	28	1991	44
Guinea-Bissau	6	1970	11	4	1988	10
Guinea-Conakry	5	1970	19	7	1997	0
Liberia	5	1970	15	13	1980	31
Mali	2	1970	8	8	1997	17
Niger	1	1975	3	4	1996	7
Nigeria	3	1970	7	30	1994	36
Senegal	5	1970	13	12	1997	20
Sierra Leone	5	1970	8	13	1990	22
Togo	3	1970	12	15	1996	40

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Table 7: Adult Illiteracy Rates by Gender, ECOWAS States

Country	Earlier Year (1970)		Recent Year (2000)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Benin	94	84	37	20 -

Burkina Faso	98	88	86	66
Cape Verde	82	55	30	6
Cote d'Ivoire	94	75?	61	45
Gambia	93	87	71	56
Ghana	83	57	37	20
Guinea-Bissau	96	78	81	40
Guinea-Conakry	n. a.			
Liberia	93	71	62	30
Mali	97	90	66	51
Niger	99	90	92	76
Nigeria	94	75	61	45
Senegal	94	77	72	53
Sierra Leone	n.a.			
Togo	88	59	59	26

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Table 8: Illiteracy Rates, Youth (Aged 15 – 25) by Gender

Country	Earlier Year (1970)		Recent Year (2000)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Benin	90	71	62	22
Burkina Faso	96	81	77	54
Cape Verde	59	30	18	6
Cote d'Ivoire	87?	62	40	30
Gambia	87	77	51	43
Ghana	68	34	12	6
Guinea-Bissau	93	62	67	19
Guinea-Conakry	n. a.			
Liberia	88	52	46	15
Mali	93	82	40	28
Niger	98	87	86	68
Nigeria	87	62	40	30 -

Senegal	87	66	58	40
Sierra Leone	n. a.			
Togo	79	42	41	12

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Gender Issues in Health

The main issues affecting women's health and nutrition in African countries have been identified as the following:

- High rates of maternal mortality.
- High levels of malnutrition caused by food deprivation and maternal malnutrition.
- Disease and death from infection, caused by abortions and female circumcisions performed in un-sterile conditions.
- Incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (ECA and World Bank, Gender in Africa).

Health issues of concern to the ECOWAS region include maternal health, malaria and HIV/AIDS. Maternal mortality rates in Sub-Saharan Africa have historically been above the average for developing countries and continue to be among the highest in the world: ranging between 600 and 1,500. Moreover, while Africa accounts for 20 per cent of the birth globally, it is associated with 40 per cent of maternal deaths (World Bank. 1994: ECA, 1999b). Table 9, which presents data on ECOWAS countries, places the range between 210 and 2, 100 per 100,000 live births.

The risks faced by persons in child marriages and the percentage of births attended by health professionals are factors that are linked

to the high maternal death ratios. Tables 9 and 10 present data on these phenomena. On the basis of the data, the risks posed by early pregnancies appear to be high. In the case of the percentage of births attended by qualified health practitioners, one sees improvements between the earlier year and the more recent, in the case of most countries. However, there have been cases where the percentage of attended births has fallen over time. This exposes health care delivery systems' inefficiencies that need to be addressed to meet the special needs of women. However, as earlier discussed, there are socio-cultural and economic issues affecting gender and women's rights.

Table 9: Maternal Mortality Ratios and Pregnancy Risks in Young Women Aged 15 – 19

Country	Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)		Risk (% of population aged 15 – 19)	
	Year	Ratio	Year	Rate
Benin	1999	500	1999	21
Burkina Faso	1991	1400	1999	26
Cape Verde	1999	430		N. A.
Cote d'Ivoire	1994	600	1999	43
Gambia	1995	1100		N. A.
Ghana	1999	210	1999	23
Guinea-Bissau	1999	910		N. A.
Guinea-Conakry	1999	670	1999	24
Liberia		N. A.	1986	58
Mali	1995	630	1999	26
Niger	1999	590	1999	17
Nigeria	1999	700	1999	22
Senegal	1992	560	1999	33
Sierra Leone	1992	2100		N. A.
Togo		N. A.		N. A.

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Table 10: Births Attended by Skilled Health Staff

	Early Year		Recent Year	
	Year	Rate (%)	Year	Rate (%)
Benin		N. A.	1985	34
Burkina Faso	1979	5	1998	27
Cape Verde		N. A.	1983	10
Cote d'Ivoire	1984	13	1999	47
Gambia	1982	41	1990	44

Ghana	1984	47	1998	44
Guinea-Bissau		N. A.	1993	50
Guinea-Conakry	1986	25	1999	35
Liberia	1975	14		N. A.
Mali	1981	14	1996	24
Niger	1980	26	1998	18
Nigeria		N. A.	1990	31
Senegal	1977	44	1997	47
Sierra Leone	1975	53	1984	25
Togo	1988	32	1998	51

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Data is required to determine the gender dimensions of malaria. It is known however that the incidence and treatment of malaria are linked to income level and that children are particularly vulnerable to the disease. Thus, the poor are more likely to contract malaria and less likely to be in a position to prevent and treat it (UNICEF, 2000).

The issue of HIV/AIDS is of great global significance: but is especially topical on the African continent, which is said to be the region with the highest prevalence rate. HIV/AIDS is as much a socio-cultural and economic issue as a health one. The Commonwealth Secretariat notes that one needs to understand the socially constructed aspects of relations between women and men that underpin individual behaviour as well as the gender based rules, norms and laws governing the broader social and institutional context (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2002). There is a whole complex of issues that impinge on women's ability to negotiate with men; a factor in the transmission of the disease. Thus gender equality and the empowerment of women are stressed as fundamental to the reduction of the "vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS" (United Nations General Assembly Twenty-sixth Special Session, June 2001).

Recent trends indicate that the infection rate among women worldwide have been increasing rapidly. The percentage of women infected with the virus increased from 41 in 1997 to 47 in 2000. However, sub-Saharan Africa indicates the highest infection rate among women (UNAIDS.org). In the case of ECOWAS countries, the prevalence rates are higher for women than for men. Table 11, which shows prevalence rates and female infection rates, confirms the magnitude of the problem for both sexes: but more so for women in the ECOWAS region. Infection rates among females range from 53 - 57 per cent of the infected population, thus confirming suggestions of their vulnerability.

HIV/AIDS presents serious problems for policy makers and planners; in that it has debilitating effects on individuals as well as societies. Not only does it disrupt livelihoods and shortens life expectancy, but it also imposes heavy economic and social costs evidenced in the loss of human resources, productivity and incomes, the increased costs of health care, the increased burden on care givers, the cost of increasing numbers of orphans and the increased burden on female orphans who are sometimes left to care and provide for their siblings. It is clear that HIV/AIDS is a phenomenon that threatens the sustainability of societies and economies and

requires comprehensive and sustained policy, planning and implementation. The latter includes the use of a gender sensitive approach:

given the manner in which the disease has been manifesting itself in ECOWAS countries.

Table 11: HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rates and Female Infection Rates

Country	Prevalence Rate (% of population aged 15 – 49)		Females as % of infected population	
	Year	Rate	Year	Rate
Benin	1999	2.4	1999	55
Burkina Faso	1999	6	1999	55
Cape Verde		N. A.		N. A.
Cote d'Ivoire	1999	11	1999	55
Gambia	1999	2	1999	55
Ghana	1999	4	1999	55
Guinea-Bissau	1999	3	1999	56
Guinea-Conakry	1999	2	1999	56
Liberia	1999	3	1999	57
Mali	1999	2	1999	55
Niger	1999	1	1999	56
Nigeria	1999	5	1999	54
Senegal	1999	2	1999	53
Sierra Leone	1999	3	1999	55
Togo	1999	6	1999	55

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Gender based Violence, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building

Gender based violence is defined as involving physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, including economic deprivation. It is felt to be rooted in unequal power relations between men and women and discriminatory socio-cultural practices. Moreover, it is perpetuated through inadequate legal frameworks and weak law enforcement mechanisms (Oguli-Oumo, Molokomme, Gwaba, Mogegeh and Kiwala. 2002).

Several Member States of ECOWAS have identified violence against women as a critical activity. Burkina Faso for example has outlined a number of achievements and constraints in this area. The following are among the achievements:

- Promotion of the law condemning violence against women.
- Inclusion of the fight against harmful traditional practices against women as part of government's programme.
- Sensitization and campaign against FGM and other forms of violence against women and national workshops on the same.
- National research on violence against women.
- Creation of a national coalition to combat violence against women.

The constraints include inadequate financial resources to run the activities and structures, a slow and expensive judicial process, weak solidarity among women, little involvement of men and insufficient involvement of the State in the fight against violence against women, with the exception of FGM.

Togo has reported the adoption of a law that prohibits FGM. The Gambia also has concerns about violence against women, in particular with a view to increasing the number of cases reported to the police. However they report that to date, little success has been achieved in this area. In the case of the Republic of Benin, a contradiction between statutory law and common law has been noted. The achievements include a public awareness campaign against FGM, the creation of Legal Assistance Centres and reception centres run by the missionaries for

victims of forced marriages.

The Ivory Coast outlines achievements in combating violence against women as a pledge by Government to defend the victims, the installation of a committee whose role would be to break down local traditional practices that are counterproductive, and the adoption of three bills intended to repress certain forms of violence, including early or forced unions. The constraints have been identified as the inapplicability of certain texts and serious socio-cultural practices.

Sierra Leone is preoccupied with the impact of wars on women and children. Thus women have participated in related conferences. These included an important National Consultation held in Freetown in 2001 to highlight the roles of women and children in the reconstruction process. In addition there was a one-day seminar on Violence Against Women. Other activities include the establishment of the National Child Protection Committee in 1997 "to restore normalcy of children's lives through reunification, ensuring access to health care, education and other basic services"; and a data base on tracing and reunification.

The ECOWAS Protocol relating to the mechanism for conflict prevention, management, resolution, peace keeping and security addresses issues of security, conflict and peace building. In addition, ECOWAS has an active programme indicated in efforts to restore peace in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire. However a key concern, notwithstanding the Sierra Leone good practice, is that the groups who are the most affected by armed conflict are the least involved in these areas. Women's representation in critical areas of public life is recommended as essential for peace, democracy and economic recovery (*Link In 2002*).

Gender Issues in Power and Decision Making

Gender disparities exist in representation at the political level and in terms of managerial, administrative and decision-making posts in most African countries. This is evidenced in a low female presence in key posts dealing with the management of the economy, such as in finance, trade and banking (ECA and World Bank, *Gender in Africa*). As in other areas of gender disparity,

low representation is conditioned by socio-cultural and economic factors. Tables 12 and 13 present data on political representation by women in ECOWAS countries. The percentage of women participating in parliament ranges from as low as 1 in Niger to 12 per cent in Mali and Senegal. The relatively low female representation is also evidenced in Cabinet positions - from 3 per cent in Nigeria to 19 per cent in Liberia. While women's presence in political institutions can be regarded as low, they have registered some achievements over time, as evidenced in the data provided on Ministerial postings. Most countries showed improvements in this area; chief among them being The Gambia, Mali, Guinea-Bissau and Niger. However, during 1994 and 1998, there were two cases of decline and one case of no female representation at Ministerial level (Table 13).

The data indicates that at the political level, ECOWAS countries have not yet met the target of at least 30 per cent female representation at decision-making levels, set by the United Nations. The under-representation of women constitutes an underutilisation of human resources, in addition to being a rights-based issue.

With regard to presence in other areas of decision-making, Mali reports that in general women are poorly represented in the management of public affairs for historical, social, cultural and economic reasons. Traditionally women's participation in public service has been low and women have long been kept out of posts of responsibility; even when they possessed competencies equal to or superior to those of men. However, women are progressively occupying decision-making posts (Ministere de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille, Mali, 2000).

In the case of Nigeria, women's participation at all three tiers of government (Federal, state and local) is reported as low. Moreover, this is identified as an indication of the resilience of patriarchy and the limited impact of efforts to promote gender in Nigeria (UNICEF Nigeria, 2001).

The Burkina Faso report on the implementation of the Beijing platforms notes that there has been little improvement in the representation of women in decision-making activities since 1995.

However, there has been an increase in Parliamentarians from 4 to 10 and in the number of female High Commissioners from 0 to 3. Other achievements outlined include the following:

- A lobby within political parties, trade unions, traditional leadership structures to facilitate women's access to decision-making.
- Lobbying for female representation in targeted structures.
- Acceptance by certain parties of a quota system.
- Support of female opinion makers.
- Support and training of women to participate in local level decisions.
- Training of political candidates in communication strategies.
- Training in civic, political and organisational matters.
- Study tours for exchange of experience.
- Sensitization campaigns on the Family and Personal Codes with particular reference to provisions relating to participation in decision-making

The report also outlined the constraints to greater representation. They include inadequate sensitization, socio-cultural attitudes limiting women's rights, lack of confidence on the part of the women, interference by men in women's organisations, poor availability or lack of interest on the part of women for the decision-making positions and their underestimation of the challenges of the task (Burkina Faso Report on Implementation of Beijing Platforms).

Table 12: Female Representation in Parliament and Cabinet

Country	Female % in Parliament (1999)	Female % in Cabinet (1999)
Benin	6	N. A.
Burkina Faso	8 (1997)	8 (1997)
Cape Verde	11 (2001)	N. A.
Cote d'Ivoire	9 (2000)	N. A.
Gambia	2 (1997)	N. A.
Ghana	9 (2000)	N. A.
Guinea-Bissau	8	N. A.
Guinea-Conakry	9 (1995)	N. A.
Liberia	8 (1997)	19 (1997)
Mali	12 (1997)	N. A.
Niger	1	N. A.
Nigeria	3	3
Senegal	12 (1998)	18 (1998)
Sierra Leone	9	N. A.
Togo	5	N. A.

Source: Genderstats.worldbank.org

Table 13: Representation of Women at Ministerial Level, ECOWAS

Country	Early Year		Recent Year	
	Year	%	Year	%
Benin		N. A.		N. A.
Burkina Faso	1994	7	1998	10
Cape Verde		N. A.		N. A.
Cote d'Ivoire		N. A.		N. A.
Gambia	1994	0	1998	29
Ghana	1994	11	1998	9
Guinea-Bissau	1994	4	1998	18
Guinea-Conakry	1994	9	1998	8
Liberia,		N. A.		N. A.
Mali	1994	10	1998	21
Niger	1994	5	1998	10
Nigeria	1994	3	1998	6
Senegal	1994	7	1998	7
Sierra Leone	1994	0	1998	0
Togo	1994	5	1998	9

Note: 1 Ministerial representation by females was 13 per cent in 2001 (UNICEF, 2002).

Source: Genderstats. Worldbank.org

Gender and Democracy and Governance

Governance and democracy are over-arching principles in gender equity and equality issues. They affect the status of implementation of laws, empowerment leadership and representation and the equitable distribution of resources. ECOWAS has formulated *The Supplementary Protocol on Good Governance*, in an effort to tackle the "root causes of conflict promote democracy and the rule of law ..." However, some Member States have not yet ratified it (ECOWAS Annual Report 2002).

Priority Areas of Concern

The situation analysis has revealed gender inequities in the legal framework, economic participation, poverty incidence, education access, health and representation at political and other areas of management and decision-making. It has also demonstrated that the various sectors are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. For example education empowers individuals to escape the poverty trap. At the same time, considerations of opportunity cost (earnings foregone) contribute to the decision of poor families to limit the education of their children and co-opt them into both paid and unpaid work. Similarly, there is a link between access to economic resources on the one hand and empowerment and ability to make decisions on the other hand. There is also an association between education and health and between health and access to economic resources. Education and the law are also inter-related, in that the former empowers individuals so that they are knowledgeable about their legal rights.

One area that stands out as pervading all others is the socio-cultural. It is within this milieu that socialization, gender stereo-typing, patriarchy, traditional practices, customary and religious laws are rooted. It is at the heart of society's perception of the relative importance of boys and girls and beliefs concerning the respective roles of women and men. It is being suggested that socio-cultural practices be accorded priority attention in the gender mainstreaming policy. The legal framework and its relations to

customary law and traditional practices are also pivotal in re-defining the gender situation in ECOWAS countries. On the basis of its ability to empower individuals economically, legally and socially, the education sector is also being recommended as a priority area for inclusion in the policy. In general, women's health status has implications for the health of their children and other family members for whom they provide care, and indirectly affects the productivity of others. However, in view of the extremely heavy human and economic costs exacted by HIV/AIDS, the latter presents itself as an area for sustained policy intervention. Moreover, because of its dire implications not only for adults, but also for children, HIV/AIDS presents itself as an area for urgent attention.

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GENDER STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

The draft Gender Strategic Framework is based on the draft Gender Policy and its Annex 2: the Situation Analysis. It is intended to translate the Policy into action through a focus on strategic issues, goals, objectives and programme strategies. It is anticipated that the Strategic Framework will provide the basis for input and elaboration by ECOWAS staff and stakeholders.

SUMMARY, SITUATION ANALYSIS

- The UNDP composite development and equality indicators (GDI & GEM) place individual ECOWAS countries at low levels of the rung
- Disparity exists in access to resources (land, credit, advisory services) leading to different male and female levels of integration into economic activity
- Female economic activity rates as % of male rates range from 51 in Cote d'Ivoire to 98 in Ghana
- Tendency towards labour market segmentation, so that women tend to be in low-pay, low-status informal and subsistence sector jobs, while men tend to be in the higher paid and formal sector jobs
- Wage levels are sometimes different for similar employment
- Improvement in primary school enrolments, but female rates consistently lower than male
- Generally low secondary enrolment rates, but gender gap exists, disfavours girls in all but two cases
- High maternal mortality rates especially in high risk group aged 15-19
- Higher HIV/AIDS infection rates among females than males, with percentages of infected females ranging from 53 - 57 of the infected population
- Strong system of patriarchy and other socio-cultural norms affecting gender relations
- Weak legal frameworks and/or

implementation mechanisms

- In some cases, national laws are not harmonised with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) [Annex 1 to Draft ECOWAS Gender Policy].

VISION STATEMENT

A just and safe West African society in which men and women enjoy equal opportunities to participate, make decisions, have control over and benefit from all development interventions.

MISSION STATEMENT

ECOWAS' mission is to engage the citizens of West Africa in the formulation and implementation of sustainable socio-economic development solutions that eradicate poverty and promote gender equality, good governance and the conditions for peace, through regional cooperation and integration.

CRITICAL ISSUES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The effectiveness of the Strategic Plan will depend on ECOWAS capitalising on its strengths, finding solutions to internal issues, as well as being able to circumvent external threats. Internal strengths include the rich cultural diversity, large population size, common borders and a commitment to facilitating the free movement of persons and monetary integration. In addition the region is rich in natural resources.

Currently, the sub-group of French speaking ECOWAS countries have a common currency (the CFA), while the majority of the English speaking group (The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria) have committed themselves to introducing the Eco by July 1 2005 (Sesay, 2003). Moreover, it is proposed to deepen the integration process culminating in a Monetary Union. This implies the adoption of a common monetary policy with respect to foreign exchange, reserves and interest rates. ECOWAS' attributes of a potentially large market cultural diversity, common currencies, and the ability to utilise road transport can combine to facilitate travel, tourism and trade. Moreover, with the introduction of the Monetary Union, there are likely to be increased investment flows within the region and synergies between the monetary and

real sectors of the economies. ECOWAS has in the past demonstrated the necessary political will, evidenced in the implementation of the policy on the free movement of persons and the decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government to implement Gender Mainstreaming through the establishment of the Gender Management System.

Internal challenges/weaknesses include the language barrier between subgroups of Member States, ineffective implementation mechanisms, as demonstrated in the case of cross border trade regulations and human trafficking; and the non-compliance with international instruments such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Human Rights Treaty. Other drawbacks include leadership issues, conflict and wars. At the institutional level, inadequate tools and equipment could also limit the implementation of the Gender Strategic Plan. However, ECOWAS' regional mandate as well as its commitment to gender equality issues could attract the assistance of development partners in these areas.

The likelihood that there could be technological innovations by extra-regional entities to reduce their dependence on raw material imports is one that ECOWAS should factor into its long term planning. Of more immediate concern is the threat posed by the volatile external political and economic situation (wars and terrorist attacks), which has adversely affected the global demand for products and services.

