

COMUNIDADE DOS ESTADOS DA  
AFRICA DO OESTE

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
OF WEST AFRICAN STATES



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

ECW/CM/LXXIV/....

Original: English

# **SEVENTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

Dakar, 13 May 2016

---

## **FINAL REPORT**

---

ECOWAS Commission  
Dakar, May, 2016

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Seventy-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers was held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal. The meeting, which was attended by Ministers responsible for ECOWAS Affairs and Finance, was chaired by Mr. Khadim Diop, Minister of African Integration, NEPAD and Good Governance and Chair of the Council of Ministers
2. The following Member States were represented:
  - Republic of Benin;
  - Burkina Faso;
  - Republic of Cabo Verde;
  - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire;
  - Republic of The Gambia;
  - Republic of Ghana;
  - Republic of Guinea;
  - Republic of Guinea Bissau;
  - Republic Liberia;
  - Republic of Mali;
  - Republic of Niger;
  - Federal Republic of Nigeria;
  - Republic of Senegal;
  - Republic of Sierra Leone;
  - Togolese Republic.
3. The following ECOWAS Institutions and Specialized Agencies were also represented:
  - ECOWAS Commission;
  - ECOWAS Parliament;
  - Community Court of Justice;
  - Office of the Financial Controller;
  - West African Health Organisation (WAHO);
  - Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA);
  - ECOWAS Bank for Investment & Development;
  - ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA);
  - West African Monetary Agency (WAMA).
4. The list of participants is annexed to this report.



## I. OPENING CEREMONY

5. In his opening address, the Council Chair H.E. Mr. Khadim Diop, Senegalese Minister of African Integration, NEPAD and Good Governance, on behalf of **H.E. Mr. Macky Sall**, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chair of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, cordially welcomed participants to the 76th Ordinary Session in Senegal.
6. Expressing special welcome wishes to the ECOWAS Commission President, **H.E. Mr. Marcel Alain de Souza**, the Vice-President, **Mr. Edward Singhatey** and the Commissioners who recently took office, he assured them of his unalloyed support and that of all Council members in the accomplishment of the tasks assigned them in the service of the Community.
7. He subsequently rendered glowing tribute to the former Commission President, Mr. Kadré Désiré and his team for the remarkable work achieved throughout the past four years.
8. Referring to the entry into force of the Common External Tariff, the adoption of the ECOWAS biometric identity card, as well as the progress made in the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, he expressed delight at the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law within ECOWAS.
9. As regards the financing of the Community and the rationalization of the expenses linked to the running of its institutions, finalization of the institutional reforms and the achievement of Vision 2020, he welcomed the conservatory measures already taken by the Commission President to streamline and cut costs. In the same perspective, he emphasized the urgent need to rapidly provide sustainable solutions to the implementation of the Community Levy and redirect the Community resources to priority programmes with a bent on integration within the region in consonance with the wish expressed by the Authority of Heads of State and Government through the current ECOWAS Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Macky Sall.
10. He ended by wishing the meeting successful deliberations and declared the 76<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers open.
11. In his statement, the President of the Commission, H.E. Mr. Marcel A. de Souza, thanked the Government and People of Senegal for the hospitable welcome accorded all the delegations and expressed gratitude and paid glowing tributes to H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chair of

the Authority of Heads of State and Government for his support to the smooth organization of the 76th session of the Council of Ministers.

12. He reassured Council of the full support of the Commission's new management team for the desired efficiency of the Authority of Heads of State and Government in the pursuit of ECOWAS ideals.

13. The Commission President expressed his ambition to work to achieve an ECOWAS of people and to build the 16th economy for the 15 countries, which is a symbol of a customs and economic union in a political environment that promotes democracy, freedoms and respect for human rights. In that regard, he paid glowing tribute to his predecessor, H.E. Mr. Kadre Desiré Ouédraogo for the spectacular achievements by ECOWAS under his incumbency.

