

**COMUNIDADE ECONOMICA DOS  
ESTADOS DA AFRICA OCIDENTAL**

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF  
WEST AFRICAN STATES**



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

**ECW/CM /LXXXVII/----**

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**EIGHTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

9 - 10 December 2021

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**FINAL REPORT**

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**ECOWAS Commission  
Abuja, December 2021**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Eighty Seventh Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 9 to 10 December, 2021.

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 Bissau;
- Republic of Liberia;
- Republic of Niger;
- Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Republic of Senegal;
- Republic of Sierra Leone; and
- Togolese Republic.

3. The Republics of Guinea and Mali did not take part because of the suspension imposed on the Member States by the Authority of Heads of State and Government from participating in all ECOWAS activities until further notice.

4. The following ECOWAS Institutions and Specialised Agencies were also represented:

- ECOWAS Commission;
- ECOWAS Parliament;
- Community Court of Justice;
- West African Health Organisation (WAHO);
- Inter-governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA);
- Office of the Auditor General;

5. A list of participants is attached as an annex to this report.

## **II. OPENING SESSION**

6. In his welcome address, the host Minister Ambassador Zubairu Dada, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, welcomed all participants at the 87<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of Council on behalf of the People and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



7. He underscored the importance of the Council of Ministers as a crucial platform for the review of thematic issues in the region to give appropriate advice to the Authority of Heads of States and Government. He further highlighted the significance of some of the items listed on the agenda of the meeting amongst which are revised draft Supplementary Acts on the Community Levy, Customs Union, and Road Safety Policy as a testament of the commitment of ECOWAS and its Institutions, as well as Member States to the integration and developmental goals of our sub-region, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. He therefore called on members of Council to discuss the agenda items with an open mind in order to find solutions to the numerous developmental challenges facing the region, namely climate change, youth unemployment and humanitarian crises. Because the interest of the citizens of the Community are paramount, Council must aim to articulate positions that will advance the achievement of sustainable economic integration and development in the region.

9. He concluded his address by commending the Chair of Council and the President of Commission for their continued untiring efforts on meeting tasks assigned by the Authority in an effort to achieve the aspirations of ECOWAS.

10. In his statement, the President of the Commission, H.E. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou expressed his gratitude to H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS Champion for the Fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic, for his commitment to defend the values of the Community. He also thanked the Federal Government of Nigeria for the arrangements made for the successful organisation of ECOWAS statutory meetings.

11. Mr. Brou welcomed the fact that the ordinary session of the Council of Ministers could be held in Abuja face-to-face for the first time in two years, in a context still marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, which indicates the determination of ECOWAS Member States to advance regional integration.

12. He also gave an overview of the reports relating to the day to day functioning of ECOWAS Institutions that will be submitted to Council for adoption or information.

13. Finally, the President of the Commission, on behalf of the statutory appointees whose tenure ends on 28 February 2022, warmly thanked Council for the trust placed in them and for its support over the past four years and wished every success in its deliberations.

14. Whilst taking her turn, the Chairperson of Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, Mrs. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey on behalf of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chair of the Authority, welcomed all participants to the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of



Ministers. She equally expressed deep gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the facilities made available for the meeting.

15. She on behalf of Council, expressed sincere condolences to all ECOWAS Member States and to the grieving families of the Community citizens who have been victims of terrorist attacks and COVID 19, as well as the victims of the recent tragic incidents in Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

16. The Chairperson stated that the year 2021 has been particularly busy at the regional level, with several Extraordinary Councils and Summits which is a sign of vitality, but also a manifestation of a community beset by challenges. She noted that the community can take satisfaction from the fact that those challenges have been faced resolutely and that consistent efforts have been made to address those challenges.

17. She noted that on the political front, the region has recorded significant achievements in the area of democracy and governance. The recent elections in Cabo Verde and The Gambia, after those of Niger and Benin, are examples of the dynamism of democracy in the ECOWAS region. The only blight has been recent breaches in constitutional order in Guinea and Mali which have undermined the progress made and pose significant risks. In this connection she underscored the decision of the Authority to revise the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance in order to mitigate such risks.

18. She ended her remarks by extolling members of Council for the quality of their respective contributions, the consensus which has always prevailed during exchanges, and which have enabled the community, among other things, to consolidate the political stability and economic growth of our region. She equally thanked the President of the Commission and all the Heads of Institutions and Commissioners for the remarkable work carried out during their tenure in a complex environment.