GENDER STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

The strategic plan priorities will be programme areas that fit the following criteria:

- Activities/sectors identified in the Situation Analysis (Gender Policy) as critical determinants of the gender gaps and disparities
- Activities that have bi-directional or multi-directional links
- Activities that lend themselves to ECOWAS implementing as regional solutions
- Activities that contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals

- Activities that are affordable

Based on these criteria, the following focus areas present themselves for inclusion in the Gender Strategic Plan:

- Institution Building
- Economy and poverty
- Socio-cultural issues
- Education and training
- Health, particularly maternal health and HIV/AIDS
- Legal issues
- Governance, decision making, democracy and human rights

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

- Strengthened institutional frameworks for promoting, implementing and monitoring gender equality efforts
 - An enabled legal framework to promote gender equality/equity
 - More effective governance, decision making and representation
 - More effective economic participation and more equitable distribution of economic and financial resources
 - Improved and engendered health systems and more responsible approaches to HIV/AIDS
 - More effective and engendered education systems
 - More sensitized and gender-aware ECOWAS region

PROGRAMMES

Programme 1: Institution Building

GOAL: Strengthen/create the institutional framework for gender mainstreaming

OBJECTIVES

- To create the structures, mechanisms and processes of the Gender Management System
- To promote the formulation of a sub-regional Gender Policy

STRATEGIES

- Capacity building
- Sensitisation and training
- Committing resources
- Partnerships and stakeholder approaches

ACTIVITIES

- Analysis and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes
- Formulation, planning and follow-up on gender policies of Member States
- Sensitisation and training sessions for Secretariat and other ECOWAS institutions as well as for Member States
- Dialogue with partners and stakeholders
- Provision of technical assistance for establishing the Gender Development Centre
- Setting up of a central data bank as well as a network system

Programme 2.1: Economy and Poverty

- GOAL:**
- 1) To promote more effective participation in the economy and more equitable distribution of economic and financial resources between men and women
 - 2) To strengthen poverty eradication programmes

OBJECTIVES

- To reduce disparities between women and men in terms of their participation in the economy
- To eliminate inequalities between men and women with regard to access to credit, land, goods and services
- To improve access of women to jobs with adequate remuneration
- To highlight the contribution of women to the economy
- To ensure that women have greater access to the formal sector
- To combat poverty among women

STRATEGIES

- Gender mainstreaming macro-economic and sector policies and programmes, through gender assessments in labour market analysis, budget incidence analysis, trade policy analysis
- Design poverty reduction strategies to include gender perspectives
- Forging and sustaining partnerships with the private sector, financial institutions to support women in setting up banking systems using local and other savings models such as the SUSU in Ghana and Nigeria and the Grameen Banking system in Asia
- Documenting and publishing good practices of female entrepreneurs in the sub-region through trade fairs, internet and websites, publications, conferences and seminars

ACTIVITIES

- Seminars targeted at Secretariat, other ECOWAS institutions and Member States
- Training for various cadres of ECOWAS staff
- Education programmes on economic participation
- Research identified problem areas and disseminate findings
- Analysis, appraisal and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects
- Gender budgeting
- Advocacy

Programme 2.2: Legal Issues

- GOAL:** To create an enabling legal environment to promote gender equality/equity

OBJECTIVES

- To eliminate gender discrimination in inheritance laws and statutes governing asset ownership
- To eliminate the discrepancies between multiple legal systems in the area of gender discrimination
- To harmonise national laws and international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

- To harmonise women's rights with human rights laws

STRATEGIES

- Creation of legal awareness and sensitisation
- Negotiation and lobbying
- Committing resources for legal review
- Monitoring the ECOWAS Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons

ACTIVITIES

- Review and harmonisation of legal and constitutional framework
- Establishment and/or strengthening of mechanisms for implementation and enforcement of laws
- Cooperation and coordination between human rights and legal aid groups, as well as commissions on legal systems
- Creating a forum for educating women in the use of the legal system to exercise their rights
- Using media strategies to promote the law

Programme 2.3: Education

GOAL: To promote more effective and engendered education systems

OBJECTIVES

- To reduce gender gaps in enrolments at primary and secondary school levels
- To reduce gender disparity in literacy rates
- To eliminate gender stereo-typing in the education curriculum

STRATEGIES

- Monitoring the implementation of the ECOWAS Education Protocol
- Monitoring curriculum development to ensure the inclusion of gender and sexuality as topics

ACTIVITIES

- Ensure the inclusion of gender reviews on the agenda for the ECOWAS Ministers of Education Meetings
- Work with the Department of Human Development to monitor education access and literacy issues
- Ensure the development of skills in gender data disaggregation

Programme 2.4: Socio-cultural Issues

GOAL: To promote mechanisms for engendering the socio-cultural norms and practices

OBJECTIVES

- To address issues and negative practices such as widow-hood rites, Female genital mutilation and child marriages
- To find solutions to patriarchal practices that limit the participation of girls in education and ultimately that of women in the economic life of their countries
- To address those factors that support gender bias and discrimination e.g. that negate the formal laws

STRATEGIES

- Ethno-graphic research
- Networking
- Consensus building for socio-cultural change
- Optimal use of the mass media

ACTIVITIES

- Conducting in-depth research on a pilot basis
- Show-casing good practice in changed socio-cultural practices
- Create a forum for men and women as partners to discourse on these issues
- Developing effective responses to removing socio-cultural barriers to the development of girls

Programme 2.5: Governance, Representation and Decision making, Democracy and Human Rights

GOAL: To promote a more inclusive and gender-responsive system of governance, representation and decision-making, democracy and human rights

OBJECTIVES

- To promote good governance, democracy and human rights overarching principles in gender equality and equity
- To promote equal opportunity policies to ensure the equitable participation of women and men in Government and decision-making and electoral processes

STRATEGIES

- Advocacy to ensure the enforcement of international instruments for gender equality, development and peace and for the protection of refugees
- Affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity
- Improved political education and leadership skills acquisition

ACTIVITIES

- Conducting advocacy skill development
- Leadership training
- Mobilising media and other support groups
- Creating forum for dialoguing on peace and conflict issues, ensuring participation by men and women
- Developing a collective strategy to eliminate human rights abuse: e. g. gender-based violence, child abuse, child trafficking
- Positioning ECCOWAS Secretariat to provide technical support to Beijing plus 10 preparatory programmes
- Secretariat becoming part of the agenda to engender the peace process

Programme 2.6: Health

GOAL: To establish and/or upgrade health systems/programmes to respond to the health needs of men and women as well as to socio-economic imperatives

OBJECTIVES

- To provide resources responsive to the comprehensive health care needs of men and women
- To improve the delivery of services to promote reproductive health
- To address the gender bias in the incidence of infectious diseases such as STDs and HIV/AIDS

- To address health education issues, including nutrition, sanitation and prevention of malaria

STRATEGIES

- Education through school-based and community-based mechanisms, including people living with HIV/AIDS
- Improving and utilising alternative health care delivery systems
- Forging partnerships
- Using behavioural change communication models

ACTIVITIES

- Cooperating with national machineries in ensuring that the school curriculum is amended to include health education
- Ensuring that the national machineries step up sensitisation and education through community-based adult education programmes
- Cooperating with international agencies to adopt a multi-sector approach to addressing gender and HIV / AIDS, drug abuse and maternal mortality

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Programme 1: Institution Building		
Objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create the structures, mechanisms and processes of the Gender Management System • To promote the formulation of a sub-regional Gender Policy 		
Anticipated Results	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
Improved capacity for gender mainstreaming	Gender Division and Gender Development Centre established and functioning	Survey of structures; programme analysis
	Other GMS structures established and functioning	Meetings, networking among organs
	Evidence of policies, plans and programmes being analysed for gender sensitivity	Policy, plans and programme documents
	The central data bank and network	Survey of structures; equipment; personnel;

	established and operational	data
	Number of partnerships formally established	MOUs and documentation

Programme 2.1: Economy and Poverty

Objectives:

- To reduce disparities between women and men in terms of their participation in the economy
- To eliminate inequalities between men and women with regard to access to credit, land, goods and services
- To improve access of women to jobs with adequate remuneration
- To highlight the contribution of women to the economy
- To ensure that women have greater access to the formal sector
- To combat poverty among women

<u>Anticipated results</u>	<u>Verifiable Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>
More equitable economic participation rates between men and women	Number and percentage of women actively engaged in economic activity	National, regional and international statistical publications, studies
Improved access by women to credit, land, goods and services	Number and percentage of women relative to men owning land and other property	Cadastral surveys Land reform programmes
	Number and percentage of women relative to men receiving credit	Beneficiary assessments of credit
	Level of income/earnings by gender	Surveys and published documents
Increased capacity of National statistical agencies in engendering national accounts	Engendered national accounting practices	National accounts data systems and publications
Equal opportunity employment	Number of companies and organisations enforcing legislation and regulations	Surveys of establishments
Reduction in labour market segmentation	Number of men and women engaged in	Disaggregated employment statistics

various sectors		
Programme 2.2: Legal Issues		
Objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To eliminate gender discrimination in inheritance laws and statutes governing asset ownership To eliminate the discrepancies between multiple legal systems in the area of gender discrimination To harmonise national laws and international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) To harmonise women's rights with human rights laws and increase their level of legal awareness 		
Anticipated results	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
Reformed, harmonised and transparent legal frameworks targeted at gender discrimination	Gender-sensitive legislative actions undertaken	Legal instruments
Increased awareness of legal systems	Number of persons and groups making use of the legal system; Number of reported cases	Surveys, radio call-in programmes, newspaper articles; records
Programme 2.3: Education		
Objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce gender gaps in enrolments and retention at primary and secondary school levels To reduce gender disparity in literacy rates To eliminate gender stereo-typing in education curriculum 		
Anticipated Results	Verifiable Indicators	Means of verification
Improved enrolments at primary and secondary school levels	Number of boys and girls enrolled in and attending school	School records
Improved literacy rates and reduction in gender gaps	Literacy rates by sex	Publications of Governments and other agencies
Revised curriculum with a gender-perspective	Number and type of gender-sensitive material included	Curriculum materials
Programme: 2.4 Socio-cultural Issues		
Objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address issues and negative practices such as widow-hood rites, 		

<p>Female genital mutilation and child marriages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find solutions to patriarchal practices that limit the participation of girls in education and ultimately that of women in the economic life of their countries • To address those factors that support gender bias and discrimination e.g. that negate the formal laws 		
<u>Anticipated Results</u>	<u>Verifiable Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>
A more gender-sensitized cultural environment	Number and type of sensitization programmes	Programme reports/evaluation Surveys
	Type of feed-back	Evaluation
<p>Programme 2.5: Governance, Representation and Decision-making and Democracy</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote democracy and good governance, overarching principles in gender equality and equity • To promote equal opportunity policies to ensure the equitable participation of women and men in Government and decision-making and electoral processes 		
<u>Anticipated Outcomes</u>	<u>Verifiable Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>
Enhanced governance structures that respond to rule of law, human rights and democratic principles	Number of conflict situations prevented or resolved; Number of opportunities for expression	Mass media
Enhanced opportunities for women to participate in political decision-making	Number of women represented in parliament, cabinet and political party structures and peace negotiations	Official documents; surveys
<p>Programme 2.6: Health</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide resources to respond to comprehensive health care needs of men and women • To improve the delivery of services to promote reproductive health • To address the gender bias in the incidence of infectious diseases such as STDs and HIV/AIDS • To address health education issues, including nutrition, sanitation and malaria 		
<u>Anticipated Results</u>	<u>Verifiable Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>

Improved health care facilities	Number of and improvements in health care facilities	Surveys
Improved reproductive health facilities	Quality and number of maternal and child health facilities	Survey of facilities, personnel and equipment; official staff records
Enhanced understanding and treatment of STDs, inc. HIV/AIDS	Number of dialogues and sensitisation programmes and trained persons	Programme records, implementation plans and media

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The Commonwealth Secretariat's Gender Management System Series

The Commonwealth Secretariat's New Gender Mainstreaming series on development issues

The Commonwealth Secretariat. Strategic Plan 2002/03 - 2003/04

UNIFEM Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals 2003-09-11

DECISION A/DEC.2/01/05 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ECOWAS

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8, and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 63 of the said Treaty on Women and Development which all Member States to formulate, harmonise, coordinate and establish appropriate policies and mechanisms for the enhancement of the economic, social and cultural conditions of women;

RECALLING the directives of the 49th Session of the Council of Ministers for the establishment of a Gender management Systems Structure in the sub-region, which will facilitate the application of Gender mainstreaming principles within the Community and the evolution of an ECOWAS Gender Policy;

RECOGNISING that within the framework of ECOWAS integration objectives, a Gender Policy will enhance the participation and contribution of all sectors of the population, including women, and key partners in socio-economic development in a way that brings about social justice and equitable living standards;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.7/12/03 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government establishing and ECOWAS Technical Commission to address issues relating to Gender equality;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.16/01/03 on the transformation of WAWA into an ECOWAS Gender Development Centre as part of the ECOWAS Gender Policy development Process;

AWARE of Regulation C/REG.14/12/03 establishing a unit for Gender, Child and Youth matters within the Human Development Department of the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS;

CONSIDERING that promoting gender equality and equity will facilitate the involvement and integration of all segments of the populations in West Africa in the attainment of these economic integration policies of the region;

DESIRING to put in place, mechanisms, processes and systems that will again facilitate the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of sub-regional strategies on gender equality and gender management issues;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-second Session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja on 16th 17th July 2004.

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

An ECOWAS Gender Management System is hereby established:

ARTICLE 2

The Gender Management System shall be composed of the following:-

- a) Gender Management Team within the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS, comprising the Directors of Departments led by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Integration Programmes;
- b) The Gender Division in the Executive Secretariat;
- c) The ECOWAS Secretariat Departmental focal points;
- d) The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre;
- e) National bodies for the Advancement of Women;
- f) The Gender Commission;
- g) Civil Society Organizations, and;
- h) Public Sector training Institutes.

ARTICLE 3

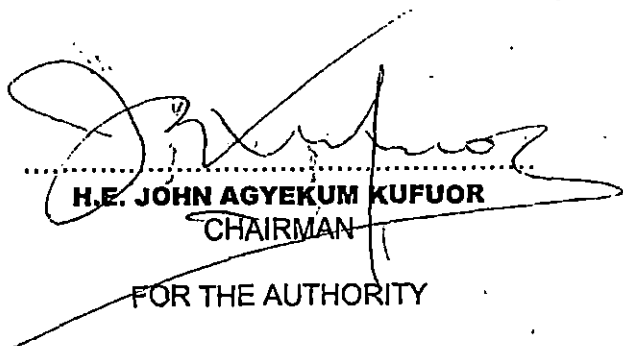
The Gender Management System will:-

- a) facilitate implementation of the ECOWAS Gender Policy through guidance, planning, monitoring and evaluating of the process of gender mainstreaming within Member States, the Secretariat and other institutions and agencies of the Community; and
- b) ensure that gender issues are central to both national and sub-regional policies, plans and programmes, in order to address gender equity and equality issues.

ARTICLE 4

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same timeframe.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005



H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC.3/01/05 AMENDING
ARTICLES 8(11) AND 9(11) OF THE
STATUTES OF THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL ACTION GROUP
AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING IN AFRICA
(GIABA)**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT;**

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

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.6/12/00 adopting the Statutes of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in Africa (GIASA);

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.15/01/03 of January 2003 establishing an Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Harmonization of Community Legislative texts;

CONSIDERING that the 50th Session of the Council of Ministers, held in Abuja on 26 and 27 June 2003, adopted the recommendations made by the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on Harmonization of Community Legislative texts to ensure that all the institutions of ECOWAS comply with the Community texts and maintain an ECOWAS spirit, and that the staff of the institutions are fairly treated;

NOTING that some provisions of Articles 8(11), 9(11) and 9(111) of the Statutes of GIASA are not consistent with the relevant provisions of the ECOWAS Treaty, the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules concerning staff recruitment and the adoption of the budget;

DESIROUS of amending the Statutes of GIASA to conform to the ECOWAS texts and the texts governing the other institutions of the Community;

EQUALLY DESIROUS of making any amendment to the Statutes of GIASA that may enhance the functioning of this institution;

AFTER CONSIDERATION of the reports of the Meetings of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee of GIASA which were held in Dakar on 16 July 2003 and 25 June 2004 respectively;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-second session of the Council of Ministers, held in Abuja on 16th - 17th July 2004;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

Article 8(II) is hereby repealed and replaced with the following new provisions:

New Article 8(II): Functions

The Committee shall:

- a) approve the progress report;
- b) approve the annual work programme;
- c) adopt self-evaluation and mutual evaluation reports;
- d) recommend candidates for membership and observer status;
- e) propose the issuance of formal notifications and recommend through Council the suspension of signatory States which fail to fulfill their obligations;
- f) propose amendments to the Statutes of GIASA as the need arises.

ARTICLE 2

Paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 9(11) are hereby repealed and replaced with the following provisions:

New Article 9(III) - Appointment

- a) Candidates appointed to the posts of Administrative Secretary and Deputy Administrative Secretary shall be granted the status of statutory appointees.

- b) The Administrative Secretary and the Deputy Administrative Secretary shall be appointed under the same terms and according to the same procedure as provided for in Article 18 of the ECOWAS Treaty.

ARTICLE 3

Article 9 (iii) is hereby amended as follows:

New Article 9(III)

The Administrative Secretariat:

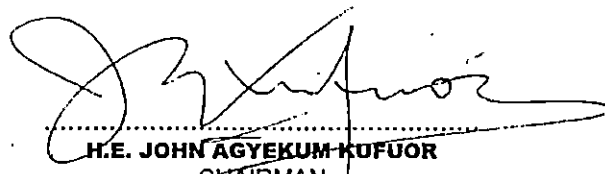
- a) shall implement the decisions of the Committee. It shall be assisted by the Executive Secretariat, if the need arises;
- b) shall assist the Executive Secretariat to prepare interim and annual reports which shall be submitted to the Community Authorities by the Executive Secretary;
- c) shall implement the work programme prepared each year;
- d) shall prepare the draft budget for approval in accordance with Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty and implement it after its approval by the Council of Ministers;
- e) shall prepare questionnaires for self-evaluation and screen responses;
- f) shall prepare mutual evaluation missions under the supervision of the committee;
- g) work together with the Executive Secretariat to identify technical assistance needs of the States and facilitate the mobilization of such assistance;
- h) in conjunction with the Executive Secretariat, establish links with signatory States and other regional groups, international organizations and third countries on issues

- relating to its sphere of competence;
- i) discharge all duties assigned to it by the Chairman of the Committee.

ARTICLE 4

This decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005



H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC.4/01/05 ON THE
EFFICIENT APPLICATION OF THE
SUBSTANTIVE REGIME OF THE ECOWAS
COMMUNITY LEVY**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Article 72 of the Treaty introducing a Community Levy to generate revenue for financing the activities of the Community;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P/II/7/96 on the conditions governing application of the Community Levy adopted by the Community on 21st July 1996, and which entered into force on 14th March 2000;

RECALLING Article 19 of the above stated Protocol which provided for a transitional period of 3 years dating from the entry into force of the Protocol that should precede a substantive entry into effect of the regime of the Levy;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.10/II/03 which deferred the date for the commencement of the substantive regime for the implementation of the provisions of the Community Levy to 1st July 2003;

HAVING noted the improvement in Member States' compliance with the conditions laid down for the application of this Levy;

CALLING on all Member States who have not done so, to ratify the Protocol on the Community Levy and put in place adequate mechanisms for its application;

DESIRING to ensure an effective and faithful application of the Community Levy by Member States, such that would ensure the generation of adequate resources to finance Community

activities;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-second Session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja, on 16th - 17th July 2004;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

Member States shall adopt the following measures for a more effective application of the Protocol on the Community Levy:-

- a) correct application of the Community Levy on all eligible imports from third countries without exception;
- b) payment of Levy proceeds collected by Customs direct into the ECOWAS bank accounts rather than through intermediary accounts;
- c) effective ownership of the Community Levy bank accounts by the Executive Secretariat without any restrictions;
- d) effective establishment by ECOWAS National Units of mechanisms for monitoring the Community Levy;
- e) the putting in place by National Units, of transparent and efficient systems for administration of the 5% Levy proceeds allocated to them.