14. He also emphasized that ECOWAS has assets and achievements for the realization of its objectives if each Member State respects commitments and if the Institution's resources are rigorously managed for the benefit of the Community's populations.

15. Given the financial problems facing ECOWAS, especially due to difficulties in Community Levy payments by Member States, the President announced the adoption of an austerity plan and sanitization of the Commission's accounts and hoped for the support of Member States in its implementation, as well as in the implementation of the institutional reforms.

16. The full texts of the speeches are attached to this report.

### **SWEARING-IN OF THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS**

17. Following the introduction of the new Vice President and Commissioners by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, the President of the Community Court of Justice, Maria Do Ceu Silva Monteiro administered their oath of office. They are:

<b>S/N</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MEMBER STATE</b>
1.	Hon. Edward Singhatey	Vice President	Republic of The Gambia
2.	Mr. Tchambakou Ayassor	Commissioner, Agriculture, Environment & Water Resources	Togolese Republic
3.	Professor Hamidou Boly	Commissioner, Education, Science & Culture	Republic of Burkina Faso
4.	Mr. Allieu Sesay	Commissioner, Finance	Republic of Sierra Leone
5.	Dr. Antoinette G Weeks	Commissioner, Infrastructures	Republic of Liberia



<b>S/N</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MEMBER STATE</b>
6.	Mr. Mamadou Traore	Commissioner, Macro-Economic Policy & Economic Research	Republic of Mali
7.	Mrs. Halima Ahmed	Commissioner, Political Affairs, Peace & Security	Federal Republic of Nigeria
8.	Mr. Laouali Chaibou	Commissioner, Trade, Customs, Free Movement & Tourism	Republic of Niger

18. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the President of the Community Court of Justice wished the new Vice President and Commissioners success and urged them to be diligent in the discharge of their duties.

19. Council thereafter congratulated the new Vice President and Commissioners and wished them success in their new roles.

## **II. ELECTION OF BUREAU**

20. The following bureau was elected:

- Chairman - Republic of Senegal;
- Rapporteurs - Republic of Cabo Verde;  
- Republic of The Gambia.

## **III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME**

21. The following agenda was adopted after amendments:

### **A. OPENING CEREMONY**

- i. Opening Statement by the Chairman of Council, Khadim DIOP, Minister of African Integration, NEPAD and Good Governance of the Republic of Senegal;
- ii. Statement by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Marcel Alain de Souza;
- iii. Swearing-in of New Vice President and Commissioners;

### **B. CLOSE DOOR SESSION**

- iv. Election of Bureau;



- v. Adoption of Draft Agenda and Work Programme;

### **C. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- vi. Presentation and Consideration of the 2016 Interim Report of the President of the Commission;
- vii. Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council;
- viii. Presentation and Consideration of the Financial Controller's 2015 Final Report;
- ix. Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee;
- x. Presentation on the Financial situation of the Community;
- xi. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 49<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government;

### **D. ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT**

- xii. Report of the statutory Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers responsible for Quality and Adoption of Ten (10) ECOWAS Harmonized Standards (ECOSTANDs);
- xiii. Report and Communique of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of ECOWAS Health Ministers;
- xiv. Technical Note on WAHO participation in the High-Level HIV/AIDS Summit in New York;
- xv. Memorandum on ECOWAS Standard Model for National Disaster Management Agency in Member States

### **E. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- xvi. Update on Institutional Reform;
- xvii. Update on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with European Union;

- xviii. Status of the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP);
- xix. Any Other Business;
- xx. Adoption of Report;
- xxi. Vote of Thanks;
- xxii. Closing Ceremony.

#### **IV OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS**

##### **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

##### **Item 6: Presentation and Consideration of the 2016 Interim Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission**

22. The 2016 Interim Report of the President of the Commission provides a complete overview of the status of implementation of the Community's work programme in the first four months of 2016. It assesses the recent socio-economic developments in West Africa against the backdrop of the global economy and outlines the challenges and prospects.