19. She thereafter declared open the 87<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Council of Ministers and wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

20. The full texts of speeches are annexed to this report.

### **III. ELECTION OF BUREAU**

21. The following Bureau was elected:

- |               |   |                            |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| ▪ Chairperson | - | Republic of Ghana          |
| ▪ Rapporteurs | - | Republic of Guinea Bissau; |
|               | - | Republic of Niger;         |



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

22. The following agenda was adopted after amendments:

##### **I. OPENING CEREMONY**

- Welcome remarks by Host Minister, H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- Statement by President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou;
- Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of Council and Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey.

##### **II. CLOSED DOOR SESSION**

- Election of Bureau;
- Adoption of Draft Agenda and Work Programme;

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

- 1) Presentation and Consideration of the President's 2021 Annual Report on the State of the Community;
- 2) Presentation and Consideration of Report on the Financial Situation of the Community as of 15 November 2021;
- 3) Presentation on the Financial Situation of the Community as at 30 November 2020;
- 4) Presentation and Consideration of Report of 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee on the Staff Regulations, Staff Skills Audit, Procurement Code, and Financial Regulations;
- 5) Presentation and Consideration of Report of 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee on the Staff Skills Audit;
- 6) Presentation and Consideration of the Final Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee;
- 7) Presentation and Consideration of Report of the Auditor General's 2021 Interim Report;
- 8) Presentation and Consideration of Report of the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Audit Committee;
- 9) Presentation and Consideration of Status of Tasks Assigned by the 86<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;
- 10) Presentation and Consideration of draft agenda of 60<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government;

##### **ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT**

- 11) Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Planning on Vision 2050;

- 12) Memorandum on the Report of 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Finance on: a) The Community Levy Supplementary Act and b) Consolidation of the ECOWAS Customs Union;
- 13) Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Infrastructure, of Energy, of ICT and of Water Resources on the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan;
- 14) Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Finance relating to the Supplementary Act on the ECOWAS Regional Public Private Partnership;
- 15) Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Transport on the Regional Road Safety Policy;
- 16) Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Agriculture on the Comprehensive Strategic Framework for sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in ECOWAS Member States;
- 17) Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Agriculture on the Strategy to Support Youth Employability in the Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral and Fisheries Sector to combat Urban Migration and Uncontrolled Immigration in the ECOWAS Region;
- 18) Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Climate and draft Declaration of Heads of State and Government;
- 19) Memorandum of the Report of the ECOWAS Ministers of Trade on the Draft Supplementary Acts and Regulations of the Regional Competition Authority (ERCA);
- 20) Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Report of Ministers in charge of Regional Integration, Interior, Health, Trade, Finance and Transport on the Reopening of land borders in the ECOWAS Region;

#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- 21) Presentation of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on the Single Currency;
- 22) Presentation of a Memorandum on obstacles to intra-Community trade on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor;
- 23) Memorandum on ECOWAS Member States' Applications for International and Regional Statutory Positions;
- 24) Memorandum on ECOWAS Excellence Award-Edition 2020;
- 25) Any Other Business;
- 26) Adoption of Report of the Session;
- 27) Vote of Thanks;
- 28) Closing Session. 



### **III. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS**

#### **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

##### **Item 1: Presentation and Consideration of the 2021 Annual Report of ECOWAS**

23. The State of the Community Report presented by the President of the Commission reviewed economic developments in Africa in a global context marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the ECOWAS Region has been the most resilient, the risk of renewed infection in light of the outbreak of the OMICRON variant and the low vaccination rate of the population remains a major challenge. Work is continuing in this regard under the coordination of WAHO.

24. With regard to the economy, ECOWAS GDP is expected to increase by 4.1% in 2021, compared to a drop of 0.8% in 2020, reflecting a recovery in activity. In view of the global health crisis, Member States were exempted from complying with the Macroeconomic Convergence Criteria in 2021. A new Convergence Pact was adopted with a convergence phase from 2022 to 2026, and a stability phase from 2027. The launch of the ECO has been set for 2027.

25. In the area of security, due to greater coordination between Member States, there has been a marked improvement with respect to maritime security. However, the recent increase in terrorist attacks in frontline countries, but also in coastal countries, calls for accelerated efforts in the implementation of the Action Plan to combat terrorism. This has a critical humanitarian impact, with more than 5 million internally displaced people.