ARTICLE 2

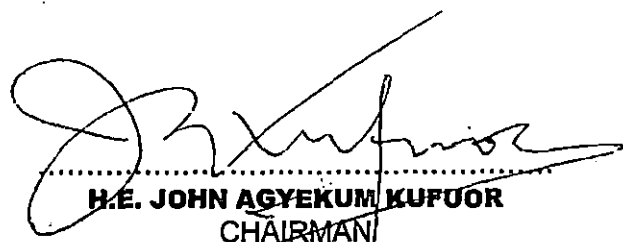
The Executive Secretariat shall put in place more effective and efficient systems for the management and allocation of Community Levy proceeds and shall work out a harmonized system to monitor the functioning of the mechanisms to be set up by National Units as

provided under article 1 (e) above.

ARTICLE 3

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

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005



H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN

FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC.5/01/05 ESTABLISHING
NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR
ECOWAS/NEPAD PROGRAMMES**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Recommendation C/REC.1/11/82, dated 17 November 1982, establishing National Units for the coordination and monitoring of ECOWAS activities in the Member States;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/12/90, dated 13 December 1990, upgrading the status of ECOWAS National Units in the Member States;

MINDFUL of the Declaration of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, dated 17 May 2002, on the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in West Africa;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.2/0S/02, dated 17 May 2002, setting up an institutional and regulatory framework for NEPAD with ECOWAS as the regional organization responsible for coordination and monitoring of the implementation of NEPAD programmes, and creating a NEPAD focal point within the Executive Secretariat;

CONSIDERING that the ECOWAS National Units were established to coordinate and monitor ECOWAS activities in Member States;

AWARE of the constraints confronting the ECOWAS National Units arising with regard to institutional structures, available resources, the increasing number of functions assigned to them, the poor relations between many of the units and sectoral ministries, and the absence of direct links between the units and the Executive Secretariat;

NOTING the similarities between NEPAD and ECOWAS initiatives, as well as the need for close coordination of NEPAD and regional integration projects in the Member States;

RESOLVED to strive to achieve the highest degree of harmony in the implementation of ECOWAS and NEPAD programmes in Member States;

DESIROUS to this end, to harmonise the institutional structure of the Member States, build their capacity, and enhance the performance of national organs in order to give fresh impetus to the regional integration effort;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-second Session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja, on 16th - 1st July 2004,

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

Member States shall take measures to situate the ECOWAS and NEPAD units within the Ministries responsible for regional integration.

ARTICLE 2

Member States shall convert the ECOWAS and NEPAD units into Directorates in affirmation of the priority accorded to ECOWAS programmes and the importance attached to the NEPAD agenda.

ARTICLE 3

Member States shall provide the ECOWAS and NEPAD Directorates with administrative assistance and managerial, communications and logistical support.

ARTICLE 4

1. The Member States shall set up National Committees on NEPAD and Regional Integration.

2. Each National Committee on NEPAD and Regional Integration shall be chaired by a Minister.
3. The National Committees on NEPAD and Regional Integration shall hold regular meetings with the private sector and civil society on issues relating to regional integration and NEPAD.

ARTICLE 5

1. Member States shall set up inter-ministerial coordinating committees on NEPAD and Regional Integration.
2. The committees referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be chaired by a Vice-President or Prime Minister. They shall be composed of the Ministers responsible for sectors relating to integration.
3. The inter-ministerial coordinating committees on NEPAD and Regional Integration shall formulate national policy and coordinate government action in areas pertaining to NEPAD and Regional Integration.

ARTICLE 6

1. Member States shall include explicit objectives linked to the ECOWAS regional integration process in their national policy statements or development plans.
2. They shall take measures to promote ECOWAS regional programmes in the declarations and development plans referred to in paragraph 1 above.
3. Member States undertake to include ECOWAS matters on the Agenda of their Cabinet meetings, as a matter of routine.

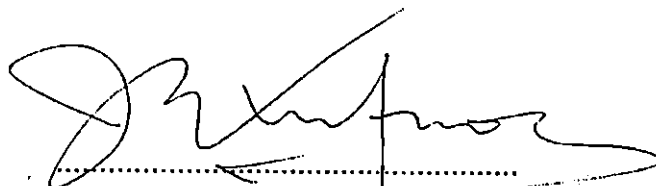
ARTICLE 7

Member States shall train or encourage training of senior officials and ensure that they acquire valid technical skills in the sectors of development and regional integration.

ARTICLE 8

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published within the same time-frame in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005



H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC. 6/01/05 ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL
REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE
ECOWAS ELECTRICITY SECTOR PRIOR
TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL
REGULATORY BODY**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

Mindful of the objectives of ECOWAS towards promoting economic cooperation and integration in West Africa in accordance with Article 26 of the ECOWAS Treaty, which stresses the importance of regional cooperation in industrial, scientific and technological fields in general, and cooperation in the energy sector, in particular;

Mindful of Decision A/DEC.3/5/82 relating to the ECOWAS Energy Policy adopted by the Authority of the Heads of State and Government in 1982;

Recalling regulation C/REG.7 /12/99 on the adoption of a master plan for the development of energy production facilities and the interconnection of the electricity grids of the ECOWAS Member States;

Aware of the need to coordinate the efforts of Member States to implement ECOWAS priority action plans in relation to the interconnection of infrastructures;

Mindful of Article 2 of the Decision A/DEC.S/12/99, which created a coordination unit consisting of the Energy Ministers and a Committee of Chief Executive Officers of the Member States electricity companies and defined their respective roles;

Recalling the setting up of a regional electricity market entitled, the West African Power Pool (WAPP) aimed at promoting the realization of regional investments in terms of energy production and interconnection and grid systems;

Also mindful of Decision A/17/01/03 relating to the adoption of the ECOWAS Energy protocol in

order to ensure free trade of energy and energy equipments and products between the Member States, to attract and protect private investment, and to ensure the protection of the environment and energy efficiency;

Considering that Article 31 of the ECOWAS, Energy protocol requires that the Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Member States establish Regional Regulatory Bodies for energy systems, programmes and projects within the framework of implementation of the Energy Protocol;

Recognizing that a regulatory entity for the electricity sector will address sectoral problems relating to development of interstate electricity exchanges and acceleration of sectoral reforms, contributing to the support of the development of common standards and dissemination of "good practices" among all actors;

Recalling that the French Development Agency and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat signed agreement CZZ 3001 01 R on the provision of £5 million for the establishment of the Regional Regulatory Body;

Noting that the West African Power Pool (WAPP) Technical and Institutional Working Groups' experts adopted the "Terms of Reference" for the establishment of the Regional Regulatory Body;

Desirous of establishing a Regional Regulatory framework for the electricity sector within the sub-region that would herald the eventual setting up of a Regional Regulatory Body;

On the Recommendation of the fifty-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Accra, from 16th to 18th January 2005;

DECIDES

Article 1

A Regional Regulation framework for the ECOWAS electricity sector shall be developed as a prelude to the establishment of a Regional Regulatory body for this sector.

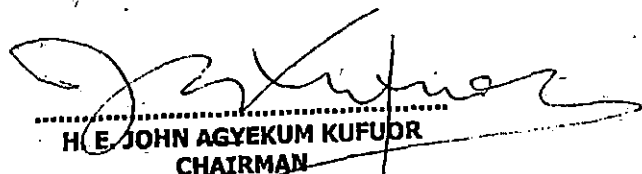
Article 2

The Executive Secretariat shall take all necessary measures for the development of this Regulatory framework.

Article 3

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY, 2005**



.....
H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN

FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC. 7/01/05 RELATING TO
THE ECOWAS REVISED MASTER PLAN
FOR THE GENERATION AND
TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL
ENERGY**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

Mindful of the objectives of ECOWAS towards promoting economic cooperation and integration in West Africa in accordance with Article 26 of the ECOWAS Treaty, which stresses the importance of regional cooperation in industrial, scientific and technological fields in general, and cooperation in the energy sector, in particular;

Mindful of Decision A/DEC.3/S/82 relating to the Energy Policy of ECOWAS, adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government in 1982;

Mindful that the Heads of State and Government, taking into account the ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan, adopted in Decision A/DEC.S/12/99 establishing a regional electricity market - the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) project as a means of reducing the collective vulnerability of the member states to such power shortages;

Recalling that the Steering Committee of WAPP adopted in September 2000 in Lome, Togo, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the WAPP Project for the implementation of the Community energy program, creating also technical and institutional Working Groups of experts to coordinate the program;

Also Recalling that in March 2001, in Dakar, Senegal, the Chief Executives of the National Power Utilities signed an inter-Utilities MOU in which they agreed to cooperate fully with the ECOWAS Secretariat towards achieving a common understanding of regional economies and optimal resource utilization strategies from both national and regional perspectives;

Considering that in November 2002, the "Meeting of WAPP Donors" requested the ECOWAS Secretariat to update the original ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan;

Mindful that the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government by decision A/DEC.17/01/03, adopted the ECOWAS Energy Protocol in order to ensure free trade of energy and energy equipments and products between the Member States, to attract and protect private investment, and to ensure the protection of the environment and energy efficiency;

Mindful that the WAPP Project is classified as a NEPAD "flagship project";

Considering that in response to the request of the ECOWAS Secretariat, the USAID funded consultants to perform a multi-faceted study of the ECOWAS Member States in order to: (i) re-assess the generation and transmission investment requirements over the period 2004-2020; (ii) analyse the operational stability of existing and proposed interconnected national power systems; and (iii) update the implementation strategy for WAPP priority interconnection line projects;

Noting that the WAPP Technical and Institutional working group has validated a Revised ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan on the basis of studies performed by the consultant;

Desirous therefore of adopting a Revised ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan;

On the recommendation of the fifty-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Accra, from 16th to 18th January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

A revised ECOWAS Master Plan for the Generation and Transmission of Electrical Energy as well as, the attached implementation and Expenditure plan strategy are hereby adopted.


ARTICLE 2

The Executive Secretariat shall adopt all necessary measures for the implementation of the Revised ECOWAS Master Plan for the Generation and Transmission of Electrical Energy.

ARTICLE 3

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2005



H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

DECISION A/DEC. 8/01/05 SETTING OUT THE LEGAL REGIME FOR COASTAL SHIPPING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

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

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 32 of the ECOWAS Treaty relating to Transport and Communications;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.20/5/80 relating to the Community Transport Programme, which seeks to coordinate and develop a modern and efficient transportation system within the sub-region;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DECA/II/84 relating to Maritime Transport;

MINDFUL of Directive A/DIR/2/12/88 relating to the application of the Maritime Transport Programme;

CONSIDERING that the development of coastal shipping services has promoted growth in intra-Community maritime trade;

NOTING that this growth in coastal shipping services has not been followed up with the adoption of a regulation capable of promoting the judicious development and operation of maritime transport within the sub-region;

CONVINCED of the urgent need to fill this gap in coastal shipping services by preparing a regulation that is appropriate and suitable to maritime practices and customs;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-third session of the Council of Minister, held in Accra from 16 to 18 January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Decision,

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

"Community" means the Economic Community of West African States established by the Treaty signed in LAGOS on 28 May 1975;

"Member States" means the States of the Economic Community of West African States;

"Community Citizen or Citizens" means any national of the member States who satisfies the conditions stipulated in Protocol A/P3/5/82 of 29 May 1982 defining Community Citizenship;

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

"Cabotage" means the transportation for a fee, of goods and/or passengers exclusively from or to several ports within the Community;

"Competent Authority", means the Minister in charge of Maritime transport administration or any other official with delegated authority to act in that capacity;

"Port" means a shelter located on the coast or by the seaside, equipped with infrastructures to receive ships, goods and passengers;

"Vessel" means a ship that regularly undertakes maritime navigation;

"Maritime companies" are enterprises that own or operate vessels equipped with crew and material;

"Crew" means persons recruited aboard vessels and charged with the piloting, maintaining and guarding the means of transport from one port to another;

"Operating licence" means the administrative authorisation granted by the competent authorities of a member State to a maritime company for the purpose of operating coastal shipping services within the Community;

ARTICLE 2: SCOPE

This decision shall set out the legal regime for coastal shipping in all the ports of the Community.

ARTICLE 3: REGISTRATION - HEADQUARTERS

1. Maritime companies and vessels belonging to one or several Community citizens shall be registered in a member State of the Community.
2. The headquarters or "the principal establishment" of the Maritime Company shall be established in the Member State where the vessel is registered.
3. The Maritime Company may also establish branches in one or several States of the Community.

ARTICLE 4: SECURITY STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO VESSELS

Vessels used for coastal shipping within the Community shall be built in conformity with the international maritime standards in force.

ARTICLE 5: CREW

1. Vessels operating coastal shipping services shall employ as navigation staff, Community citizens who are qualified in the field of maritime navigation.
2. However, in the event of absence of qualified Community Citizens in the area mentioned above, member States may waive the aforementioned condition by recruiting non-Community personnel, the percentage of which may not exceed that of Community citizens.

ARTICLE 6: OPERATING LICENCE

1. The competent authority of a member State shall grant an operating licence to any Community Citizen who so desires, for the purpose of operating coastal shipping services in the ports of the Community.
2. The Member State that grants the operating licence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall notify the other member States of the Community thereof.
3. Only vessels and maritime companies, which meet the conditions stipulated in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this decision shall be authorised to operate coastal shipping services in the ports of the Community.

ARTICLE 7: PORT, INSTALLATION AND MARITIME NAVIGATION SERVICE CHARGES

Notwithstanding the provisions of this decision, each Member State may impose on any coastal shipping service, fair and reasonable charges in respect of the use of the ports and the provision of maritime navigation services.

ARTICLE 8: SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF OPERATING LICENCE

Any member State that grants an operating licence shall have the right to suspend its use or to revoke it, where the vessel or the beneficiary company fails to satisfy the conditions stipulated in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 above or the security standards prescribed by international conventions, particularly the S.I.P.S. code.

ARTICLE 9: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. In the event of a dispute between member States arising from the application or interpretation of this decision, member State-parties shall settle such dispute by direct amicable negotiations.
2. In the absence of an agreement, the dispute shall be submitted to the ECOWAS Court of Justice.

ARTICLE 10: GENERAL PROVISIONS: MUTUAL UNDERTAKING

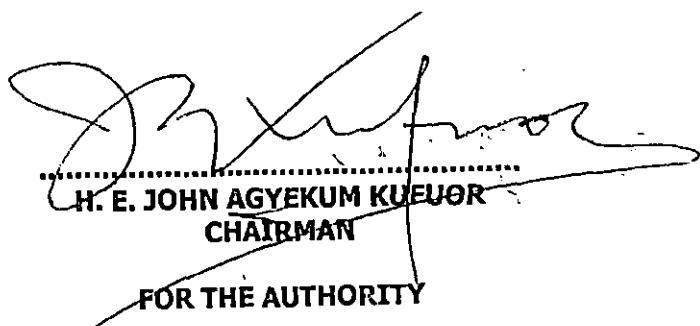
1. Notwithstanding the application of the provisions of this decision, member States shall grant companies and vessels operating coastal shipping services, the same rights and privileges as those granted national companies. In any case, vessels operating coastal shipping services shall enjoy preferential treatment in respect of piloting and priority berthing rights.
2. In conformity with their obligations under the International Law of the Sea, member States reaffirm their mutual commitment to prevent or protect maritime transport from illegal acts by applying the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and its subsequent amendments of 12 December 2002 on the

S.I.P.S. as well as the International Convention on combating illegal acts against the safety of maritime navigation, 1988.

ARTICLE 11: FINAL PROVISIONS

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time-frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY, 2005**



H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUEVOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC. 9/01/05 CREATING ROAD
TRANSPORT AND TRANSIT FACILITATION
AND CROSS-BORDER CORRIDOR
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN WEST
AFRICA**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 32 of the said Treaty relating to transport and communications;

MINDFUL of the relevant provisions of Protocol A/P1/5/82 regulating inter-State road transport and Convention A/P4/S/82 on Inter-State Road Transit of Goods;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/SP1/5/90 establishing within the Community, a guarantee mechanism for inter-State road transit of goods operations;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.20/5/80 relating to the ECOWAS Common Transport Programme, and Decision A/DEC.2/5/81 relating to the Harmonisation of Road Legislations within the Economic Community of West African States;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.8./12/88 on the 2nd Phase of the Project aimed at opening up the landlocked Member States;

RECALLING Decision A/DEC.3/8/94 establishing National Monitoring Committees for effective implementation of the ECOWAS decisions and protocols in the transport area.

RECALLING also Decision A/DEC.13/01/03 relating to the implementation of the regional road transit facilitation programme;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.13/12/2001, relating to highways that contribute most to the promotion of intra-Community trade and inter-State movement;

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.4/5/90 on the reduction of the number of road check-points in ECOWAS Member States;

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.5/5/90 relating to the maximum permissible axle load and

subsequent ones;

CONSIDERING that the proliferation of road check-points constitutes a real impediment to the harmonious development of trade in the region and to the implementation of the Regional Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme;

CONVINCED that reduced non-tariff barriers in the region and reduced international transport costs will go a long way in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the main transport corridors in West Africa;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to realising the Community objectives that are consistent with those of NEPAD, especially in matters relating to cross-border corridor management and simplification of formalities, procedures and documents on transport and trade, and improving information systems and the transit infrastructure;

AWARE that the realisation of such facilitation objectives require the establishment of appropriate organs or structures;

CONVINCED that the creation of Cross-border Corridor Transport and Transit Facilitation Committees would enhance the smooth flow of road transport and transit, and facilitate the implementation of the Regional Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Program that is long overdue;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-third Session of the Council of Ministers held in Accra from 16 to 18 January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

1. It is hereby established a national committee in each Member State and a Regional Committee for the ECOWAS sub region to facilitate Inter-State Road Transport and Transit.
2. An Inter-State Cross Border Corridor Management Committee is also hereby established in each Member State.

ARTICLE 2

1. The National Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Committees shall comprise a

representative from each of following:

- The Directorate in charge of Road Transport
- The Directorate in charge of Customs
- The Gendamerie Nationale
- The National Police
- The Directorate in charge of Trade
- The organized Road Transport operators
- The guarantor for road transit operations
- The forwarding agents
- The Customs Agents
- The port authorities
- The UEMOA National Unit
- The ECOWAS National Unit
- The ECOWAS Brown Card Association
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Any other institution or structure

2. The Director of Road Transport shall be the Chairperson of the National Facilitation Committee.

ARTICLE 3

1. The Regional Inter-State Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Committee shall comprise two representatives from the following

- the National Inter-State Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Committees (one from the public sector and one from the private sector)
- the Executive Secretariat
- UEMOA

2. The tenure of the chairman of the committee shall not exceed two (2) years
3. The meetings of the committee shall be convened by the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat.

ARTICLE 4 - CROSS BORDER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Road Transport Corridor Management Committee shall comprise four representatives

of Member States situated on the identified corridors. They shall be made up of:

- a. two (2) representatives of the public sector;
- b. two (2) representatives of the private sector.

ARTICLE 5

The National and Regional Transport and Facilitation Committees shall ensure the implementation of the tasks assigned to them so as to ensure smooth flow of Inter State Road Transport, as well as the implementation of the Regional Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Program.

ARTICLE 6

The Cross-Border Corridor Management Committees shall monitor and coordinate activities relating to the implementation of the Inter-State Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Program, Inter-State Transit, identify obstacles hampering the smooth flow of traffic along the corridor and make recommendations with a view to removing them

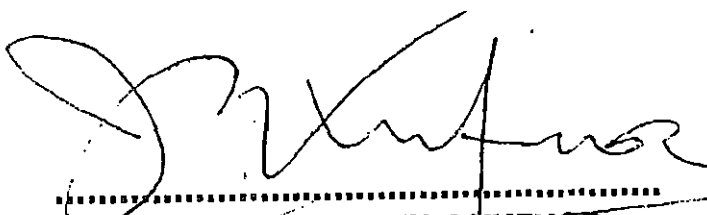
ARTICLE 7

Member States shall take all necessary legal and administrative measures to ensure the effective creation and operation of the committees referred to in Article 1 of this decision.

ARTICLE 8

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY JANUARY, 2005



H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC. 10/01/05 ALLOCATING
THE POSTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY AND DEPUTY
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF THE
SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL ACTION GROUP
AGAINST MONEY-LAUNDERING IN AFRICA
(GIABA) TO MEMBER STATES**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for the adoption of a sub-regional strategy that would protect the banking and financial systems of Member States from use by Criminal organizations for the purpose of laundering the proceeds from their criminal activities;

RECALLING our Decisions A/DEC.9/12/99 and A/DEC.6/12/00 establishing the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money-Laundering in Africa (GIASA) for this purpose and adopting the Statutes of this Agency respectively;

NOTING the administrative lapses of GIASA's structure, which affect its operational efficiency, thus diminishing all efforts at developing multilateral action against money-laundering;

MINDFUL of the need to find a remedy to them through human capacity building through the appointment of qualified statutory officers to fill the positions of the Administrative Secretary and the Deputy Administrative Secretary to steer the affairs of the agency and effectively discharge the mandate of GIASA.