23. Regarding the economic environment, world growth showed slight recovery in 2016 at 3.2% compared to 3.1 % in 2015, following a decline in 2015 compared to the 2014 rate (3.4%). In Africa, economic growth slowed down, falling from 3.2% in 2015 to 2.8% in 2016. In the ECOWAS region, average growth rate fell from 6.1% in 2014 to 3% in 2015 and 2016. This poor performance is explained primarily by the drop in oil prices, impact of the Ebola Virus disease and deterioration in the prices of raw materials. In this context, ECOWAS average budget deficit worsened from 2.9% in 2012 to 4.1% in 2015. The forecasts indicate a rising trend in the budget deficit to attain 4.5% in 2016.

24. Concerning the implementation of the work programme, the report reveals that Community Institutions continued implementation of the work programme against the backdrop of a fragile cash position which affected the rate of activity implementation. Activities were implemented in the areas of monetary and economic integration projects, construction of the common market with the application of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) in nine Member States at 30 March 2016 and the development of agriculture and infrastructure.

25. Peace and security pose serious challenges to our Member States. Terrorist attacks in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Cote d'Ivoire and numerous strikes by Boko Haram in Nigeria have led to several deaths and plunged our hardworking populations into mourning. The Commission, in collaboration with Member States, will continue implementation of the relevant activities to prevent the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons in the region and fight the threats to maritime security and safety in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) and along the coastline of East Africa.

26. In order to fast track the implementation of Community programmes, ECOWAS has organized a high-level conference on innovative funding and a Roundtable of technical and financial partners for financing of the ECOWAS Community Development Programme (CDP).

27. The report concludes by calling on Member States to comply with the relevant provisions of the Community Levy Protocol to enable ECOWAS institutions implement the different integration projects.

28. Following presentation and in reaction to various issues mentioned in the report, Member States highlighted the challenges faced and the efforts being undertaken in the ratification and implementation of various Community Instruments and Protocols notably the Common External Tariff (CET), the Community Levy as well as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

29. With regard to financial performance, the Republic of Ghana informed Council that the current Debt/GDP ratio has dropped to 71.4% and not 74% as indicated in the report.

30. On the issue of elections, the Republics of Ghana and The Gambia underscored the efforts being made towards the organization free, fair and credible elections later in the year and expressed the hope for the Commission's support in that regard.

31. On the issue of translation, the Republics of Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau expressed concern about the late reception of Portuguese versions of important Community documents such as the CET, which hinders ratification by their countries. Furthermore, the Republic of Guinea Bissau recommended to the Commission to translate all Community legal texts into Portuguese, in order to facilitate their transposition in Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau just as it is done in UEMOA.

32. The Togolese Republic and Republic of Benin also expressed concern over the Joint Border Posts which have been completed but are yet to be functional due to lack of equipment.

33. The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire reiterated its offer to host the Round Table for the financing of the Community Development Programme and would like the Commission to go to Abidjan and meet with the high authorities of the country.

34. Following the Commission's clarifications on the issues raised including the commitment to ensure the translation of documents in all languages of the Community, Council congratulated the President on the quality of the report and adopted same.

35. In addition, Council directed the Commission to strengthen partnership with EBID and other financial institutions with regard to resource mobilization for the funding of Community programmes.

**Item 7: Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Tasks Assigned by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers**

36. The Commission presented a status report on the implementation of tasks assigned to ECOWAS Institutions by the Council of Ministers at its 75<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Abuja from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. The report covered the sixteen (16) key areas as follows:

- Gratuity should be deposited in a special account and paid once, to staff at the time of separation;
- Council invited the Commission to consider the option of pre-financing the renovations on the official residence of the President of the Commission and ask for reimbursement from the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- The Commission should continue discussions with the Chinese Government and ensure that the said new headquarters building is constructed and handed over with all relevant equipment;
- The Commission should ensure that transportation of staff personal effects is paid in accordance with grade and destination;
- Financial Controller should share his report with other institutions and incorporate their Observations/arguments when presenting the report to Council;