26. Natural disasters resulting from climate change have also exacerbated food insecurity in the region and the Commission is stepping up efforts to strengthen the Special Food Reserve to assist countries in need.

27. At the political level, the recent legislative and presidential elections held in Niger, Benin, Cabo Verde and The Gambia show that the culture of democracy is growing stronger in the Region. The ongoing transitions in Mali and Guinea nonetheless remain major challenges for the Community and ECOWAS will continue to support these countries.

28. The implementation of sectoral programmes has been scaled up. As regards infrastructure, a new Master Plan has been formulated. Significant progress has been made in transport, particularly the Abidjan-Lagos corridor. In the energy sector, the interconnection project between member countries is being accelerated with a view to launching the regional electricity market in 2022. In the area of technology, the fight against cybercrime has been strengthened.

29. With regard to trade, the free trade area is being strengthened with the reopening of borders to containerised cargo. New regulations have been tabled for adoption in order to consolidate the Customs Union. In the area of industry and private sector promotion, significant efforts are being made to support the regional pharmaceutical industries. A strategy has been developed to support human capital development in ECOWAS.



30. Despite the regional health context characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic, the other ECOWAS Institutions, particularly the Parliament, the Court of Justice, but also the West African Health Organisation and GIABA, have also stepped up their activities to deliver on their mandate to serve the people of the Region.

31. The Council thanked and congratulated the President for the quality of his presentation requested clarification on some macroeconomic data.

32. The Members of the Council of Ministers welcomed the economic policy measures taken by the Member States that have economic recovery in the Community in 2021. However, the Council expressed its concern about the rise in inflationary pressures within the region, bringing average annual inflation to 12.7% in 2021 against 10.4% in 2020 and likely to reduce the purchasing power of the populations.

33. At the end of the discussions, the Council of Ministers made the following recommendations:

- a. Urges Member States to continue to implement economic policies aimed at supporting inclusive and job-creating sustainable economic recovery;
- b. Invite the Member States to take into account the provisions of the Macroeconomic Convergence and Stability Pact in the definition and implementation of their economic policy for the coming years.

**Item 2: Presentation and Consideration of Report on the Financial Situation of the Community as of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

34. The Commission presented the report on the financial situation of the Community as at 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It informed the meeting that the Council of Ministers, at its 85<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council held virtually on 20-21 January 2021 considered and approved a Community budget of UA 398,044,626, balanced in revenue and expenditure.

35. In terms of structure, revenue from the Community Levy remains the main source of ECOWAS financing representing 71% of the approved budget. On the expenditure side, the largest share (80%) continues to be reserved for the Institutions.

36. The Commission also informed that as at 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020, a total amount of UA 220,499,740 had been mobilised, that is, a mobilisation rate of 55% of which:

- (i) UA 133,781,116 as Community Levy, from all Member States representing a mobilisation rate of 72%
- (ii) UA 52,024,841 realized as Arrears of Community Levy or 69% of the approved budget
- (iii) 100% utilization of Year-End Balances and 0% mobilization of Arrears of Contribution
- (iv) UA 13,985,844 from external funds in favour of the Commission, WAHO and GIABA
- (v) UA 623,432 as Other Income, corresponding to the mobilisation rate of 178%.



**Table 1: Implementation of the Approved Budget**

Chapters	Approved Budget	Actual Income (UA)	Actual Income (%)
<b>Income</b>			
Community Levy	185,739,379	133,781,116	72.0%
Year-End Bank Balances	20,084,507	20,084,507	100.0%
Arrears of Community Levy	75,894,454	52,024,841	68.5%
Arrears of Contribution	1,768,710	0	0.0%
Other Income	350,194	623,432	178.0%
Income from External Sources	114,207,382	13,985,844	12.2%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>398,044,626</b>	<b>220,499,740</b>	<b>55.4%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Institutions	319,316,490	90,001,628	28.2%
Statutory Obligations	11,711,966	6,363,938	54.3%
Special Programmes & Interventions	36,702,319	53,393	0.1%
Peace & Security	30,313,851	5,081,655	16.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>398,044,626</b>	<b>101,500,614</b>	<b>25.5%</b>

37. On the expenditure side, only 26% of the anticipated expenses were made, that is, UA 101,500,614 against UA 398,044,626, of which UA 90,001,628 was consumed by Institutions, UA 6,363,938 by Statutory Obligations, UA 53,393 by Special Programmes and Interventions, and UA 5,081,655 by Peace and Security.