DESIRING therefore to allocate these statutory positions to Member States of the Community;

AFTER CONSULTATIONS undertaken by the Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS with his peers;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The Statutory positions of the Administrative Secretary and Deputy Administrative Secretary within GIABA are hereby allocated to the following Member States:-

- (a) Administrative Secretary: Federal Republic of Nigeria
- (b) Deputy Administrative Secretary: Republic of Senegal

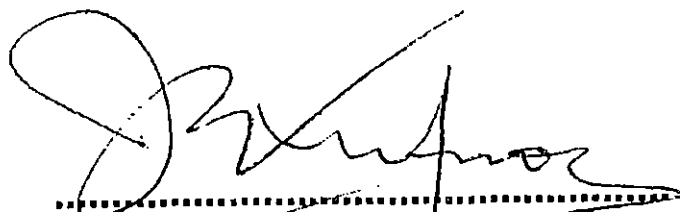
ARTICLE 2

The ECOWAS Council of Ministers shall take all necessary steps for the early appointment of suitably qualified candidates from the designated Member States to assume the positions of Administrative Secretary and Deputy Administrative Secretary.

ARTICLE 3

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY, 2005**



**H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN**

FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC. 11/01/05 ADOPTING
AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR THE
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST
AFRICAN STATES - ECOWAP**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Articles 2, 3, 5, 22, 23 and 25 of the said Treaty;

CONSIDERING the leading role of agriculture in the West African economy as well as the effects its development can have on the other sectors of activity;

CONSIDERING the importance of trade in agricultural produce in integrating the region into the international market;

CONSIDERING the overriding role of this sector, particularly through family farms, in reducing poverty and food insecurity at the family, national and regional levels, and the important agro-business related role that the private sector can play in creating jobs and improving productivity;

CONSIDERING the need to modernize agriculture in member ECOWAS States in order to increase productivity and agricultural supplies, meet the increasing food needs and create new jobs;

CONSIDERING the overriding role that agriculture plays in the development of the zone, in sustaining the vitality of the area, and in the management of natural resources and environmental conservation;

CONSIDERING the dominant position of women in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and the significance of these activities in the creation of wealth at both the microeconomic and macroeconomic levels, therefore necessitating their increased involvement in decision-making on policies,

programmes and projects;

CONSIDERING the place accorded the agricultural sector on the one hand, and to the infrastructures conducive to the development of production and trade in agricultural produce, on the other hand, within the vision and priorities articulated at the continental level by NEPAD;

CONSIDERING the decision made by the Heads of State and Government in Yamoussoukro in May 2002, entrusting ECOWAS with the task of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of NEPAD in West Africa;

CONSIDERING the dynamics of cooperation between ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, which seek to fully harmonise their strategies and policies in the sector, in order to integrate all ECOWAS member States;

FULLY AWARE of the difficulties encountered with national agricultural policies in improving producers' environment and making available to them the innovations, technologies or advice that they require, and the role regional cooperation can play in these areas;

JUDGING as particularly alarming, the environmental problems posed by agricultural development in a highly urbanized environment devoid of an improvement in the production systems despite the continued degradation of the forest cover and soil depletion;

CONVINCED that the disparities between the agricultural zones of the Community arising from agro-ecological constraints, their landlocked or insular nature, constitute an obstacle to the harmonious integration of the region at the economic, social and political levels;

RECALLING the commitment made in Maputo in July 2003 by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to allocate at least 10 % of national budgets to the development of the agricultural sector in order to improve productivity and reduce food insecurity;

UPON THE RECOMMENDATION of the session of the Council of Ministers held in Accra, from 16 to 18 January 2005;

DECIDES**ARTICLE 1**

The West African Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States, known as ECOWAP, is hereby adopted, as attached.

ARTICLE 2

1. The Heads of State and Government commit:
 - a. The ECOWAS Executive Secretariat to take all necessary measures to effectively implement this decision, and in particular, to define more precisely the plan of action, the institutional structure, the financing system and lastly the monitoring and evaluation mechanism;
 - b. The Member states to harmonise their national agricultural policies with the regional policy and to place emphasis on those aspects that depend mainly on interventions at the national level.
2. They invite:
 - a. The other regional integration or cooperation organizations to align their strategies, policies and programs in the agricultural, food and natural resource management sectors with the guiding principles and priorities of the West African Agricultural Policy;
 - b. All private sector stakeholders and socio-professional organizations to actively take part in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

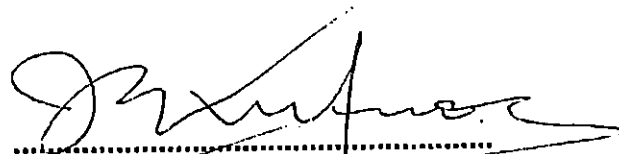
ARTICLE 3

The detailed contents of the attached Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States shall form part and parcel of this decision.

ARTICLE 4

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**



H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

ANNEX TO DECISION A/DEC.11/01/05 RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES AGRICULTURAL POLICY (ECOWAP)

1. Context

The agricultural sector constitutes a determining component of the economy of West Africa, as much due to the size of its contribution to wealth, employment, and food security within the region as to the place of the sub-region on international markets.

It contributes as much as 35% of regional GDP as well as 15.3 % of all goods and services exports of the region.

The agricultural sector is the principal source of employment for the West African region: 60% of all West Africans live in rural areas and draw most of their resources from agricultural activities. In addition, 65% of active workers, of which more than half are women, work in the agricultural sector, mostly in the area of production.

Women occupy an important place in the production, processing and marketing processes of agricultural produce, but are inadequately represented and taken care of in decisions on decisions, programmes and projects that also concern them.

Meanwhile, West African agriculture is characterized by low productivity. Agricultural yields are extremely low in general. This weak performance is attributable to several factors: institutional weaknesses; ecological and land tenure constraints, weak use of innovative technologies, disengagement of the States, without any support measures, effects of political conflicts, and the impact of the international environment.

Poverty and food insecurity, which characterize 30% and 17% respectively of the population, affect rural areas more harshly than urban; vulnerable groups include women, children, and the aged. This impacts the capacity for productive investment in the household, and in particular in the agricultural sector.

The satisfaction of regional food needs rests in large part on local production and imports mostly from the rest of the world. Imports of food products constitute 19% of all ECOWAS imports.

New prospects are appearing thanks to research and development in agricultural biotechnologies. This technical revolution opens new opportunities for increasing output and reducing the vulnerability of plant and animal species to the hazards of climate and diseases, provided that bio-safety risks and risks associated with dependence on seed supplies are kept in check.

In light of these challenges, Article 25.2 (h) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty stipulates that the Member States agree to move towards the adoption and implementation of a common agricultural policy.

In application of this agreement, the ECOWAS Ministerial Commission for Food and Agriculture adopted in 2001 in Bamako the principal elements of an orientation framework for the aforesaid policy and instructed the Executive Secretariat to commission a study leading to the preparation of this policy.

This Economic Community of West Africa Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) should define the principles and objectives related to the agricultural sector, the orientation of agricultural development, and the axes of intervention through which the sub-region will exploit its potential to assure:

- sustainable food security in the Member States;
- decent remuneration for agricultural workers;
- expansion of trade on a sustainable basis as much within the region as with the rest of the world.

ECOWAP should constitute an instrument for harmonizing and integrating targeted objectives, via diverse strategies and programmes, of the countries and intergovernmental organizations of the sub-region. This includes in particular, the agricultural policy of UEMOA (the P AU), which concerns its eight member countries who are all also members of ECOWAS, the Strategic framework for sustainable food security aimed at fighting against poverty in the sahel, involving the nine member States of CILSS, seven of which are

also members of ECOWAS, the sub-regional programme of action against desertification, which covers all the countries of West Africa and Chad. This gradual integration will make it possible to avoid duplication of efforts in the pursuit of common objectives.

To reach this goal, ECOWAS provided for the formulation of ECOWAP as a participatory process of consultation and negotiation between national governments; socio-professional (ROPP A, RECAO) and civil society stakeholders; the principal regional organizations for economic integration; the institutions involved in agricultural, food and environmental cooperation.

The West African agricultural policy is also consistent with the implementation of NEPAD, undertaken by ECOWAS for the region of West Africa. ECOWAP, which contributes to the achievement of NEPAD objectives, can thus benefit from the investments and other elements that NEPAD seeks to promote.

2. Vision

The West African agricultural policy is set within the perspective of a modern and sustainable agriculture based on effective and efficient family farms and the promotion of agricultural enterprises through the involvement of the private sector. Once productivity and competitiveness on the intra-community and international markets are achieved, the policy should be able to guarantee food security and secure decent incomes for agricultural workers.

3. Challenges for the agricultural policy

With regard to the present characteristics of the agricultural sector and its importance for the economy and the regional population, the challenges for the ECOWAP are essentially in three areas.

The first major challenge is to adequately feed a West African population more and more numerous and increasingly urbanized. The agricultural policy of the community, to satisfy the food needs of this growing population, opts above all to increase development of regional availability.

The second challenge concerns the promotion of sustainable development, both socially and environmentally.

Socially, this involves reversing the tendency towards increased poverty among farmers and creating a rural life that is attractive for them. It also involves fighting against the major pandemics, such as HIV / AIDS, malaria, river blindness, which impede production.

Environmentally, it involves promoting sustainable management of natural resources by relying on production systems that are productive and also respect the environment. These systems should exploit the largely undeveloped potential that exists for land management, irrigation, and innovative technology.

The third challenge involves the construction of a strong regional market and the presence of West African agriculture in the international market. WTO, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with the European Union (EU-ACP) as well as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

4. Coverage of ECOWAP

The West Africa agricultural policy covers, in conformity with the Revised ECOWAS Treaty, all production of the agriculture, livestock, and fishing, sectors, along with forestry and natural resource management.

5. Objectives

5.1. General objective

The overall objective sought by the West African Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) is to "contribute in a sustainable way to meeting the food needs of the population, to economic and social development, to the reduction of poverty in the Member States, and thus to reduce existing inequalities among territories, zones and nations."

5.2. Specific objectives

This general objective can be broken down into seven specific objectives:

Specific Objective n.1: to ensure food security for the rural and urban population of West Africa and the health quality of its products, following an approach that guarantees food sovereignty for

the region;

Specific Objective n.2: to reduce dependence on imports by granting priority to food production and processing and by developing regional complementarities and comparative advantage, while taking into account the particular circumstances of zones and countries linked to their insular or land-locked location;

Specific Objective n. 3: to support the equitable economic and commercial integration of agricultural enterprises into national, regional, and international markets, so as to improve rural incomes, and notably the incomes of females;

Specific Objective n.4: to develop human capacities, create employment and incomes upstream and downstream of production, and to contribute to the development of services in the rural sector (including those in the health area, especially the fight against HIV / AIDS, malaria and other family related diseases and hazards, etc.) in order to improve the living conditions of the rural population and in particular of the women;

Specific Objective n.5: to ensure intensification of production systems, appropriate to the different agro-ecological contexts, in order to ensure an increase in production while developing and preserving natural resources and biodiversity;

Specific Objective n. 6: to contribute to the reduction of the vulnerability of West African economies and to reduce the factors of instability and of regional insecurity, in particular those relating to natural disasters or tied to peace, security, and good governance;

Specific objective n.7: to provide West African Agriculture with appropriate funding mechanisms to meet the diversity of farming systems and the various investment needs.

6. Guiding principles

The construction of regional integration is a long and complex process. It rests on a few guiding principles that sector policies must try to translate into reality.

The principle of subsidiarity according to which

one treats at the regional level only that which cannot be better addressed at a lower level, national or local. This principle implies, among other things, that "national jurisdiction is the rule, community jurisdiction the exception".

The principle of proportionality, which implies that the action of the community should not exceed that which is necessary to realize the objectives of the Treaty. Its application must, among other things, avoid imposing on member countries rules that are too stringent or efforts too great relative to those that would be reasonable or effective.

The principle of complementarity permits taking into account of the comparative advantage of different countries and productive sectors, as well as bringing a geographic dimension to agricultural policy, at the same time that it also permits discretionary public investment and external aid.

The principle of regionality according to which the Community deals only with issues that concern at last two Member States

The principle of solidarity according to which the Community guarantees a minimum level of cohesion between its members and provides common financial, human, and institutional resources to reduce the disparities that exist between the members;

The principle of partnership and consultation assures the permanent involvement of stakeholders in the agricultural sector in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and eventual reform of the West Africa agricultural policy. The search for synergy and efficiency in the implementation of different strategies suggests a sharing of responsibilities based on the experience and knowledge of the different stakeholders and institutions working in the sector.

The principle of progressivity involves moving forward gradually so as to take into account different national circumstances and particular interests.

7. Axes of intervention

Interventions to attain the objectives of ECOW AP fall along three major axes:

- Increasing the productivity and competitiveness of West African agriculture;
- Implementing a trade regime within West Africa;
- Adapting the trade regime vis-a-vis countries outside the region.

The first of these axes focuses on improving food security, increasing farmer incomes, and reducing poverty at the level of the farm and rural community, while the second and third axes are directed towards assuring access to regional and international markets in order to sell productions resulting from an increase in the supply side, made possible by the adoption of modern farming systems.

7.1. Increasing productivity and competitiveness of agriculture

Increasing the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture requires modernization of farming, development of agro-food chains, managing shared resources, and prevention and management of famine and the management of the effects of natural disasters.

7.1.1. Modernization of farming

Modernization of farming practices is necessary in order to make agriculture more productive and competitive. This is achieved primarily by making modern inputs accessible to the farmer, through agricultural research and dissemination, and by increasing the knowledge and capacity of rural enterprises. This modernization should primarily concern the family farm taking into account its social role. The other types of farming are also taken into account.

The modernization of agriculture should go hand in hand with land tenure security within the framework of settlement rights. The development of water control, as well as water and soil conservation activities, the improvement of soil fertility are as many important levers to ensure this modernization.

7.1.1.1 Agricultural inputs and equipment

Modern agriculture requires that farmers have access to inputs such as fertilizer, improved seeds, phytosanitary products, farm equipment, water, land, and labor. For farmers to purchase these inputs, both equity capital and rural finance are required, the latter comprising both working capital and term loans.

There are important regional dimensions to improving access to agricultural inputs, finance, land, and labor. Some of these have to do with establishing the rules and regulations that ensure access through well functioning markets. There are also investments that can be made in infrastructure, knowledge, and institutions. Development of regional capital markets expands access to regional finance for agriculture and agro-industry

7.1.1.2 Agricultural research and dissemination of findings

Agricultural research and the dissemination of its results is essential to the process of transforming production, processing, and storage. Agricultural research should be promoted at the regional level. There are existing initiatives for regional coordination in research, e.g., CORAF, JWE CARD, the Sahel Institute, but there is a continuing need to rationalize agricultural research and develop the logistics for specialization and cooperation among the national and international centers of agro-economic research (ICRISA T, IIT A, ADRAO, etc). ECOWAS will work with the regional institutions for which it has a mandate to develop an elaborate program for revitalizing research and evaluating the results and the transfer of technological, technical and social innovations. Special attention should be paid to research in agricultural biotechnologies in order to make maximum use of the opportunities offered by these innovations so as to benefit from them, while taking the most care, in view of the possible risks.

7.1.1.3 Building human capacity

Parallel to research, there is a need to build human capacity. This requires formal training as well as hands-on practical experience. There is an important role for training at the regional level in order to avoid duplication and for sharing educational experience.

7.1.2. Development of agricultural and agro-food chains

Development of agro-food chains is an important means of assuring demand for agricultural production and growth of rural incomes. Given the importance of agriculture in regional economic development and in the fight against poverty, the agricultural policy will actively support the development of:

important chains for food security: foodstuff chains export chains on the international markets: coffee, cocoa, cotton, tropical fruits, oleaginous fruits, etc strategic chains at the regional level: cattle-beef chains, fish, dairy products, fruits and vegetables (mangoes, onions, tomatoes, etc);

strategic chains, having regard to the preservation of natural resources and the environment: timber and forestry products, maritime resources.

There are important areas in which the principle of regional subsidiarity is clear:

Development of processing, storage and preservation;

Harmonization and standardization of sanitary and phytosanitary norms. Infrastructure at the regional level.

Support for the organization of stakeholders and promotion of regional dialogue.

7.1.2.1. Development of processing, storage and preservation

The promotion of high performing agro-food value chains at the regional level involves the development of processing, storage and preservation as well as distribution networks for agricultural and food products. For the food value chains, this represents a vector for reducing losses, adaptation to the consumer needs and increase in value added. The regional level will act as an incentive for research and technology transfer as regards storage and processing, and also for the promotion of investment in food processing, storage and preservation industries. For the exports products, the regional level will encourage pooling of investments and technology transfer for the processing of raw materials, making it possible to enhance the value of the products on overseas markets.

7.1.2.2. Harmonizing sanitary and phytosanitary norms and standards

The harmonization of norms and standards for the production and usage of products and inputs is a mechanism for regulation of regional and international trade, since it defines the requirements for fair competition among producers at the same time that it protects consumers against abusive and dangerous practices. Imposition and enforcement of norms and standards normally applies to food, veterinary products, and agricultural chemicals. Some Member States of ECOWAS already have an active role in Codex Alimentarius, which monitors international food safety standards. For veterinary products, UEMOA has in place a harmonized system for authorizing market entrance (AMM) and has invested in the establishment of a regional regulatory agency that will manage the AMM in a centralized way. This agency could widen its area of competence to all of ECOWAS. Regarding agricultural chemicals, most ECOWAS countries are signatories of the ICPP. CILSS has already begun to play a role in this area analogous to that of the UEMOA agency for veterinary products. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Secretariat to harness these achievements for the benefit of the entire West African region. The implementation of this programme will make it possible to guarantee production and high quality supplies to producers and consumers.

7.1.2.3. Development of production and commercial infrastructure

Regional investments must allow for the realization of economies of scale and support for the development of comparative advantage. ECOWAS will support the development of infrastructure for urban development, irrigation, energy, storage, cross border trade, and exports. Strengthening information systems

The agricultural policy will also assist in the extension of information systems throughout West Africa. An information strategy in the region must be based on several pillars:

Information on agricultural production (area, output, yields);

Market information (producer and consumer prices, quality standards). Comparability, aggregation, update and maintenance of data

within the region.

7.1.2.5. Organization of stakeholders and promotion of dialogue

National organizational structures, whether in the form of inter-professional associations or vertical coordination among stakeholders, need to be linked at the regional level. Some product chain organizations of producers (e.g., poultry farming, oilseeds) have joined together in federations. Regional organization initiatives also exist on a general basis (ROPPA, RECAO) as well as on the basis of common economic problems (rice, cotton), and certain national organizations act as drivers at the regional level (potatoes).

The dialogue at the regional level can equip ECOWAS with the necessary impetus to carry out its missions. These include (i) the classification of products and application of tariff rules concerning the established categories, (ii) harmonization of fiscal regulations and of norms and standards, (iii) promotion of product chains of regional importance on external markets; (iv) definition of investment policy at the regional level.

7.1.3 Management of shared resources

Agricultural development should rest on the adoption of farming systems that guarantee a sustainable management of natural resources. This depends mainly on policies at the national level. However, action is required at the regional level in two areas:

the harmonization of norms and standards on risky factors of production; the definition of common rules for the management of shared resources.

In effect, beyond the economic interdependencies connected to the regionalization of markets, cultivation, livestock, fisheries, and forestry together use common resources. The common management of resources is an important issue with regard to the goals for agricultural development and the management of natural resources and prevention of conflicts of use. The issue of these resources also depends on the preservation of ecosystems and of biodiversity in natural areas.

7.1.3.1 Transhumance and protection of pasture and croplands

Transhumance is a traditional way to develop natural resources in an economically efficient way. It allows for herds to move back and forth between agro-ecological zones at different times of the year. But pastoral herding also creates problems related to the reduction of available grazing space because of population growth, the extension of cultivation, and the absence of a viable strategy for intensification. ECOWAS has conceived of a regional program targeted on the problem of transhumance. It includes several dimensions:

the installation of transhumance corridors and areas for grazing (water holes, etc.), prevention and health guarantees (cattle passport), definition of usage rules and regulations for conflicts, etc.