- The Commission should address the tenures of the Heads of Representation in the general framework of the revision of the Staff Regulations;
- The Zonal Bureaux in Burkina Faso and Liberia will be hosted in the offices of the Permanent Representations from where they will continue to execute their mandate;
- The need to take due account of the principle of geographical spread in all recruitments including the appointments of Permanent Representatives in particular when the process of the opening of these Representations resumes;
- The Commission should develop a strategy to reinforce mobilisation of external funding;
- The Commission should ensure that the work programmes and activity report are annexed to draft budget;
- The Commission is to step up its resource mobilisation efforts, especially through a more purposeful approach to the collection of Community Levy particularly through quarterly visits to Member States;
- The Commission to continue and fast-track the process of general revision of Community funding mechanisms already launched, and include, in the exercise, a technical assessment of the Protocol relating to the ECOWAS Community Levy;
- Direct the Commission to draw up immediately, with the concerned Member States, a timetable for the settlement of arrears, be it CL contributions or lodgement of proceeds and ensure a timely submission of the memoranda on the settlement of arrears;
- Council underscored the need to ensure the linkages of the Community Strategic Framework with the different national development strategies, the need to involve non-State actors, such as Civil Society Organisations and professional bodies in the popularization and ownership of the CSF. The Commission is to ensure that such linkages be effected in collaboration with the ECOWAS National Offices;
- Council requested that the conclusions and recommendation of this Phase II be presented to it by the Consultants.

37. Following presentation, Council adopted the report.

**Item 8: Presentation and Consideration of the Financial Controller's 2015 Annual Report**

38. In his presentation, the Financial Controller indicated that the 2015 final report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and also covers Community Institutions/Agencies whose operations benefit from Community Levy funds as well as other resources allocated by the Council of Ministers for the 2015 budget year.

39. A balanced revenue and expenditure budget of UA236 (\$333m) was approved by the 74<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers for the execution of the Community's 2015 integration agenda. These resources were to be mobilised principally from the Community Levy mechanism. Secondary revenue sources include the redemption of Member States' contribution Arrears, Donor Grants and assistance.

40. At the end of the year, total income receipts amounted to only UA118.2m, yielding a 50.2% mobilisation rate. A UA2.54m part-redemption of contribution arrears was received out of UA20.4m outstanding. Council may wish to recall that, it had given a deadline of December 2015 for the full redemption of contribution arrears owed by Member States.

41. The Community closed the year with a total staff strength of 1,097. This comprises 27 Statutory Appointees, 52 Directors, 425 other International Staff and 593 Local Staff. Females represent 29% of staff. The Community has 5 Institutions, 6 Agencies, 4 Liaison Offices, 5 Centres, 9 Special Representative Offices and 4 Zonal Bureaux.

42. In line with their commitment to Council during the 2015 budget formulation, the OFC's functions now cover all Institutions, Agencies and Offices. The deployment of oversight function across all Community offices has yielded significant resource savings and harmonisation of procurement processes.

43. On the basis of this report and other pertinent observations, the Financial Controller highlighted two recommendations to be submitted to the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of Council for consideration and approval.

- i. In view of the recent deployment of ECOLink in Community Institutions and Agencies, the functions of the Financial Controller should be fully integrated into the ECOLink workflow to allow for effective oversight;
- ii. The Commission and other Institutions should implement far-reaching cost-saving measures in view of the current financial constraints.

44. During discussions, Guinea Bissau indicated that, contrary to what was presented in the Financial Controller's report, it had commenced payment of contribution arrears and Community Levy since 2015. In addition, Guinea Bissau recommends that the 2015 report of the Financial Controller gives a detailed situation of staff depicting a distinction of permanent and contract staff.

45. After deliberations, Council adopted the report and all two (2) recommendations contained therein.

**Item 9: Presentation and Consideration of the Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee**

46. The Final Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee was presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Jean Antoine Diouf. The report dealt mainly with the following issues:-

- Status of Tasks Assigned to Community Institutions;
- Financial Situation of the Community;;
- Memorandum on Phases 1 & 2 of Lungi Logistics Depot;
- Memorandum on the Transformation of the Mission Planning and Management Cell (MPMC) to Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD);
- Memorandum on the Community Strategic Framework;
- Memorandum on Payment of Resettlement Allowance to Statutory Appointees and Professional Staff;
- Memorandum on the Regional Competition Authority;
- Memorandum on the Renewal of Consultants' Contracts;
- Memorandum on the Emoluments of Statutory Appointees;
- Memorandum on the Rationalisation of Staff in the offices of the President, Vice President and other Heads of Institution;
- Memorandum on the Participation Criteria for Missions including those outside the Community;
- Financial Controller's 2015 Final Report;

- Update on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union;
- Status of the Regional Indicative Programme;
- Any Other Business.

47. Following presentation, the issue of the conversion of the twelve (12) Consultants recruited on a competitive basis was debated at length. To arrive at a consensus on the issue of conversion and renewal, Council considered among other things, the background to their initial engagement, the financial implications for the Community, the relevance and legal basis for such conversion and renewal.

48. In conclusion, Council approved their conversion to contract staff and the renewal of their contracts for a period of one year renewable only once, subject to satisfactory performance. Furthermore, Council requested the Commission to provide a comprehensive report on the programmes that the twelve (12) Consultants are engaged in, indicating the scope, relevance and duration of each.

49. With regard, to the other sixteen Consultants, Council approved the Commission's recommendation not to renew their contracts. Thereafter, council adopted the report of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AFC.

#### **Item 10: Presentation on the Financial Situation of the Community**

50. The Commission made a PowerPoint presentation on the financial situation of the Community, highlighting the current state, the unsatisfactory level of implementation of the Community Levy Protocol and the measures taken towards the reduction of cost.

51. While highlighting the extra budgetary expenses incurred in the execution of certain statutory decisions in the past, the Commission also factored in the significant drop in donor funds inflow, both of which have exerted severe strain on the financial resources of the Community. This situation has been compounded by the non-remittance of Community Levy proceeds.

52. In a bid to curtail expenditure and improve on revenue generation, the Commission informed the Council of cost-cutting measures taken on various areas including on Extra-Budgetary expenses; Peace-keeping Activities; Election Observer Missions; Programme Missions, Staff Recruitment and Expansion of Institutions; Insurance, Travel; Communication, Rented Property, etc.

53. After highlighting the negative impact of the current financial situation on the integration agenda and the overall credibility of the Community, the Commission made the following recommendations to Council:

- graciously note the dire financial situation of the Community's Institutions and stress to Council the urgent need for all Member States to ensure strict and full compliance with the Community Levy Protocol;
- advise Council of the need to take into full account the financial implications when extra-ordinary programmes and activities are being approved for execution by Community Institutions without any corresponding increase in resource inflow;
- assist in facilitating Member States' compliance with the Community Levy Protocol particularly, with regards the remittance of proceeds to the Central Bank Levy Proceeds account as and when due;
- engage and encourage Member States with arrears to settle such arrears to enable the Commission pay outstanding amounts for grants approved for energy, etc.; and
- recommend to Council the implementation of a Contribution Mechanism for Member States to fund troops' deployment in crisis Member States.

54. After presentation, Council commended the Commission for the proactive measures taken to control expenditure in all the Community Institutions. It directed the Commission to ensure that the financial statements of all Community Institutions are duly audited and that the Audit Committee is convened. Council thereafter adopted the report.

**Item 11: Presentation and Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 49<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government**

55. The Commission presented the draft agenda of 49<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

56. Following deliberations, Council agreed to specifically include the item on the Economic Partnership Agreement between West Africa and the European Union.