7.1.3.2 Management of water and river basins

The management of water resources is one of the more strategic challenges for the coming decades. Competition for water will become crucial among domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses. In addition to groundwater resources, the main part of the area's fresh water resources concerns rivers. They cross over several countries and essentially represent a common resource. Although regional river basin authorities exist (e.g., OMVS, ABN), their viability varies. It is essential that these authorities be revitalized in order to partition water resources among countries, ensure the preservation of upstream watersheds, and assure the sustainable use of this precious resource.

7.1.4 Preventing and managing famine and other natural disasters

There are a number of existing institutions and projects that assist in preventing and managing famine and natural disasters in the region (CILSS). These institutions and projects need to be strengthened and their actions in collecting and disseminating information be extended to the entire region. These actions relate mainly to the:

Vulnerability of populations in respect of access to food; Early warning of production shortfalls; Connection between deficit and surplus

production zones; Animal health and phytosanitary protection;
 Natural disaster prevention and management (desert locust, drought, floods, etc.);
 Management of post-conflict food crises.
 These institutions and projects also need to be strengthened in their ability to manage buffer stocks and more generally food crises.

7.1.5 Funding of Agriculture

The weakness of mechanisms to finance upstream and downstream agricultural activities constitutes a veritable obstacle. The regional agricultural policy will help to provide agriculture with the appropriate financing mechanisms that meet the needs of the different stakeholders.
 Financing of agriculture will be at several levels: financing of agricultural activity itself (i.e. farms): this rests principally on public and private mechanisms and resources (the banking sector) mobilized at the national level; mobilization of funds to improve the production environment and that of the chains: regional programmes (regional public property) targeted by research, dissemination of results, infrastructures, etc. Funding shall come from ECOWAS own funds and external sources;
 financing of private-sector based regional activities: production and distribution of inputs, processing, preservation of products from the regional chains, etc. Resources for this purpose will come mainly from the private sector.

7.1. *Implementation of the trade regime within the community*

A free trade area already exists on paper within ECOWAS, but the biggest constraints on regional trade in agricultural products are not tariffs but non-tariff barriers. To deal with some of these, the regional institutions implement a Regional Transport and Transit Facilitation Program. There are also extensive problems with customs administration, transportation infrastructure, and transportation and communications regulations.
 The harmonization of the internal tax policy and the promotion of tax incentives constitute an important lever for the development of productions and markets, while avoiding distortions of competition within the community area.
 ECOWAS actions in those fields are essential for

the effective implementation of the ECOWAP.

7.2 *Adaptation of trade regime with outside countries*

The formulation of a regional agricultural policy for ECOWAS must take into account the fact that many of the parameters of this policy have already been determined by the customs union established under the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU/UEMOA), which is currently being extended to ECOWAS as a whole.

The general principles of this custom union are already agreed to by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government. The negotiations with the non-WAEMU members are pursued during the transition period of 2005-07 to take on board the agricultural and food concerns.

The use of a customs union to achieve economies of scale within the ECOWAS region of West Africa is highly desirable. However, special measures are necessary for some agricultural products. This will involve differential protection and negotiations within WTO.

7.3.1 Differential protection for agricultural products

West Africa is severely frustrated by the policies of the industrial countries that undermine world prices for such products as cotton, sugar, oilseeds and livestock products, etc in which the region might have a comparative advantage in the absence of these policies. Without a viable WTO agreement on agriculture, which would reduce or eliminate production and other such industrial country subsidies, unilateral protective action at the regional level is justified as a way of compensating for distortions in the world market. Similar differential protection may be warranted for uncertainties associated with global market trends and where vulnerable populations may be injured.

Such protection is also justified by the need to protect investment for some agro-food chains in which the region has potential comparative advantages.

This differential protection must be adapted to the internal and external situation specific to each

agricultural product. The tax policy at the borders should help create an enabling and stable trade environment to make the development of the value chains more secure.

7.2.2. Harmonization of negotiating positions

Just as the creation of a single regional market implies coordination among countries, so opening up to the world market implies the acceptance of a certain level of delegation to regional authorities for relationships with third parties involving tariff bindings, rules of access, norms and standards, and other elements of the international trade regime. ECOWAS can only defend the common position of its Member States if the principles of equity and solidarity among countries are respected. This requires avoiding competitive distortions among countries due to unfair practices and accepting implementation of decisions taken by common agreement.

As with all regional political authorities, ECOWAS is not currently entitled to ratify decisions on its own without having the Member States as signatories to the agreements. It is appropriate, however, to layout a mandate for negotiation entrusted to the ECOWAS Secretariat.

8. Implementation

The West African agricultural policy involves the Community and all of the Member States. It communicates a regional consensus on the goals assigned to agriculture and on the dimensions of agricultural policy and investment programs that result from a regional approach. Its implementation rests on two major approaches:

- formulation of regional development programs;
- adoption and implementation of common rules and regulations.

This implies an important task of consultation and coordination among the different departments in ECOWAS so that the agricultural choices and concerns are addressed as part of the policies and plans for regional integration, particularly the Customs Union.

8.1. Financing Instruments

All of the areas within the agricultural policy do not require special financing for their implementation. This is particularly the case with policies related to integration and external trade,

for which implementation depends primarily on regulation and not on investment. On the other hand, several programs require additional funding.

In order to facilitate financial resources flowing in support of ECOWAP, it will be useful to establish an ECOWAS Agricultural Development Fund (ECOWADF). It will be funded by the Community's own resources and by donors who want to channel resources into regional agricultural programs within the framework of ECOWAP.

Appropriate economic policies instruments must be deployed to strengthen production infrastructures and create the voluntary incentive conditions for a sustainable agriculture.

The West African agricultural policy must be articulated with respect to the development strategy supported within NEP AD, whose implementation is also assured by ECOWAS for the region of West Africa.

8.2. Institutional Structure

The ECOWAS agricultural policy arises out of the normal institutional structure for implementation of sectorial community policies. Its implementation is the responsibility of the ECOWAS.

The participatory process that preceded the defining of the ECOWAP allowed for building a wide consensus on the diagnostics, vision, directions, and content of the West African agricultural policy. This participation of stakeholders alongside public figures will also comprise a key element of the implementation of the agricultural policy.

The importance of the participation of stakeholders in the agricultural and agro-food sectors suggests the desirability of establishing a consultative committee. This consultative committee will bring together stakeholders organized at the regional level, which represent the agricultural producers and professional organizations, agro-food enterprises and research institutions, and other intergovernmental organizations for integration and technical cooperation. It could meet at the same time as the Commission for Food and Agriculture, representing the Member States.

8.3. *Monitoring and Evaluation*

Monitoring and Evaluation will be a key element of the implementation and refinement of ECOWAP. This will be carried out by the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat in collaboration with the consultative committee of stakeholders. Monitoring-Evaluation will be overseen by the Ministerial Commission for Food and Agriculture, which will meet periodically with the consultative committee to review progress in the implementation of ECOWAP and to approve modifications that may be needed.

8.4 *Requisite conditions*

In order to effectively implement ECOWAP, the following indispensable conditions will be required:

- the taking into account of the gender approach in all actions under ECOWAP, particularly in order to enable women occupy their rightful place and benefit, mainly from already undertaken actions;
- a strong political will and all inputs emanating from both the Governments and ECOWAS, which make it possible to boost and support the implementation of agricultural policy actions at the national and regional levels;
- a very wide information and sensitization of all public and private stakeholders at all levels, on the orientation, objectives and intervention axes of ECOWAP in order to facilitate the acceptance of the West African population and to promote its implementation.

**DECISION A/DEC. 12/01/05 RELATING TO
THE ORGANISATION OF THE FOURTH
ECOWAS TRADE FAIR**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.5/5/82 relating to the programming of trade fairs;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC. 7/7/85 establishing a Consultation and Coordination Committee for the programming of trade fair and similar commercial events in ECOWAS Member States;

CONSCIOUS of the importance of trade fairs and exhibitions in the development of trade between Member States of the Community;

CONSIDERING that is the practice to organize ECOWAS trade fairs in Member States with the appropriate permanent infrastructure;

CONSIDERING that the previous trade fairs were held in Senegal, Ghana and Togo;

CONSIDERING the proposal to host the fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair made by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which, like the aforementioned countries, has permanent infrastructure for the organization of international trade fairs;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Accra, from 16th to 18th January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is hereby approved to host the Fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair.

ARTICLE 2

The Fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair shall be held from 22nd to 29th October 2005 in Lagos.

ARTICLE 3

1. There is hereby established for the purpose referred to, in articles 1 and 2 above, a Regional Organizing Committee which shall be responsible for the organization of the Fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair.
2. The Regional organizing Committee is constituted as follows:
 - one (1) representative from each of the Member States, having permanent trade fair facilities: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo;
 - one (1) representative from the Federation of West African Manufacturers Association;
 - one (1) representative from the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce;
 - one (1) representative from the West African Women's Association;
 - one (1) representative of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and one representative of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development.

ARTICLE 4

The Regional Organizing Committee of the Fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair shall:

- i) supervise all activities relating to the preparation and organization of the fair;
- ii) assist the Executive Secretariat in all measures taken by the latter in this regard.

ARTICLE 5

There is hereby established within the Regional Organizing Committee an Ad-Hoc Monitoring Committee which shall be made up of representatives from Ghana, Nigeria, Togo and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat.

ARTICLE 6

1. The Ad-Hoc Monitoring Committee shall be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Regional Organizing Committee.
2. The Ad Hoc sub-Committee shall report on its activities to that body.

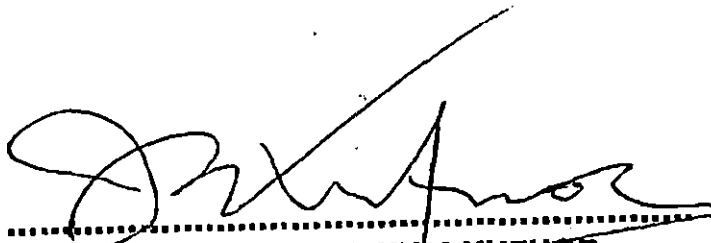
ARTICLE 7

The activities of the Regional Committee and of the Ad Hoc sub-Committee on the ECOWAS Trade Fair shall be funded from the budget of the Community.

ARTICLE 8

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY, 2005**



H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
**CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY**

**DECISION A/DEC. 13/01/05 RELATING TO
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF YOUTH
AND SPORTS TO THE ECOWAS YOUTH
AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Article 60 of the said Treaty which mandates Member States to cooperate in the full development and utilisation of their human resources;

MINDFUL ALSO of Article 61 of the ECOWAS Treaty which provides for the mobilisation of various sections of the population in order to ensure their effective integration and involvement in the social development of the region, and also provides for the promotion of youths organisations and professional associations as a means of ensuring mass involvement in the activities of the Community;

CONSIDERING the need to provide a permanent institutional framework within the Community through which issues relating to the Youths in the sub-region as well as to sporting activities could be developed and promoted;

NOTING that the establishment of such a framework will go a long way in ensuring the involvement of the Youths in the Community integration process;

RECALLING the role the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports had played in involving the youths of the sub-region in Community activities;

DESIRING to transform the said Conference into the Youths and Sports Development Centre;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja, from 16th to 18th January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports is hereby transformed into an ECOWAS Specialised Institution to be called the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre.

ARTICLE 2

The ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre shall be used by the Executive Secretariat to initiate, develop, coordinate, monitor and implement programmes concerning youths and sports development within the Community.

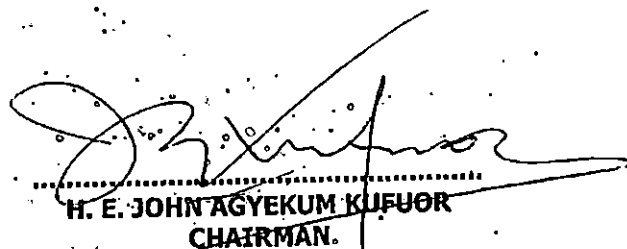
ARTICLE 3

The attached organogramme for the Youth and Sports Development Centre is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 4

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**



**H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN.**

FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC. 14/01/05 RELATING TO
THE ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL POLICY
ON TELECOMMUNICATION AND THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL GSM
ROAMING IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Article 33 (2) (a) of the ECOWAS Treaty which provides that Member States shall develop, modernize, coordinate and standardize their national telecommunications network in order to provide reliable interconnection among Member States;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.2/12/99 on the improvement of telecommunications connectivity in ECOWAS Member States;

RECOGNISING that direct interconnection between ECOWAS States using modern telecommunications systems is a prerequisite for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 21/5/80 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government establishing the special fund for telecommunications to accelerate development of telecommunication infrastructure in the sub-region;

CONSIDERING the Political will of Member States to create a single and harmonised market for telecommunications in the sub-region for the promotion of integration and economic development in the sub-region;

TAKING NOTE of the studies carried out on the harmonisation of telecommunications in the sub region and the options chosen at the fifth meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers in Lome of harmonisation model of a centralised policy with individual national implementation mechanisms;

NOTING the increasing expansion of GSM networks to improve access to telecommunication facilities in the sub region;

NOTING that GSM at the sub regional level is both technically and financially viable, and also serves as a tool for integration in the sub region;

DESIRING to develop Regional GSM Roaming and Cross-border connectivity in the sub-region;

DESIRING also for the adoption of a Regional Telecommunications Policy;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Fifty-third session of the Council of Ministers, held in Accra from 16th to 18th January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

A harmonised model for a centralised Regional Policy on Telecommunications with individual national implementation mechanisms is hereby adopted.

ARTICLE 2

Member States through the established ECOWAS technical group on GSM roaming, shall equally work towards the achievement of GSM roaming in West Africa.

ARTICLE 3

The Executive Secretariat shall take necessary measures to:

- i. support the work of the technical group by providing a platform for their meetings, and
- ii. promote cooperation between mobile operators towards setting up Roaming agreements.

ARTICLE 4

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time-frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2005.


H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN

FOR THE AUTHORITY

DECISION A/DEC.15/01/05 ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL FUND FOR THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

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

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.1/7/87 on the Cultural Framework Agreement for the Economic Community of West African States signed in Abuja on 9 July 1987;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REGA/11/96 adopting the ECOWAS Cultural development programme whose objectives include the strengthening and development of cultural exchanges and ensuring that the cultural dimension is adequately taken into account in the regional integration process;

MINDFUL of the Decision A/ DEC.6/01/03 adopting a plan of action to strengthen and revitalize cooperation between the Member States in cultural affairs, with the NEPAD framework;

CONSIDERING that the lack of financial resources prevents artists from promoting their works, interacting with one another, or exchanging experiences;

CONSIDERING that the establishment of an integrated regional cultural area which will promote creativity, centres of excellence, the circulation of cultural goods, and the development of cultural exchanges, requires resources which Member States are not always able to mobilize as and when required;

CONSIDERING that artists rarely have direct access to financing on terms favourable to them;

CONSIDERING the need to encourage inter-cultural dialogue, with a view to building a community identity through the integration of cultural actors in the sub-region into exchange networks;

DESIRING therefore to source adequate funds for this purpose;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the fifty-third

session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 16 to 18 January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

A regional Fund for the promotion of cultural exchange is hereby established.

ARTICLE 2

The resources of the Fund shall be derived from various services, particularly:

- i. The Community levy;
- ii. Special voluntary contributions by Member States;
- iii. Gifts, legacies and other income from Member States and non Member States, foundations, organizations, private individuals and associations;
- iv. The sale of various products;
- v. Deductions authorised by Council on gross receipts during cultural events organised under the auspices of the Community;
- vi. Any other source approved by the Council.


ARTICLE 3

The organs for the administration of the Regional Fund for the Promotion of Cultural Exchanges, the criteria for allocation of funds, and the conditions under which the Fund shall function shall be defined in the Regulations of the Fund as adopted by the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE 4

This decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published within the same time frame in the national Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

DECISION A/DEC.16/01/05 RENEWING THE TENURE OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

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

MINDFUL of Articles 19, paragraph 3 (c) of the said Treaty authorizing the Executive Secretariat to convene sectoral Ministerial meetings to examine sectoral issues that promote the achievement of the objectives of ECOWAS;

MINDFUL of the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, Peace Keeping and Security, adopted on 10 December 1999;

MINDFUL of Articles 15 and 20 of the Protocol relating to the duties of the Executive Secretary, the composition and the tenure of the Council of Elders respectively;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.13/12/03 approving the members of the Council of Elders from 2004;

CONCERNED by the different conflicts that continue to affect a good number of States of the sub-region;

DESIRING to implement the protocol in all its forms, particularly through the establishment of the Council of Elders, which members shall play the role of mediators, conciliators and facilitators in member States undergoing socio-political crises;

NOTING that the designated mediators are satisfactorily accomplishing their mission, and that their tenure should therefore, be renewed;

UPON RECOMMENDATION of the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Accra on 18 January 2005;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The list of eminent personalities attached to this decision is hereby approved and shall constitute the list of the 2005 Council of Elders, which shall implement the provisions of Article 20 of the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict

Prevention, Management and Resolution, Peace Keeping and Security within the Community;

ARTICLE 2

The tenure of the members of the Council is renewed for a period of one year with effect from January 2005.

ARTICLE 3

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**



H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC.17/01/05 ESTABLISHING
ECOWAS LOGISTICS DEPOTS IN MALI AND
SIERRA LEONE**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Article 58 of the ECOWAS Treaty relating to regional security;

MINDFUL of the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security;

MINDFUL of Article 19, paragraph 3c, authorising the Executive Secretariat to convene sectoral ministerial meetings to examine sectoral issues that promote the achievement of the objectives of ECOWAS;

CONSIDERING that the short time frame for the deployment of ECOWAS forces does not, in general terms, allow the Community to mobilise on schedule, the logistics necessary for such operations;

HAVING OBSERVED in the past that various equipment donated to ECOWAS are left behind in theatres of operation without any arrangements for their maintenance;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to stock the aforementioned equipment, as well as any others that may be donated to ECOWAS or could be procured for the execution of its future electoral and humanitarian assistance assignments;

DESIROUS of establishing two (2) logistics depots, one in a coastal Member State, and the other in a landlocked Member State;

CONSIDERING the offers made by the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Sierra Leone to host the depots;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Dakar on 28 and 30 January 2003 and on 18 January in Accra;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

One logistics depot for landlocked Member States and another for coastal Member States of ECOWAS are hereby established in Mali and Sierra Leone respectively

ARTICLE 2

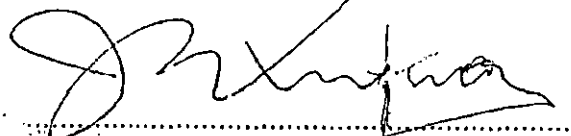
The logistics depots in Mali and Sierra Leone shall serve as places for stocking

and maintaining equipment and ECOWAS supplies.

ARTICLE 3

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

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR

CHAIRMAN

FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC.18/01/05 RELATING TO
THE MODALITIES FOR FILLING THE
VACANT STATUTORY POSITIONS IN THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT AND THE
ECOWAS REGIONAL INVESTMENT BANK
(ERIB),**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.9/12/99 approving the creation of the statutory positions of the Deputy Executive Secretaries, Administration and Finance, Integration Programmes, and Policy Harmonisation;

MINDFUL of Articles 17 and 18 of the said Treaty relating to the appointment of Statutory Officers of the Community;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DECA/12/99 relating to the transformation of the ECOWAS Fund and the establishment of its two (2) subsidiaries namely the ECOWAS Regional Investment Bank (ERIB) and the ECOWAS Regional Development Fund (ERDF);

MINDFUL of the Decision CAHSG/4/7/2000 of the Chairman of Authority after consultation with his peers, allocating the said statutory positions to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of Niger, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Senegal;

RECALLING Regulation C/REG.3/12/00 appointing the current statutory officers within the said positions;

MINDFUL of the fact that the tenure of office of the said statutory officers will expire at various months in 2005 thus rendering the positions vacant;

MINDFUL ALSO of the need to determine a procedure for the allocation of the statutory posts for the next term;

DESIROUS of ensuring that no vacuum is left in these positions at the detriment of the programmes within the directorates of these posts;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The Executive Secretary shall in consultation with the In-Coming Chairman of the Authority and within two (2) months, submit to the Authority proposals for the allocation of the vacant statutory posts within the Executive Secretariat and the ECOWAS Regional Investment Bank (ERIS).

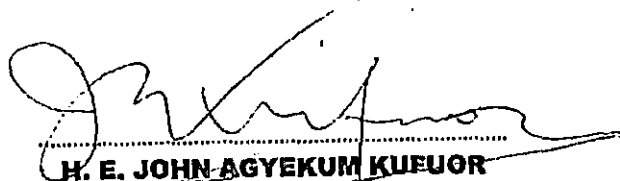
ARTICLE 2

1. The outgoing Statutory Officers (Deputy Executive Secretaries, Administration and Finance, Integration Programmes, Policy Harmonisation, and Managing Director of ERIS), whose appointments shall expire at various times in 2005 shall remain in office for a period of three (3) months from the expiration of their appointments.
2. Their short term appointments shall be renewed should the need arise.

ARTICLE 3

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**DECISION A/DEC.19/01/05 RELATING
TO REFORMS CONCERNING THE
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE
ECOWAS**

**THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT,**

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

MINDFUL of Articles 17 and 18 of the said Treaty relating to the appointment of Statutory Officers of the Community;

DESIROUS of reforming the management structure of the Executive Secretariat in order to ensure broad based representation of the Member States within the Executive Secretariat at the level of management;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The Executive Secretary shall, in consultation with the incoming Chairman of the Authority, put forward proposals for the reform of the management of the Executive Secretariat with a view to transforming the executive arm into a Commission headed by a Chairman and assisted by Commissioners.

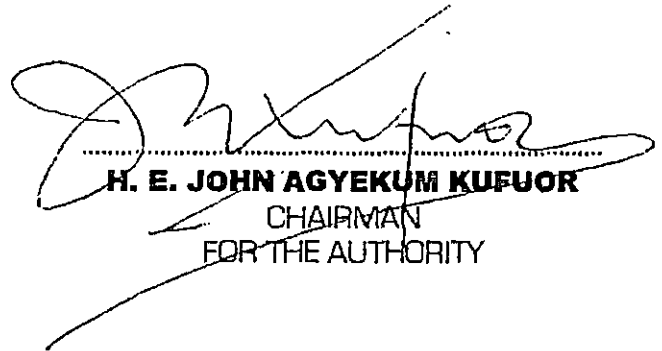
ARTICLE 2

The Executive Secretary shall submit these proposals to the next session of Council for consideration.

ARTICLE 3

This Decision 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 Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Gazette within the same time frame.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005



H. E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY

**REGULATION C/REG.1/01/05 APPROVING
THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR THE 2005
FINANCIAL YEAR**

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;

HAVING CONSIDERED the Work Programme of the Executive Secretariat for the 2005 Financial year proposed by the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December, 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The Work Programme attached hereto, is hereby approved and shall be executed by the Executive Secretariat during the 2005 Financial Year.

ARTICLE 2

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

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.2/01/05 APPROVING
THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE WEST
AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION FOR THE
2005 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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;

HAVING CONSIDERED the Work Programme of the West African Health Organisation for the 2005 Financial Year proposed by the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Financial Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December, 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The Work Programme attached hereto, is hereby approved and shall be executed by the West African Health Organisation during the 2005 Financial Year.

ARTICLE 2

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

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.3/01/05 APPROVING
THE BUDGET OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL
YEAR**

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;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budget of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the Executive Secretariat proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the Executive Secretariat for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **Fifty-Seven million four hundred and eighteen thousand two hundred and twenty-four** Units of Account (**57 418 224 UA**) is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Thirty-three million six hundred and eighty-two thousand four hundred and twenty-three** Units of Account (**33 682 423 UC**) shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.
2. Additional amounts in the sum of **One million five hundred thousand** Units of Accounts (**1 500 000 UA**) shall be derived from arrears of contributions.
3. Additional amounts in the sum of **One hundred and eighty one thousand and**

seventy-five Units of Account (**181 075 UA**) shall be derived from other sources.

4. Another amount in the sum of **Twenty-two million fifty-four thousand seven hundred and twenty-six** Units of Account (**22 054 726 UA**) shall be derived from external funding.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 in the National Gazette of each Member State.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.4/01/05 APPROVING
THE BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY
PARLIAMENT FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL
YEAR**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 13 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Community Parliament;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.2/8/94 defining the composition, functions, powers and organisation of the Community Parliament;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budget of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the Community Parliament proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December, 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the Community Parliament for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **Eight million two hundred and twenty-three thousand two hundred and ninety-three** Units of Account (**8 223 293 UA**) is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Seven million four hundred and sixteen thousand three hundred and sixteen** Units of Account (**7 416 316 UA**) shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.
2. Additional amounts in the sum of **Seven hundred thousand** Units of Account (**700**

000 UA) shall be derived from arrears of contributions.

3. Additional amounts in the sum of **One hundred and six thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven** Units of Account (**106 977 UA**) shall be derived from other sources.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 in the National Gazette of each Member State.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.5/01/05 APROVING THE
BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY COURT OF
JUSTICE FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 15 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Community Court of Justice;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.1/7/91 defining the composition, functions, powers and organisation of the Community Court of Justice;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budget of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the Community Court of Justice proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the Community Court of Justice for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **Four million three hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty** Units of Account (4 321 720 UA) is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Three million eight hundred and ninety thousand eight hundred and seventy-three** Units of Account (3 890 873 UA) shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.

2. Additional amounts in the sum of **Four hundred thousand (400 000 UA)** Units of Account shall be derived from arrears of contributions.
3. Additional amounts in the sum of **Thirty thousand eight hundred and forty-seven** Units of Account (30 847 UA) shall be derived from other sources.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 in the National Gazette of each Member State.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.6/01/05 APROVING
THE BUDGET
OF THE WEST AFRICAN HEALTH
ORGANISATION
FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.2/7/87 relating to the creation of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO);

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 69 of the ECOWAS Treaty which relate to the budgets of the Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedures of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

HAVING CONSIDERED the budget of the West African Health Organisation proposed by the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The budget of the West African Health Organisation for the 2005 financial year, balanced in income and expenditure at the sum of **five million four hundred and eighteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-four Units of Account (5 418 864 UA)** is hereby approved.

ARTICLE 2

1. An amount of **Three million two hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine Units of Account (3 252 929 UA)** shall be derived from resources obtained from the Community Levy.
2. Additional amounts in the sum of **Four hundred thousand Units of Account (400 000 UA)** shall be derived from arrears of contributions.
3. Additional amounts in the sum of **Two hundred and three thousand and fifty-**

nine Units of Account (203 059 UA) shall be derived from other sources.

4. Another amount in the sum of **One million five-hundred and sixty-two thousand eight hundred and seven-six Units of Account (1 562 876 UA)** shall be derived from external funding.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 in the National Gazette of each Member State.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.7/01/05 APPROVING
THE AUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
FOR THE 2003 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 75 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of External Auditor for the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

MINDFUL of the Authority Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 dated 10th December 1999 appointing the firm of Coopers. Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors of the Community;

MINDFUL of Authority Decision C/AHSG/DEC.1/2/2000 confirming the appointment of Coopers & Lybrand and Dieye as external auditors of the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG. 10/07/04 relating to the extension of the term of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions beyond their tenure of 30th June 2004;

CONSIDERING the Contract Agreement between ECOWAS and Coopers Lybrand and Dieye defining the conditions of engagement of the External Auditors dated 26 February 2000;

HAVING EXAMINED the report of the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye on the financial statements of the Executive Secretariat for the 2003 Financial Year;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Audited Financial Statements of the Executive Secretariat attached hereto for the 2003 financial year is hereby approved.

Article 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.8/01/05 APPROVING
THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE
COMMUNITY FOR THE 2003 FINANCIAL
YEAR**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 75 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of External Auditor for the Institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the Institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

MINDFUL of the Authority Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 dated 10th December 1999 appointing the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors of the Community;

MINDFUL of Authority Decision C/AHSG/DEC.1/2/2000 confirming the appointment of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as external auditors of the Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING the Contract Agreement between ECOWAS and Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye dated 26 February 2000, defining the conditions of engagement of the External Auditors;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.10/07/04 relating to the extension of the term of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions beyond their tenure of 30th June 2004;

HAVING EXAMINED the report of the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye on the financial statements of the Court of Justice of the Community for the 2003 Financial Year,

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Audited Financial Statements of the Court of Justice of the Community attached hereto for the 2003 financial year is hereby approved.

Article 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.9/01/05 APPROVING
THE AUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE WEST
AFRICAN HEALTH
ORGANISATION FOR THE 2000, 2001, 2002
AND 2003 FINANCIAL YEARS**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 75 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of External Auditor for the institutions of the Community;

MINDFUL of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the institutions of ECOWAS amended by Regulation C/REG.2/12/95;

MINDFUL of the Authority Decision C/DEC.6/12/99 dated 10th December 1999 appointing the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors of the Community;

MINDFUL of Authority Decision C/AHSG/DEC.1/2/2000 confirming the appointment of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as external auditors of the Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING the Contract Agreement between ECOWAS and Coopers Lybrand and Dieye defining the conditions of engagement of the External Auditors dated 26 February 2000;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG. 10/07/04 relating to the extension of the term of office of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye as External Auditors to the Community Institutions beyond their tenure of 30th June 2004;

HAVING EXAMINED the report of the firm of Coopers, Lybrand & Dieye on the financial statements of the West African Health Organisation for the 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 Financial Years;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13th to 18th December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

The Audited Financial Statements of the West African Health Organisation attached hereto for the 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 financial years is hereby approved.

Article 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG. 10/01/05 ADOPTING
THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE
CONDUCT OF A STUDY ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECOWAS
SOLIDARITY FUND**

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;

MINDFUL of the decision of the thirty-second session of Council held in Abuja on 16 and 17 July 2004, directing the Executive Secretariat, in collaboration with the other institutions of the Community, to draw up the terms of reference for the conduct of a study on all aspects of the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund;

CONSIDERING the report of the twenty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission which, having considered the report of the meeting between the Executive Secretariat and the other institutions to address this issue, agreed on the need to undertake a study on the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund;

DESIROUS of adopting the terms of reference for the conduct of the study on the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund and the modalities for the conduct of the study;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The attached terms of reference for the conduct of the study on the establishment of an ECOWAS Solidarity Fund are hereby adopted.

ARTICLE 2

- The study shall take due account of the vocation of the Fund which is to mobilise and allocate resources earmarked for facilitating development and reducing socio economic imbalances within the ECOWAS Community.
- The study shall be carried out by a consultancy firm or a consultant selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the ECOWAS tenders code.
- The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development shall be involved in all stages of the preparation of the study, under the supervision of the Executive Secretariat, which will report back to Council.

ARTICLE 3

The resources of the Fund shall be lodged with the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development.

ARTICLE 4

The cost of the study referred to in article 1 above, shall be charged to the budget of the Executive Secretariat for 2005.

ARTICLE 5

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 ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.11/01/05 ON THE
PAYMENT OF A
RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE TO
ACCOUNTANTS AND IMPREST
HOLDERS/CASHIERS OF THE ECOWAS
INSTITUTIONS**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS;

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

INDEFUL of Article 039 of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the ECOWAS institutions which stipulates that accountants and imprest holders/cashiers may be paid an allowance which may be determined by the Council of Ministers according to the level of their responsibilities;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that accountants and imprest holders/cashiers who effect payments are exposed daily to the risk of loss or deterioration of funds, assets and documents;

CONSIDERING that measures which can directly affect the personal assets of accountants and imprest holders/cashiers may be taken against them in the event of the loss or deterioration of funds referred to above occur;

QUALLY CONSCIOUS of the need to protect accountants and imprests holders/cashiers against insolvency in the event of their being held financially responsible for the reasons indicated above;

DESIROUS of according the accountants and imprest holders/cashiers the benefits granted to them under the terms of Article 039 of the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the ECOWAS institutions, and, for this reason paying an allowance to the accountants and imprest holders/cashiers of the Community Institutions;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The payment of an allowance to accountants and imprest holders/cashiers of ECOWAS institutions is hereby authorised.

ARTICLE 2

The allowance referred to in Article 1 above shall be calculated as follows:

- i) 15% of basic salary for professional staff;
- ii) 10% of basic salary for General Service and Auxiliary staff.

ARTICLE 3

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 ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

REGULATION C/REG.12/01/05 INCREASING THE SALARIES OF STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ECOWAS INSTITUTIONS

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;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 9 of the 1999 ECOWAS Staff Regulations relating to the staff categories of the ECOWAS institutions;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC. 2/11/89 adopting an elongated salary scale for staff of the ECOWAS institutions;

CONSIDERING that the constant rise in the cost of living in the Member States hosting the headquarters of the ECOWAS institutions and the prolonged stagnation of staff salaries at the same level have substantially eroded their purchasing power;

DESIROUS of raising the present rates of salaries in order to render them commensurate with the status of the beneficiaries, and befitting of the staff of an international organisation, and improve their standard of living thereby;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The salaries of the staff of the ECOWAS institutions are hereby increased for the following categories of staff at the following rates:

- Executive Secretary +1.0 % of basic salary

- Other Statutory Appointees + 5 % of basic salary
- Other professionals +15% of basic salary
- General & Auxiliary service staff +12 % of basic salary

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.13/01/05 INCREASING
THE LEVEL OF
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION TO THE
PROVIDENT FUND OF
STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ECOWAS
INSTITUTIONS**

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;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 9 of the 1999 ECOWAS Staff Regulations on the staff categories of the ECOWAS;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 40 of the said ECOWAS Staff Regulations requiring permanent staff members in the professional and locally recruited staff categories to adhere to the Staff Provident Fund, and determining the constitution of said fund;

CONSIDERING that the low level of the contribution to the Provident Fund inevitably erodes the benefits accruing to staff on retirement from the service of the Community;

CONSIDERING that this erosion, when measured against the backdrop of the ever-increasing cost of living in the Member States impoverishes members of staff while their financial requirements remain substantial;

DESIROUS of maintaining a proper standard of living for its staff in order to enable them live decently after their retirement from the service of the Community;

DESIROUS, to this end, of increasing the contributions to the Provident Fund by increasing the contribution of the employer to said fund;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and

Finance Commission, held in Abuja from 13 to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The contribution of the employer to the resources of the Provident Fund is hereby increased from 12.5% to 14% of the basic annual salary of the staff members, out of a total of 20% of staff basic annual salary that makes up the resources of the Provident Fund, whilst the contribution of the staff member is 6% of staff basic annual salary.

ARTICLE 2

Only permanent staff members in the professional staff category and M and G categories shall be covered by the provisions of Article 1 of this Regulation.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 in the National Gazette of each Member State.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

REGULATION C/REG.14 /01/05 RAISING THE EDUCATION ALLOWANCE PAYABLE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF THE STAFF OF THE ECOWAS INSTITUTIONS

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;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the ECOWAS Staff Regulations on the staff categories of the ECOWAS institutions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 26 of the ECOWAS Staff Regulations on dependency allowances, which also determine the education grant payable for dependent children;

MINDFUL of Decision C/REG.11/89 granting an education grant for the children of locally-recruited staff;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.16/12/00 adopting an education grant for the staff of the ECOWAS institutions;

CONSIDERING that the present education grant paid to the staff of ECOWAS are inadequate, and fail to take into account the factors of inflation, the steady increase in education fees in the different categories of institutions of learning, and the capacity of the staff to cope with it;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, from 13 to 18 December 2004.

ENACTS

Article 1

The education grant payable for dependent children of staff members is hereby increased for the different categories of institutions of learning as follows:

Statutory Appointees and Professional Staff:

- Universities: \$3,000 per dependent child;
- Secondary and Primary Schools: \$2,500 per dependent child.
- **G and M Staff**
 - o Universities: \$2,000 per dependent child;
 - o Secondary and Primary Schools : \$ 800 per dependent child.

Article 2

The education grant referred to in Article 1 above shall be payable for every dependent child up to a maximum of four children.

ARTICLE 3

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat 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 in the National Gazette of each Member State.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY 2005


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.15/01/05 RELATING TO
THE ADOPTION OF REVISED RATES FOR
THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE
FOR STAFF AND OTHER
REPRESENTATIVES ON MISSION FOR THE
COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS**

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;

MINDFUL of Decision C/Dec.6/7/91 on the adoption of per diem Rates applicable within Institutions of the Community;

CONSIDERING that the existing per diem rates are presently inadequate due to inflation and exchange rate fluctuations;

DESIRING to ensure that the beneficiaries of these allowances are provided with an acceptable level of comfort while on official duties on behalf of the Community;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, 13th - 18th December 2004.

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The following "Daily subsistence Allowance" rates (Per Diem) are hereby adopted for Staff and other representatives on mission for the Institutions of the Community.

**ECOWAS DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE
RATES FOR COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS**

	West Africa, Latin America	East and southern Africa, Middle East	Japan and South Korea Asia	Europe North America*
Ministers	243	266	455	385
Parliamentarians				
Heads of Institution				
Other Statutory Appointees	221	247	422	358
Directors	204	228	390	330
Professional Staff and Consultants	170	190	325	275
General Service Staff	145	162	276	234
Auxiliary Staff	123	133	234	199

United States, Canada and Mexico

ARTICLE 2

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days after 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 ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.16/01/05 RELATING TO
THE RENEWAL OF LEASE AGREEMENTS ON
THE RESIDENCES OF PROFESSIONAL
STAFF OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT IN
ABUJA AND THE LEASING OF OFFICE
ACCOMMODATION FOR STAFF MEMBERS**

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;

CONSIDERING the uncompleted construction of vital additional works for the Executive Secretariat Staff Quarters at Katampe, Abuja which may not be completed by the end of the year 2005;

NOTING the fact that the Staff Quarters at Katampe even upon completion, will not accommodate the staff of the Secretariat in view of the expanding staff strength brought about by the on-going Staff recruitment exercise;

CONSIDERING the need to renew some leases in 2005 and to acquire additional residential accommodation for the newly recruited staff of the Executive Secretariat;

ACKNOWLEDGING the fact that office accommodation has to be provided for newly recruited Staff of the Secretariat by renting office complexes within Abuja.

AWARE of the need to make funds available to the Executive Secretariat for these purposes;
ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the thirty-second Meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja from 13 December to 18 December 2004;

ENACTS

Article 1

An amount of Five hundred and twenty-six thousand, One hundred and four Units of Accounts (UA 526 104) is hereby granted for the acquisition and renewal of the leases for the residences of staff of the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja.

Article 2

An amount of Four hundred and seventy-three thousand, nine hundred and forty-two Units of Accounts (UA 473 942) is hereby granted for the leasing of office accommodation

Article 3

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 be published in the national gazette of each Member State within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.17/01/05 ADOPTING
THE NEW ECOWAS
PRINCIPLES FOR STAFF EMPLOYMENT
AND REVISED
ECOWAS STAFF REGULATIONS**

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;

MINDFUL of the Staff Rules and Staff Regulations of ECOWAS adopted by Regulation C/REG 4/12/99 of the Council of Ministers on 7th December 1999;

NOTING the inadequacies in the aforementioned Staff Rules and Regulations, which have undermined proper administration and effective personnel management;

DESIRING to ensure that the guiding principles for ECOWAS Staff employment are in consonance with the principles applicable in other similar international organizations and that the Staff Regulations are modern and also reflect the rules of international public service;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Thirty-second meeting of the Administration and Finance Commission held in Abuja, 13th - 18th December 2004.

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

The new Principles for Employment for Staff of the Economic Community of West African States are hereby adopted and are attached as an annex to this Regulation.

ARTICLE 2

The Revised ECOWAS Staff Regulations are also hereby adopted and are attached as an annex to this Regulation.

ARTICLE 3

The "Principles for Staff Employment" and the "Revised ECOWAS Staff Regulations" shall respectively replace and supersede the previous ECOWAS Staff Rules and Staff Regulations.

ARTICLE 4

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community by the Executive Secretariat within thirty (30) days after 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 ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.18/01/05 RELATING
TO THE CREATION, WITHIN THE ECOWAS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, OF A UNIT FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPAD
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

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;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.9/12/99 relating to the approval of the restructuring of the Executive Secretariat to make it more operational to pursue the objectives of ECOWAS and NEPAD in order to meet the expectations of Member States.