57. After amendments, Council adopted the draft agenda annexed to this report.



## **ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT**

### **Item 12: Report of the statutory Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers responsible for Quality and Adoption of eleven (11) ECOWAS Harmonized Standards (ECOSTANDs)**

58. In his presentation of this report, Mr. Birima Mangara, Deputy Minister of Budget of the Republic of Senegal, recalled Article 26.3.L of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty as well as other relevant Supplementary Acts, adopting ECOWAS common standards and other related programmes including the West African Common Industrial Policy (WACIP), SQAM (Standardization, Quality, Accreditation, Metrology), the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL) and the ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Model (ECOSHAM) adopted by Regulation C/REG.14/12/12 of the 69<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

59. After providing an update on the implementation of the ECOSHAM programme which, among others contributes to removing obstacles to the movement of products within the region, the Commission requested the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers to:-

- Consider and adopt the various Draft Regulations approving eleven standards and codes of good practice for the under-listed products and services.

60. After presentation and consideration, Council endorsed the report.

### **Item 13: Report and Communique of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS**

61. In his presentation on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Senegal and Chair of the Assembly of ECOWAS Health Ministers, Prof. Awa Marie Coll Seck, Dr A. Diack mentioned that the Health Ministers unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

- The resolution on the appointment of Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control for 2016-2017;
- The resolution on the proposal of the Memorandum of Understanding on conditions for the induction and deployment of medical personnel within the framework of epidemic control;



- The resolution on the Regional Strategic Plan for Health Research.

62. He then highlighted the commitment of the Health Ministers to support the process of establishing the Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control with its headquarters in Nigeria, in line with the decision taken by the 47<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government held in Accra, on 19 May 2015. He also indicated their resolve to ensure the prompt operations of the Regional Centre in adherence to the regulatory framework adopted by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Abuja on 13 and 14 December 2015 and endorsed by the 48<sup>th</sup> Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government held in Abuja on 16 and 17 December 2015.

63. Acknowledging the key role to be played by the ECOWAS Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control, the Health Ministers requested the ECOWAS Commission to provide WAHO the necessary resources for the operations of the Centre. The Health Ministers also noted the relevance of creating an ECOWAS Regional Rapid Response Team with a view to ensuring appropriate and effective regional response in the event of an epidemic outbreak in the Member States.

64. He mentioned that the Health Ministers called on Technical and Financial Partners to maintain and intensify their support to Member States as well as WAHO in the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control and its effective start-up of operations.

65. After consideration, Council endorsed the report.

**Item 14: Technical Note on the participation of WAHO in the High-Level HIV/AIDS Summit in New York**

66. In his presentation on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Senegal and Chair of the Assembly of ECOWAS Health Ministers, Professor Awa Marie Coll Seck, Dr A. Diack recalled the Resolution of the UN General Assembly (GA) on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 to convene a high-level meeting (HLM) from 8-10 June 2016. He stated that the meeting will among other things, undertake a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2006, and 2011, and recommendations including concrete strategies for action to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

67. Dr. Diack also highlighted the progress ECOWAS has made since 2006, in terms of strengthening access to HIV/AIDS related treatment, prevention, care and

support. However, it noted that these efforts were still insufficient to achieve the global goals and African Union commitments to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030.

68. Underscoring the importance of this high-level meeting as the single most important milestone to secure political commitment, both at domestic and global level, for the action necessary over the next five years to enable ending the epidemic by 2030, Council was requested to consider:

- advocating for the highest-level representation of its Member States at the high-level meeting, and to include a civil society representative in the national delegation.
- briefing the national delegations, and the permanent representatives at the UNGA, to promote a strong Political Declaration, which should reaffirm the ECOWAS adopted UNAIDS vision of Zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.
- promoting a Political Declaration, which should support achieving the ECOWAS Regional AIDS strategy and the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy and its targets; including the 90s treatment target; combination prevention for young people, women and girls, key populations and all people left behind; as well as eliminating HIV-related discrimination and gender-based violence and promoting gender equality.

69. After presentation and consideration, Council endorsed the report.

**Item 15: Memorandum on ECOWAS Standard Model for National Disaster Management Agency in Member States**

70. In presenting the Memorandum on the Model National Disaster Management Agency, Mr. Birima Mangara, Deputy Minister of Budget of the Republic of Senegal, recalled the adoption of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy and its Action Plan and the directive of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government to Member States and the ECOWAS Commission to put in place a National Agency uniquely for Disaster Management and for coordination of humanitarian actions in each Member State of ECOWAS.

71. The objective for the development of the Model therefore, is to ensure establishment/creation of a National Disaster Management Agency in each Member State that is capable of intervening rapidly and effectively in disaster situations.

72. The report highlighted the critical aspects of the NDMA as follows;
- Policy and Legislation and National Disaster Management System;
  - Characteristics of the National Disaster Management Agency;
  - Resourcing and Financing;
  - Transitional provisions.

73. In conclusion, the Commission requested the Council to endorse the Model National Disaster Management Agency and to recommend it to the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State for adoption.

74. After presentation and clarifications sought, Council endorsed the report.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Item 16: Update on Institutional Reform**

75. In its presentation, the Commission recalled the adoption of Phases I and II of the Institutional Reform Exercise by the 74<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sessions of Council held in Accra, Ghana from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 and Abuja, Nigeria, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, respectively.

76. The Commission informed that the new management at the Commission took over in March, 2016 and due to the transition period, there have been some delays in continuing with the reform process. This accounted for a long gap in communication between the Commission and the Consultants, and it was therefore necessary to get an update on the Institutional Reform process from their perspective in order to follow up on the decisions taken at the last Council meeting. In this regard, and following the completion of Phases I (Organisation) and II (Business processes) of the Institutional Reform work at ECOWAS institutions, the Consultants have prepared and recommended the following options for the next steps:-

#### **Option 1**

- i. Resume the full institutional reform process – in line with the original request from Council and the terms of reference;
- ii. Concentrate exclusively on implementing some technical improvements to enhance efficiency.

**Option 2** focuses on the Phase 2 recommendations, which are more 'technical' and developed jointly with the Commissioners and Directors in charge of those areas. These recommendations are implementation-ready.

77. The Commission informed Council that, subsequent to the above, a meeting of the Institutional Reform Sub-Technical Committee made up of made up of Directors at the Commission as originally constituted by the then President of the Commission was convened by the Vice-President and Chair of the Institutional Reform Management Committee and was tasked with developing a roadmap which would serve as a working document for the Institutional Reform Committee made up of Statutory Appointees.

78. To ensure a coordinated and effective implementation, as earlier recommended, the Commission stated that the technical sub-committee would guide the process and report to senior management or the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Council comprised of Cabo Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal as reflected in Paragraph 44 of the Report of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Ministers.

79. In conclusion, the Community Institutions therefore called upon Council to consider and endorse the next steps enumerated below in order to finalise the third and final phase of the reform exercise:-

1. Invite the Consultants, Maxwell stamp to agree and finalise on the implementation process;
2. Present the recommendations to the Institutional Reform and Management Committee;
3. Convene a management meeting to discuss the outcome of decisions taken and develop an implementation timeline with clear allocated tasks;
4. Present a Memorandum to the next Council on status of implementation of reform process;
5. Finalise process within the agreed timeframe.

80. Following the presentation, Council lauded the Commission for the quality of the report and encouraged them to proceed with the next steps highlighted in the report. With regard to the implementation of the various recommendations contained in the report especially in area of cost control, Council also encouraged the Commission to make use of technology as and when necessary.

81. Council took note of the report thereafter.



**Item 17: Update on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with European Union**

82. On this item, Council referred to the presentation of the President's 2016 Interim Report on the status of the signing of the agreement and requested the Commission to include this item for decision at the next ordinary session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

**Item 18: Status of the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP)**

83. The Commission mentioned the different development challenges besetting the region and explained the overall approach for activities envisaged within the framework of the 11th EDF RIP, which ensures that development, peace and security matters are interconnected.