RECALLING that the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat has been appointed as NEPAD's focal point in West Africa within the framework of the emerging African Union and has called upon the various organisations of the Community to endow it with the resources needed for the execution of its assignment;

RECALLING ALSO the Accra March 2004 Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS which was attended by donor agencies and which identified priority programmes necessary for accelerated development of ECOWAS within the framework of NEPAD;

NOTING the lack of progress in the implementation of the regional infrastructure projects and the dearth of qualified human resources within ECOWAS for the implementation of NEPAD projects at the desired pace;

AWARE of the need to establish within the Executive Secretariat, a Unit for the Development and Implementation of NEPAD Infrastructure Projects;

CONSIDERING the directives of the Authority of

Heads of State and Government, held in Accra in March 2004;

UPON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Task Force in the acceleration of NEPAD infrastructure projects in West Africa;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

A Project Development and Implementation Unit (PDIU) is hereby established at the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat for the NEPAD infrastructure projects.

ARTICLE 2

The Project Development and Implementation Unit shall be staffed by a team of not more than five (5) professionals with proven expertise in public/private partnership in development and implementation of infrastructure projects of NEPAD.

ARTICLE 3

The Unit shall:

- i. be charged with the development and implementation of NEPAD infrastructures projects;
- ii. Develop with development partners, a dedicated funding pool for policy harmonisation and project preparation;
- iii. establish, in collaboration with development partners, a regional trust fund for investment in infrastructure development;
- iv. carry out any other task which may be assigned by the Executive Secretariat

ARTICLE 4

The Executive Secretariat shall take all the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of this Regulation,

ARTICLE 5

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 Official Journal within the same period.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.19/01/05 RELATING TO
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AIR
TRANSPORT UNIT WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT OF ECOWAS**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 32(i)(g) of the said Treaty that mandates the promotion and development of regional air transportation services and the merger of national airlines in order to promote their efficiency and profitability;

AWARE of the need to facilitate free movement of persons and goods within the Community and to interconnect the capitals of Member States as a means of encouraging regional collaboration and integration.

MINDFUL of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision relating to the Liberalization of air transport market in West and Central Africa;

RECALLING that the Yamoussoukro Decision aims at facilitating access to air transport markets in Africa;

ALSO RECALLING Decision A/DEC.6/12/03 under which an Action Plan was adopted for the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and article 3 of that Decision that assigned the Executive Secretariat with the responsibility of monitoring implementation of measures within the plan;

AWARE of the need to establish a permanent unit within the Executive Secretariat that would facilitate its monitoring responsibility and ensure the sustainability of the air transport liberalisation programme;

MINDFUL of Article 10 3(f) of the ECOWAS Treaty that empowers Council to approve the organizational structure of the Institutions of the Community;

DESIRING to create a unit within the Executive Secretariat to monitor the air transport liberalisation programme;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation held in February 2003;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

An internal air transport unit is hereby approved for establishment within the Transport Division of the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS.

ARTICLE 2

The Executive Secretariat shall, through the unit, monitor and coordinate all activities implemented by Member States within the framework of the air transport liberalization programme.

ARTICLE 3

Subject to the approval of the required budgetary allocation, the Executive Secretariat shall undertake all necessary measures for the establishment and limited staffing of the unit.

ARTICLE 4

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 Official Journal within the same period.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th JANUARY 2005


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.20/01/05 ON THE
IMPROVEMENT OF THE
FUNCTIONING, THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND
FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT**

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;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Articles 6 and 13 of the ECOWAS Treaty relating to the Institutions of the Community and the establishment of the Community Parliament, respectively;

MINDFUL of Article 19 (1) and (2) of the Treaty appointing the Executive Secretary as the Chief Executive and Legal Representative of the Institutions of the Community;

RECALLING, in particular, the provisions of Articles 10 (f) and 19 paragraph 3(g) of the said Treaty granting the Council power to approve the organizational structure of the Institutions and vesting other powers of an administrative and financial nature over the Institutions of the Community, on the Council of Ministers;

RECALLING Decision A/DEC.25/12/01 adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government in Dakar on 21 December 2001 relating to the rates of allowances payable to members of the Community Parliament;

DESIROUS of ensuring that immediate measures are employed to improve the administrative, financial and management procedures within the Parliament all within the framework of the on-going exercise relating to the enhancement of the powers of the Community Parliament;

AFTER CONSIDERING the reports of the Financial Controller and the External Auditors of the Community;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

- The Executive Secretary with the assistance of the Financial Controller and the Secretariat of the Community Parliament shall prepare a draft Organizational Chart showing management and departmental positions, with clearly defined job descriptions, duties and lines of responsibility, for each post.
- The draft Organizational Chart shall be submitted to the 54th Session of Council for approval.

ARTICLE 2

The Community Parliament shall respect the clear and separate distinction of functions and powers between its political wings (Speaker and Parliament Plenary Bureau) and the Community Decision-making bodies, comprising the Council of Ministers and Authority of Heads of State and Government, as well as between the Speaker, the Office of the Speaker on the one hand and the Secretariat of the Community Parliament headed by the Secretary-General on the other hand.

ARTICLE 3

- The Community Parliament shall, before the 55th session of Council, recruit competent staff in the accounts and audit units of its Secretariat.
- It shall ensure full computerization of its accounting system within the time-frame mentioned in paragraph 1 above.
- It shall also regularize all disparities in the grading of staffing positions between the Community Parliament and other ECOWAS Institutions.

ARTICLE 4

The Community Parliament shall strictly apply the relevant texts of the Community, applicable to all other Community Institutions, which relate to the procedure for staff recruitment, grading, salary scale and daily subsistence allowances (per diem), at all levels, as well as all other allowances decided by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE 5

All Parliamentary rules of procedure and texts must be in conformity with the provisions of relevant Community texts.

ARTICLE 6

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 Official Journal within the same period.

DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th JANUARY 2005



.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**REGULATION C/REG.21/01/05 APPOINTING
THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AND THE
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF
GIABA**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

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

MINDFUL of Articles 17 and 18 of the Treaty relating to the appointment of Statutory Appointees of Community Institutions;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.6/12/99 establishing GIABA, and all other Community texts on GIABA;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/07/91 on the Selection and Evaluation of the performance of Statutory Appointees of the Institutions of ECOWAS;

CONSIDERING the need to ensure the proper operation of GIABA to enable it attain its objective of controlling money laundering and financing of terrorism;

DESIROUS of recruiting, in this context, technically competent and experienced officers;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Selection and Evaluation of the Performance of Statutory Appointees, held in Accra on 16 and 17 January 2005;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

Mrs. OBLA VICTORIA OJEKA EJE is hereby appointed Administrative Secretary of GIABA for a period of four years with effect from the date of her assumption of duty.

ARTICLE 2

Dr. NDEYE ELIZABETH DIAW is hereby appointed Deputy Administrative Secretary of GIABA for a period of four (4) years with effect from the date of her assumption of duty.

ARTICLE 3

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 ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.1/01/05 ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL
REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE
ECOWAS ELECTRICITY SECTOR PRIOR TO
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL
REGULATORY BODY**

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;

MINDFUL of the objectives of ECOWAS towards promoting economic cooperation and integration in West Africa in accordance with Article 26 of the ECOWAS Treaty, which stresses the importance of regional cooperation in industrial, scientific and technological fields in general, and cooperation in the energy sector, in particular;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/5/82 relating to the ECOWAS Energy Policy adopted by the Authority of the Heads of State and Government in 1982;

RECALLING regulation C/REG.7/12/99 on the adoption of a master plan for the development of energy production facilities and the interconnection of the electricity grids of the ECOWAS Member States;

AWARE of the need to coordinate the efforts of Member States to implement ECOWAS priority action plans in relation to the interconnection of infrastructures;

MINDFUL of Article 2 of the Decision A/DEC.5/12/99, which created a coordination unit consisting of the Energy Ministers and a Committee of Chief Executive Officers of the Member States electricity companies and defined their respective roles;

RECALLING the setting up of a regional electricity market entitled, the West African Power Pool (WAPP) aimed at promoting the realization of regional investments in terms of energy production and interconnection and grid systems;

ALSO MINDFUL of Decision A/17/01/03 relating to the adoption of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol in order to ensure free trade of energy and energy equipments and products between the Member States, to attract and protect private investment,

and to ensure the protection of the environment and energy efficiency;

CONSIDERING that Article 31 of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol requires that the Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Member States establish Regional Regulatory Bodies for energy systems, programmes and projects within the framework of implementation of the Energy Protocol;

RECOGNIZING that a regulatory entity for the electricity sector will address sectoral problems relating to development of interstate electricity exchanges and acceleration of sectoral reforms, contributing to the support of the development of common standards and dissemination of "good practices" among all actors;

RECALLING that the French Development Agency and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat signed agreement CZ2 3001 01 R on the provision of E5 million for the establishment of the Regional Regulatory Body;

NOTING that the West African Power Pool (WAPP) Technical and Institutional Working Groups' experts adopted the "Terms of Reference" for the establishment of the Regional Regulatory Body;

DESIROUS of establishing a Regional Regulatory framework for the electricity sector within the sub-region that would herald the eventual setting up of a Regional Regulatory Body;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of WAPP Steering Committee held in Dakar 5 October, 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the development of a Regional Regulatory framework for the ECOWAS electricity sector.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.2/01/05
RELATING TO THE ECOWAS REVISED
MASTER PLAN FOR THE GENERATION AND
TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY**

The Council Ministers,

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

MINDFUL of the objectives of ECOWAS towards promoting economic cooperation and integration in West Africa in accordance with Article 26 of the ECOWAS Treaty, which stresses the importance of regional cooperation in industrial, scientific and technological fields in general, and cooperation in the energy sector, in particular;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.3/5/82 relating to the Energy Policy of ECOWAS adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government in 1982;

MINDFUL that the Heads of State and Governments, taking into account the ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan, adopted Decision A/DEC.5/12/99 establishing a regional electricity market - the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) project as a means of reducing the collective vulnerability of the member states to power shortages;

RECALLING that the Steering Committee of WAPP adopted in September 2000 in Lome, Togo, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the WAPP Project for the implementation of the Community energy program, creating also technical and institutional Working Groups of experts to coordinate the program;

ALSO RECALLING that in March 2001, in Dakar, Senegal, the Chief Executives of the National Power Utilities signed an inter-Utilities MOU in which they agreed to co-operate fully with the ECOWAS Secretariat towards achieving a common understanding of regional economies and optimal resource utilization strategies from both national and regional perspectives;

CONSIDERING that in November 2002, the "Meeting of WAPP Donors" requested the ECOWAS Secretariat to update the original ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan;

MINDFUL that the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of States and Government by decision A/DEC.17/01/03, adopted the ECOWAS Energy

Protocol in order to ensure free trade of energy and energy equipments and products between the Member States, to attract and protect private investment, and to ensure the protection of the environment and energy efficiency;

MINDFUL that the WAPP Project is classified as a NEPAD "flagship project";

CONSIDERING that in response to the request of the ECOWAS Secretariat, the USAID funded consultants to perform a multi-faceted study of the ECOWAS Member States in order to: (i) re-assess the generation and transmission investment requirements over the period 2004-2020; (ii) analyse the operational stability of existing and proposed interconnected national power systems; and (iii) update the implementation strategy for WAPP priority interconnection line projects;

NOTING that the WAPP Technical and Institutional working group has validated a Revised ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan on the basis of studies performed by the consultant;

DESIROUS therefore of adopting a Revised ECOWAS Generation and Transmission Master Plan;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the meeting of the WAPP Steering Committee held in Dakar October 5 2004;

RECOMMENDS

**TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**

to adopt the Revised Master Plan for the Generation and Transmission of Electrical Energy, as well as the related implementation strategy and expenditure plan attached hereto.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005.**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.3/01/05 SETTING OUT THE
LEGAL REGIME FOR COASTAL SHIPPING WITHIN
THE COMMUNITY**

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;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 32 of the ECOWAS Treaty relating to Transport and Communications;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.20/5/80 relating to the Community Transport Programme, which seeks to coordinate and develop a modern and efficient transportation system within the sub-region;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.4/11/84 relating to Maritime Transport;

MINDFUL of Directive A/DIR/2/12/88 relating to the application of the Maritime Transport Programme;

CONSIDERING that the development of coastal shipping services has promoted growth in intra-Community maritime trade;

NOTING that this growth in coastal shipping services has not been followed up with the adoption of a regulation capable of promoting the judicious development and operation of maritime transport within the sub-region;

CONVINCED of the urgent need to fill this gap in coastal shipping services by preparing a regulation that is appropriate and suitable to maritime practices and customs;

UPON PROPOSAL by the third meeting of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Commission, held in Abuja from 26 to 28 July 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the Transformation of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports to the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Centre.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**



DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.4/01/05
CREATING ROAD TRANSPORT
AND TRANSIT FACILITATION AND CROSS-
BORDER CORRIDOR
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN WEST
AFRICA**

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;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Article 32 of the said Treaty relating to transport and communications;

MINDFUL of the relevant provisions of Protocol A/PI/5/82 regulating inter-State road transport and Convention A/P4/5/82 on Inter-State Road Transit of Goods;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/SP1/5/90 establishing within the Community, a guarantee mechanism for inter-State road transit of goods operations;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.20/5/80 relating to the ECOWAS Common Transport Programme, and Decision A/DEC.2/5/81 relating to the Harmonisation of Road Legislations within the Economic Community of West African States;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.8./12/88 on the 2nd Phase of the Project aimed at opening up the landlocked Member States;

RECALLING Decision A/DEC.3/8/94 establishing National Monitoring Committees for effective implementation of the ECOWAS decisions and protocols in the transport area.

RECALLING also Decision /DEC. 13/01/03 relating to the implementation of the regional road transit facilitation programme;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.13/12/2001 relating to highways that contribute most to the promotion of intra-Community trade and inter-State movement;

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.4/5/90 on the reduction of the number of road check-points in ECOWAS Member States;

MINDFUL of Resolution C/RES.5/5/90 relating to the maximum permissible axle load and subsequent ones;

CONSIDERING that the proliferation of road check-points constitutes a real impediment to the harmonious development of trade in the region and to the implementation of the Regional Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme;

CONVINCED that reduced non-tariff barriers in the region and reduced international transport costs will go a long way in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the main transport corridors in West Africa;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to realising the Community objectives that are consistent with those of NEPAD, especially in matters relating to cross-border corridor management and simplification of formalities, procedures and documents on transport and trade, and improving information systems and the transit infrastructure;

AWARE that the realisation of such facilitation objectives requires the establishment of appropriate organs or structures;

CONVINCED that the creation of Cross-border Corridor Transport and Transit Facilitation Committees would enhance the smooth flow of road transport and transit, and facilitate the implementation of the Regional Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Program that is long overdue;

UPON PROPOSAL by the third meeting of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Commission, held in Abuja from 26 to 28 July 2004;

RECOMMENDS**TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**

to adopt the attached draft Decision creating Road
Transport and Transit Facilitation and Cross-
Border Corridor Management Committees in
West Africa.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.5/01/05
ALLOCATING THE POSTS
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AND
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ACTION GROUP AGAINST MONEY-
LAUNDERING IN AFRICA
(GIABA) TO MEMBER STATES**

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;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for the adoption of a sub-regional strategy that would protect the banking and financial systems of Member States from use by Criminal organizations for the purpose of laundering the proceeds from their criminal activities;

RECALLING our Decisions A/DEC.9/12/99 and A/DEC.6/12/00 establishing the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money-Laundering in Africa (GIABA) for this purpose and adopting the Statutes of this Agency respectively;

NOTING the administrative lapses of GIABA's structure, which affect its operational efficiency, thus diminishing all efforts at developing multilateral action against money-laundering;

MINDFUL of the need to find a remedy to them through human capacity building through the appointment of qualified statutory officers to fill the positions of the Administrative Secretary and the Deputy Administrative Secretary to steer the affairs of the agency and effectively discharge the mandate of GIABA.

DESIRING therefore to allocate these statutory positions to Member States of the Community;

AFTER CONSULTATIONS undertaken by the Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS with his peers;

RECOMMENDS

**TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**

to adopt the attached draft Decision allocating the Posts of the Administrative Secretary and Deputy Administrative Secretary of the Secretariat of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money-Laundering in Africa (GIABA) to Member States.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.6/01/05
RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF AN
AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR THE
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN
STATES - ECOWAP**

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;

MINDFUL of Articles 2, 3, 5, 22, 23 and 25 of the said Treaty;

CONSIDERING the leading role of agriculture in the West African economy as well as the effects its development can have on the other sectors of activity;

CONSIDERING the importance of trade in agricultural produce in integrating the region into the international market;

CONSIDERING the overriding role of this sector, particularly through family farms, in reducing poverty and food insecurity at the family, national and regional levels, and the important agro-business related role that the private sector can play in creating jobs and improving productivity;

CONSIDERING the need to modernize agriculture in member ECOWAS States in order to increase productivity and agricultural supplies, meet the increasing food needs and create new jobs;

CONSIDERING the overriding role that agriculture plays in the development of the zone, in sustaining the vitality of the area, and in the management of natural resources and environmental conservation;

CONSIDERING the dominant position of women in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and the significance of these activities in the creation of wealth at both the microeconomic and macroeconomic levels, therefore necessitating their increased

involvement in decision-making on policies, programmes and projects;

CONSIDERING the place accorded the agricultural sector on the one hand, and to the infrastructures conducive to the development of production and trade in agricultural produce, on the other hand, within the vision and priorities articulated at the continental level by NEPAD;

CONSIDERING the decision made by the Heads of State and Government in Yamoussoukro in May 2002, entrusting ECOWAS with the task of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of NEPAD in West Africa;

CONSIDERING the dynamics of cooperation between ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, which seek to fully harmonise their strategies and policies in the sector, in order to integrate all ECOWAS member States;

FULLY AWARE of the difficulties encountered with national agricultural policies in improving producers' environment and making available to them the innovations, technologies or advice that they require, and the role regional cooperation can play in these areas;

JUDGING as particularly alarming, the environmental problems posed by agricultural development in a highly urbanized environment devoid of an improvement in the production systems despite the continued degradation of the forest cover and soil depletion;

CONVINCED that the disparities between the agricultural zones of the Community arising from agro-ecological constraints, their landlocked or insular nature, constitute an obstacle to the harmonious integration of the region at the economic, social and political levels;

RECALLING the commitment made in Maputo in July 2003 by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to allocate at least 10 % of national budgets to the development of the agricultural sector in order to improve productivity and reduce food insecurity;

UPON THE PROPOSAL of the Ministerial Meeting of the Agriculture and Food Commission of ECOWAS held in Cotonou on 8th January 2005;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the adoption of an Agricultural Policy for the Economic Community of West African States-ECOWAP.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.7/01/05
RELATING TO THE ORGANISATION OF
THE FOURTH ECOWAS TRADE FAIR**

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005**

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;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.5/5/82 relating to the programming of trade fairs;

MINDFUL of Decision C/DEC.7/7/85 establishing a Consultation and Coordination Committee for the programming of trade fair and similar commercial events in ECOWAS Member States;

CONSCIOUS of the importance of trade fairs and exhibitions in the development of trade between Member States of the Community;

CONSIDERING that is the practice to organize ECOWAS trade fairs in Member States with the appropriate permanent infrastructure;

CONSIDERING that the previous trade fairs were held in Senegal, Ghana and Togo;

CONSIDERING the proposal to host the fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair made by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which, like the aforementioned countries, has permanent infrastructure for the organization of international trade fairs;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the organization of the fourth ECOWAS Trade Fair.


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.8/01/05
RELATING TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF
THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
YOUTH AND SPORTS TO THE ECOWAS
YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 60 of the said Treaty which mandates Member States to cooperate in the full development and utilisation of their human resources;

MINDFUL ALSO of Article 61 of the ECOWAS Treaty which provides for the mobilisation of various sections of the population in order to ensure their effective integration and involvement in the social development of the region, and also provides for the promotion of youths organisations and professional associations as a means of ensuring mass involvement in the activities of the Community;

CONSIDERING the need to provide a permanent institutional framework within the Community through which issues relating to the Youths in the sub-region as well as to sporting activities could be developed and promoted;

NOTING that the establishment of such a framework will go a long way in ensuring the involvement of the Youths in the Community integration process;

RECALLING the role the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports had played in involving the youths of the sub-region in Community activities;

DESIRING to transform the said Conference into the Youths and Sports Development Centre;

UPON PROPOSAL by the First Meeting of the Human Resources, information, Social and Cultural Affairs Commission held in Abuja, 29-31 March 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the Transformation of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports to the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION C/REC.9/01/05
RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF A
REGIONAL POLICY ON
TELECOMMUNICATION AND THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL GSM
ROAMING IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION**

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;

MINDFUL of Article 33 (2) (a) of the ECOWAS Treaty which provides that Member States shall develop, modernize, coordinate and standardize their national telecommunications network in order to provide reliable interconnection among Member States;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.2/12/99 on the improvement of telecommunications connectivity in ECOWAS Member States;

RECOGNISING that direct interconnection between ECOWAS States using modern telecommunications systems is a prerequisite for sub-regional economic integration;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC. 21/5/80 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government establishing the special fund for telecommunications to accelerate development of telecommunication infrastructure in the sub-region;

CONSIDERING the Political will of Member States to create a single and harmonised market for telecommunications in the sub-region for the promoting of integration and economic development in the sub-region;

TAKING NOTE of the studies carried out on the harmonisation of telecommunications in the sub region and the options chosen at the fifth meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers in Lome of harmonisation model of a centralised policy with

individual national implementation mechanisms;

NOTING the increasing expansion of GSM networks to improve access to telecommunication facilities in the sub region;

NOTING that GSM at the sub regional level is both technically and financially viable, and also serves as a tool for integration in the sub region;

DESIRING to develop Regional GSM Roaming and Cross-border connectivity in the sub-region;

DESIRING also of adoption a Regional Telecommunications Policy;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the fifth meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications held in Abuja on 27th February 2004;

RECOMMENDS

TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT to adopt the attached draft Decision relating to the Adoption of A Regional Policy on Telecommunication and the Development of a Regional GSM Roaming in the West African Region.

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY
2005**


DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

RECOMMENDATION CREC.10/01/05

**ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL FUND FOR THE
PROMOTION OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

DESIRING therefore to source adequate funds
for this purpose;

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

RECOMMENDS

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

**TO THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT** to adopt the attached draft
Decision establishing a Regional Fund for the
Promotion of Cultural Exchange.

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.11/7/87 on the Cultural
Framework Agreement for the Economic
Community of West African States signed in Abuja
on 9 July 1987;

**DONE AT ACCRA, THIS 18TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2005.**

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.4/11/96 adopting
the ECOWAS Cultural development programme
whose objectives include the strengthening
and development of cultural exchanges and
ensuring that the cultural dimension is adequately
taken into account in the regional integration
process;


.....
DR. KOFI KONADU APRAKU

**CHAIRMAN
FOR COUNCIL**

MINDFUL of the Decision A/ DEC6/01/03
adopting a plan of action to strengthen and
revitalize cooperation between the Member
States in cultural affairs, with the NEPAD
framework;

CONSIDERING that the lack of financial
resources prevents artists from promoting their
works, interacting with one another, or
exchanging experiences;

CONSIDERING that the establishment of an
integrated regional cultural area which will
promote creativity, centres of excellence, the
circulation of cultural goods, and the development
of cultural exchanges, requires resources which
Member States are not always able to mobilize as
and when required;

CONSIDERING that artists rarely have direct
access to financing on terms favourable to them;

CONSIDERING the need to encourage inter-
cultural dialogue, with a view to building a
community identity through the integration of
cultural actors in the sub-region into exchange
networks;

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

INTRODUCTION

The twenty-eighth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), was held in Accra, on 19 January 2005, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana, and current Chairman of ECOWAS.

The following Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives were present at the summit:

His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou
President of the Republic of Benin;

His Excellency Blaise Compaore
President of Faso, Head of Government

His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo
President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

His Excellency Yahya A. J.J. Jammeh
President of the Republic of The Gambia

His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor
President of the Republic of Ghana

His Excellency Henrique Pereira Rosa
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

His Excellency Gyude Bryant
President of the National Transitional
Government of the Republic of Liberia

His Excellency Amadou Toumani Toure
President of the Republic of Mali

His Excellency Mamadou Tandja
President of the Republic of Niger

His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

His Excellency Maitre Abdoulaye Wade
President of the Republic of Senegal

His Excellency Solomon E. Berewa
Vice-President of the Republic of Sierra
Leone

His Excellency Cellou Dalein Diallo
Prime Minister, Representing the President
of the Republic of Guinea

His Excellency Koffi Samah
Prime Minister of Togo, representing the
President of the Togolese Republic.

The following dignitaries also attended the twenty-eighth session of the Authority as observers:

His Excellency, Ahmedou Ould
Abdallah, Representative of the
Secretary General of the United
Nations Organisation;

Mr Paulo Gomez, Executive Director,
World Bank

A list of participants is attached as an annex.

II. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was marked by the welcome address of Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, ECOWAS Executive Secretary and the opening address of His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana and current Chairman of ECOWAS, as well as the statements by His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the African Union, Madam Theresa Sherman, Regional President of the Mano River Basin Women Peace Network; and Madam Salimata Pouquet, President of the Women Peace Network (Cote d'Ivoire).

The Authority decided to use these addresses as working documents. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the consolidation of regional peace and security and to the regional integration process, as a means of freeing the peoples of the West African region from poverty and marginalisation.

Messages of solidarity and support were delivered to the twenty-eighth session of the Authority by His Excellency Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, representing Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation.

Victims of the Tsunami Disaster Remembered

At the invitation of the ECOWAS Chairman, the participants of the summit observed a minute silence in memory of all those who perished in the tsunami disaster which occurred in many

countries around the Indian Ocean in December 2004. The Summit called for continued global support to the countries affected in their effort at managing the enormous disaster.

ECOWAS Programmes

The Authority adopted the reports of the Executive Secretary, the two sessions of the Council of Ministers, and the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The reports focused on the following:

- Establishment of the ECOWAS Common Market;
- Creation of the second monetary zone (WAMZ) and the ECOWAS single currency;
- Negotiation of regional economic partnership agreement (EPA) between West Africa and the European Union, and WTO multilateral trade negotiations;
- Production sector and infrastructure programmes;
- Human development programmes;
- Administrative and financial matters;
- Institutional matters;
- Regional peace and security.

The Authority placed particular emphasis on economic and institutional matters, peace and security.

Expansion of the powers of the Court of Justice

Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction the increasing interest of the West African business community and civil society in the ECOWAS integration process. It was noted that the Protocol on the ECOWAS Court of Justice did not provide the Community Superior Court with adequate powers to contribute sufficiently to the acceleration of the regional integration process. The Authority consequently amended the said protocol.

The amended protocol enables the Court to

adjudicate in disputes arising from the interpretation and application of supplementary acts annexed to the Treaty, decisions, regulations and directives of the relevant Community institutions. The amendment permits individuals and corporate bodies to seek redress in the Court. The amendment also establishes a procedure for the execution of decisions of the Court and for ensuring compliance therewith.

NEPAD Implementation

The Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to the objectives, orientations and priorities of NEPAD, as the appropriate instrument for the integration and development of the economies of the African continent. The Authority recognised the close similarity between NEPAD objectives and the ECOWAS integration programmes and decided that, at the national level, each Member State should ensure that the same Ministry is assigned the responsibility for both ECOWAS and NEPAD matters. The Authority therefore urged the Executive Secretariat and Member States to ensure the establishment and effective functioning of these national focal points in all Member States. -

The Authority took stock of progress accomplished in the implementation of NEPAD since its extraordinary session at Accra in March 2004. The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Accra short-term action plan covering regional infrastructure projects, trade development, regional peace and security, and institutional capacity building. The Authority commended the establishment of the multi-agency task force, which was facilitating the preparation and execution of regional infrastructural projects. The Executive Secretariat was directed to pursue with renewed vigour the coordination of external resource mobilisation and utilisation.

The Authority took note of the creation and functioning of the African Partnership Forum, which was facilitating the participation of the G8 and other OECD countries in NEPAD implementation. The Authority appealed to the international community, and particularly the ECOWAS traditional development partners to make good on the pledges they have made at the various international fora.

The Authority urged the Executive Secretariat to expedite action on the establishment at the

regional level, of a regulatory framework for the infrastructure sector, with a view to facilitating the funding and execution of regional projects.

The Authority also urged the Executive Secretariat and Member States to explore all possible avenues of obtaining local financing for NEPAD regional projects at the national and regional levels.

The Authority expressed its gratitude to NEPAD donor countries for their generous offer of resources for the financing of regional projects and appealed to the development partners to take all necessary measures to reconcile their intervention policies with the financing and development needs of our economies.

Regional Approach to the Fight against Poverty

The Authority underscored the need for a regional approach to the fight against poverty, in order to create synergy and enhance national programmes within the framework of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, the UEMOA Commission and the World Bank towards the formulation of a regional poverty reduction strategy paper. They requested that the work should be accelerated in order to adopt a regional framework for the fight against poverty. All the Member States were urged to modify their national strategies to accommodate the regional dimensions of poverty.

Negotiations of Regional Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union

The Authority recalled the launching on 6 October 2003 of the negotiation of a regional economic partnership agreement between West Africa and the European Union within the framework of the Cotonou agreement. The Authority reiterated the West African position that the regional EPA should, first and foremost, be an instrument for development in the fight against poverty. The Authority therefore directed the West African negotiators to ensure that the regional EPA would be flexible enough to accommodate and fully take account of the low development level of the West

African economies, the economic and social constraints, and the limited ability to adapt to the new international environment. That is, the EPA should take into account the development priorities of the ECOWAS countries.

The Authority commended the strategy of involving all stakeholders (government, private sector and civil society) in the negotiations. The Authority also took note of the roadmap for the EPA negotiations which has been jointly adopted by West Africa and the European Commission.

Common Market

The Authority exhorted all Member States to take concrete measures toward the establishment of a single regional market in West Africa through the effective consolidation of the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme. In this regard, the Authority called on Member States to remove all tariff and non-tariff barriers to the free movement of products of ECOWAS origin. In view of the political will that must underpin the implementation of the scheme, the Heads of State undertook to issue the necessary directives to their respective governments to make the free trade area a reality. The Authority called for an early completion of the preparations towards the adoption of the ECOWAS common external tariff (CET). It was therefore decided that the ECOWAS CET would be launched during the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Community.

Community Levy

Heads of State and Government expressed their strong desire to have the Community levy generate adequate resources for the operational budgets of the ECOWAS institutions and the solidarity fund to be used to promote the balanced development of the region. Heads of State and Government commended those Member States which were applying correctly the provisions of the protocol on the Community levy. It exhorted all the defaulting Member States to apply the levy correctly without further delay and to ensure the removal of all obstacles to the implementation of the provisions of the protocol.

Monetary Cooperation Programme

The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to deepen the convergence of the macroeconomic policies and performance of Member States in order to increase the credibility of the second monetary zone and the ECOWAS

single monetary zone. In this context, they urged all Member States to redouble efforts to fulfil the macroeconomic convergence criteria through stricter budgetary discipline and carrying out appropriate structural reforms for expanding the production base.

Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment

The Authority noted with regret the delays in the printing and introduction of the ECOWAS passport, which confers Community citizenship. The Heads of State congratulated the Member States which had already issued the common passport; they appealed to those countries which have not yet done so, to take necessary measures to introduce this travel document of crucial importance within the shortest possible time.

The Heads of State and Government, desirous of enabling the ordinary West African enjoy the full benefits of a Community citizen, urged Member States to take all necessary measures to implement the provisions of the protocols on free movement of persons, right of resident and establishment.

Energy Sector Programmes

The Authority commended the efforts made by the Executive Secretariat to mobilise the necessary resources for the West African Power Pool project, including the interconnection of the electric power grids of the West African countries. The Authority reviewed in this regard the implementation of the following components of the regional energy programme. The Authority commended the creation of the ECOWAS energy observatory which is a major component of the West African Power Pool project. It recalled the kind gesture of the Benin authorities of making facilities available to the observatory and directed the Executive Secretariat to take necessary measures to ensure the continued functioning of the observatory.

Air Transport

The Authority reviewed the report on the implementation of the air transport liberalisation programme in West and Central Africa. The Authority appealed to all Member States to take the necessary measures to effect the removal of

all impediments to the efficacious application of the Yamoussoukro Declaration in the liberalisation of air traffic. Furthermore, the Executive Secretariat and Member States were called upon to ensure the implementation of the measures and activities contained in the plan of action for the liberalisation of air traffic within the region.

ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy

Heads of State and Government, in recognition of the importance of the agricultural sector in the regional economy and the benefit of concerted action in the development of the sector, adopted a regional agricultural policy. The policy is designed to facilitate the achievement of sustainable regional food security, rational management of natural resources, coordinated development and modernisation of the sector, decent remuneration of agricultural operators, and expansion of regional and international trade in agricultural and agro-industrial goods.

Eradication of Poliomyelitis

The Authority expressed concern about the prevalence of poliomyelitis in some ECOWAS countries. It acknowledged the need to enhance the implementation of the regional poliomyelitis eradication programme as a complement to national initiatives. To this end, it welcomed the initiative taken by the West African Health Organisation regarding the poliomyelitis eradication policy in West Africa, as a component of the global initiative for polio eradication by 2005. The Authority called for the cooperation and participation of all the Member States concerned to make it possible to rid the region of this incapacitating disease.

Mobilisation of the Civil Society

Heads of State and Government welcomed the recent efforts of the Executive Secretariat to promote the mobilisation and coordinated functioning of civil society organisations within the region. They expressed support for the creation of the West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF) and directed the Executive Secretariat to continue its working relations with the new regional body. The Executive Secretariat was also directed to reflect on measures to ensure that civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations serve as a positive force for the development and integration of West Africa.

Enhancement of the Resources of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) Group

The Authority appealed to the Member States which had fallen behind in their payment to honour their obligations towards the financial institution of the Community. The Authority also invited the participation of external partners and development finance institutions in the capital of the said Bank, and the commencement of the financing of private sector projects. In this regard, the Authority exhorted the EBID management to improve its resource mobilisation strategy in order to secure non-regional participation in the activities of the EBID Group.

Restructuring of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat

The Authority approved the decision taken by the Council of Ministers at its 52nd Ordinary Session, relating to the following vacant statutory positions:

Deputy Executive Secretary
(Administration and Finance)

Deputy Executive Secretary (Integration Programme)

Deputy Executive Secretary (Policy Harmonisation).

The Heads of State and Government directed the Executive Secretariat to make proposals, in collaboration with the in-coming Chairman of the Authority for the allocation of the three posts to be filled within two (2) months.

In order to enable ECOWAS to more successfully fulfil its role in the integration process and adapt to the international environment, the Authority directed the in-coming Chairman of the Authority and the Executive Secretary to put forward proposals for the reform of the management of the Secretariat, with a view to transforming the Executive into a Commission headed by a Chairman and assisted by Commissioners. The proposals will be submitted to the next session of Council for consideration.

Regional Peace and Security

The Authority had a lengthy discussion on the political and security situation in the region. It noted with satisfaction that significant progress has been achieved towards the process of resolving crises in the region particularly in Guinea Bissau and Liberia. However, Heads of State and Government expressed deep concern over the recent reverses in the peace process in Cote d'Ivoire. Consequently, the Authority stressed the need for continued regional efforts in order to secure lasting peace in the region.

Liberia

The Authority stressed the need for continued ECOWAS and international support for Liberia. As a demonstration of ECOWAS support, the Authority directed a number of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to accompany General Abdulsalami Abubakar the ECOWAS mediator on his next visit to Liberia. Heads of State and Government invited the National Transitional Government of Liberia to keep the integrity of the Government, hold regular meetings and respect representatives within the government.

The Authority stressed the urgent need for Member States which have not made their contributions to the Special Fund for Liberia to do so during the current year.

Cote d'Ivoire

The Authority confirmed that the Linas Marcoussis and Accra III Accords remain the framework for the resolution of the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire. To this effect, Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the UN Security Council and the African Union initiatives on the matter.

Guinea Bissau

The Authority reiterated that the priorities in Guinea Bissau remain security sector reforms, economic development and elections. The Authority called on ECOWAS to support the mini-roundtable that the government intends to organise in early March 2005. Heads of State and Government commended the European Union and Netherlands for their pledge to support the security sector reforms and appealed to other development partners to do the same. They also expressed appreciation at the opening of the

Office of the Special Representative of the ECOWAS Executive Secretary in Guinea Bissau to assist government in close cooperation with other partners. The Authority called on the ECOWAS Executive Secretary to assist in the implementation of the Transitional Charter.

The Authority expressed its deep appreciation of the contribution of His Excellency Henrique Pereira Rosa, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau to the smooth conduct of the transition programme for the restoration of normal democratic process in Guinea Bissau.

Sierra Leone

Heads of State and Government appealed for the maintenance of a United Nations residual peace keeping force and reaffirmed the need for coordination with the peace processes in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. They called for assistance for the youth employment and state capacity building.

The Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-keeping and Security

The Authority noted the progress achieved towards the operationalisation of the Protocol on the mechanism for conflict prevention, management, resolution, peace keeping, and security. It called on Member States that have not ratified the protocol on the mechanism and the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance to do so before the next Summit.

Heads of State and Government accepted and expressed their gratitude to Sierra Leone for the offer to host the second ECOWAS logistics depot of the regional standby force.

Establishment of an ECOWAS Peace Fund

The Authority welcomed the establishment of the ECOWAS Peace Fund and appealed to Member States that have not made their contributions to the Peace Fund to do so as soon as possible. It also made a solemn appeal to the international community to contribute to this regional fund, with three windows, namely: conflict prevention and capacity-building (preventive diplomacy, early warning systems, peace, training and sensitisation programmes, and good governance and human rights), political and humanitarian issues, and post-conflict

reconstruction (elections, DDR, socio-economic activities), and conflict management and peace keeping activities.

Implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms

The Authority renewed their commitment to the moratorium on importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and called on the Executive Secretariat to take all necessary measures for the full implementation of the plan of action.

Renewal of Membership of the Council of Elders

The Authority approved the renewal of the term of office of the members of the Council of Elders for another year.

Cooperation in Crime Control

Heads of State and Government recalled their decisions on a regional approach to the fight against cross-border criminality, and particularly the regional initiatives in the control of money-laundering. They expressed their determination to step up the campaign against this growing international crime through the operation of the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money-Laundering (GIABA). The Authority called on Member States to cooperate on criminal matters in order to address effectively trans-border crime control in the region.

The Authority called for the enhancement of the technical and operational capacities of the Group, with its headquarters in Dakar, and to that end appointed the Administrative Secretary and Deputy Administrative Secretary of GIABA.

ECOWAS Gender Policy

Heads of State and Government recognised the important contribution of women in all facets of life in West Africa and the numerous disadvantages they suffer by virtue of their gender. The Authority adopted a regional gender policy to reverse this gender discrimination and adopt measures to enhance the capacity of women, to participate even more actively in the socio-economic development of West Africa.

The Authority took note of the commencement of

the functioning of the newly created ECOWAS Gender Commission. The Authority decided to enhance further the capacity of the Community to promote the regional approach to the gender issue by approving the administrative structures of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre, a regional gender strategic plan, and guidelines on the structure and mechanisms of the ECOWAS Gender Management Systems. The Executive Secretariat was directed to ensure the effective application of the gender policy and strategic plan.

International Cooperation

The Authority expressed its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the development partners who have been contributing to the strengthening of regional peace and security, and also to the regional integration and development process.

Declaration of Support for UN Secretary General

Heads of State and Government viewed with disquiet the current campaign to discredit Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation. The Authority expressed full confidence in the leadership of Mr Kofi Annan. The Authority called on African Heads of State and Government at their forthcoming summit of African Union to send a message of solidarity to the Secretary General who has demonstrated remarkable integrity in his conduct at the helm of the United Nations.

United Nations Security Council Reform

Heads of State and Government took note of the report of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on threats, challenges and change of December 4, 2004. They welcomed the proposal on the enlargement of the UN Security Council. Heads of State and Government believed firmly that more effective African membership in the Security Council, both permanent and non-permanent was long overdue, and called on the African Union to adopt an African common position on the matter. In this connection, the Heads of State and Government expressed preference to option A of the High level panel's recommendations and recommended it for adoption by the African Union.

Date and Venue of the Next Summit

The Heads of State and Government elected His Excellency Mamadou Tandja as the Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government. The next ordinary session of the Authority shall be held in December 2005 at a venue to be decided through consultation.

Vote of Thanks

The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep gratitude to His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chairman of the Community, for the leadership he has exercised in the promotion of regional peace and security and the strengthening of the ECOWAS integration and development process.

The Heads of State and Government congratulated His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor on his election as the President of Ghana for another term in office.

Their Excellencies expressed particular appreciation for the excellent hospitality extended to them during their stay in Accra. The Heads of State lauded the contribution of President Kufuor towards regional integration and the entrenchment of democracy.

The Authority expressed its gratitude and appreciation to all the Heads of State and Government involved in the peace initiative towards finding an acceptable and durable solution to the conflicts in the region.

The Authority