84. The document on the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF RIP valued at €1.15 billion for the period 2014 – 2020 (double the amount of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF RIP), revolves around on three focal areas which are: (1) regional peace and stability, (2) regional economic integration and Aid for Trade, (3) resilience, food and nutritional security and natural resources.

85. Moreover, the Commission stressed the fact that, the new governance of the RIP is characterised mainly by the establishment of a Strategic Orientation Committee (SOC) whereby ECOWAS and UEMOA jointly steer the process with the EU. The mechanism, which specifies the responsibilities of the stakeholders, will allow for the coordination, programming and implementation problems to be adequately addressed.

86. From the identification exercise embarked upon since the signing of the 11th EDF RIP on 6 July 2015, the Commission revealed that the commitment rate expected at the beginning of 2017 will exceed 45%. This figure is encouraging given the mid-term performance in the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF RIP implementation.

87. On the challenges encountered, the Commission mentioned the appropriation of the programme identification and formulation process, as well as coordination monitoring, and stated the need for improved linkage and consistency between the RIP and the structural programmes of the region such as the CDP.

88. The Commission concluded by reiterating the need for regular updates on the status of the programmes to the different statutory decision-making bodies of the Community.

89. Council took note of the update on the Regional Indicative Programme.

#### **Item 19: Any Other Business**

90. The Republic of Mali raised the issue of the non-payment of rent of the office building of the Special Representative of the President in Mali and appealed to the Commission effect payment at the earliest possible time.

91. In response, the Commission promised to look in the matter and ensure that the payment is effected as soon as possible.

92. The Republic of Guinea Bissau informed Council that it has taken administrative measures to prohibit the payment of taxes at its borders with other Member States of ECOWAS. In this regard, it appealed to other Member States to facilitate the free movement of citizens of the community in accordance with the Protocol on Free Movement of persons and goods.

93. In response, Council indicated that all Member States should comply with the said Protocol.

94. The Republic of Guinea Bissau appealed to the Commission to provide financial support to the West African Institute in Cabo Verde taking into account its efforts on training and research in regional integration.

95. The Commission informed Council of the intention of the Togolese Republic to present Mr. Gilbert Houngbo, former Prime Minister for the post of President of IFAD and sought Council's support and recommendation to the next session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government for endorsement.

#### **Item 20: Adoption of the Report**

96. This report was adopted after amendments.

#### **Item 21: Closing Ceremony**

97. The Chairman of Council, Mr. Khadim Diop, in his closing remarks, thanked Council members for their contributions during the deliberations and for the spirit of camaraderie, which prevailed during their session. Thereafter, he declared the Seventy-Sixth Ordinary Session of Council closed, and wished all participants safe journey back to their respective destinations.

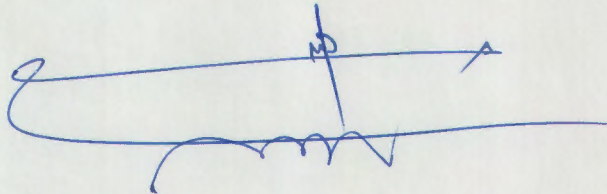


**DONE AT DAKAR THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2016**

---

**HONOURABLE KHADIM DIOP  
MINISTER OF AFRICAN INTEGRATION, NEPAD AND  
GOOD GOVERNANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**

**CHAIRMAN  
FOR: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a horizontal line with a vertical stroke intersecting it, and a series of loops and flourishes below.



## **SEVENTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**Dakar, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

The participants at the Seventy-Sixth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Dakar, on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Authority, and to the Government and people of Senegal for the warm African hospitality extended to them during their stay in Dakar and for the facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the success of their meeting.

**DONE AT DAKAR THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2016**

**THE SESSION**