38. A comparison of actual expenditure vis-à-vis actual income received per institution depicts implementation rates ranging from 42.1% to 129%. WAHO's absorption of 129% is a result of 2020 Q4 allocation received towards the end of the year and carried over to 2021. These rates exhibit the high absorption capacity of institutions if and when the necessary financial resources are available.

39. After an exhaustive deliberation on the report, Council adopted the report presented and exhorted Member States to ensure full implementation of the Community Levy Protocol since it is the main source of financing community programs.

**Item 3: Presentation and Consideration of Report of 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee on the Staff Regulations, Staff Skills Audit, Procurement Code, and Financial Regulations**

40. The Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee held from 27<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 in Accra, Ghana was presented by the Chairperson, Mr. Mohammed Nurudeen Ismaila. 

#### **a) Draft Revised Staff Regulation**

41. In his presentation, he reported that the Meeting reviewed the draft regulation which was initially examined by technical experts drawn from ECOWAS National Offices and Ministries of Employment and Labour from Member States from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 in Accra, Ghana. He stressed that these experts reviewed the document article by article and made amendments where necessary and submitted it to the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary meeting for further examination.


42. He stated that, members of the AFC scrutinized the document, amending the provisions of the various Articles that needed clarification or reformulation. He mentioned that during its deliberations, the meeting commended the technical experts drawn from ECOWAS National Offices, Ministries of Employment and Labour for the quality of the document presented to them.

43. After exhaustive deliberations, the members of the AFC recommended the revised Staff Regulation to the Council of Ministers for approval. The meeting, however, made the following recommendations:

- a) The Manual of Procedures on the implementation of the provisions of the Staff Regulation as well as the ECOWAS Code of Ethics should be drafted and subjected to a validation process. Thereafter, it should be presented to the AFC for consideration and recommendation to the Council of Ministers for adoption;
- b) Considering the importance of records and archives, the Commission was tasked to develop a comprehensive Records and Archiving Policy that shall govern the management of records and archives of the Community Institutions;
- c) The Commission is also tasked to develop a policy to encourage the employment of young professional men and women who are competent and have the potential to develop, and the requisite experience that is compatible with the needs of ECOWAS.

#### **b) Draft Revised Procurement Code**

44. He stated that, in compliance with the directive of Council at its Eighty-Fourth Ordinary Session, held in Niamey, Niger, from September 5 - 6, 2020 instructing the ECOWAS Commission to amend certain clauses of the ECOWAS Procurement Code to reflect some proposals made by the Office of the Auditor-General, the said amendments were presented for consideration by the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary AFC held in Accra from 27 September to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The AFC considered the presentations made and recommended to Council to amend the Procurement Code as follows:

- i. With regard to the proposal that the Evaluation Committee should be composed of members at a minimum level of P3/P4 Grade, the following amendment was recommended: "The Contracting Authority shall appoint Staff with Minimum level of P3/P4 Grade as Evaluation Committee Members. In case of non-availability of Staff at the prescribed minimum level, the highest ranking competent Staff may be appointed to serve on the Committee." 



ii. The following amendment regarding the number of persons that should constitute the Evaluation Committee was also recommended: *"The Evaluation Committee shall comprise of three (3) or five (5) evaluators including Representatives from the User Directorate, the Directorate of Finance and the Directorate in charge of Procurement"*

iii. An amendment that was considered and recommended by the Committee reads as follows:

- In the case of the Commission, the contracting Authority (The President of the Commission) shall appoint the review committee which shall comprise of the following members:
  - The Head of Compliance at the ECOWAS Commission, Chairperson;
  - The Director of Legal, Member;
  - The Director of Strategic Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, Member.
- The President shall also appoint at least two (2) alternate members of the Review Committee to deal with absences of any of the two (2) members of the Review Committee. In case of the absence of the Chairperson of the Review Committee, the President of the Commission shall appoint a provisional Chairperson from the Office of the President. The alternate members of the Review Committee shall not be from departments/offices to which the original three (3) members belong, the user Department, the Department of Finance or the Department responsible for Procurement.
- In the case of other Institutions, Agencies and Offices, the President or through delegation shall appoint the Review Committee along the same functional lines as in the case of the Commission.
- The Review Committee shall only meet with a minimum number of three (3) including alternates where applicable but the Chairperson or his/her provisional replacement must be present. The quorum for deliberations shall be a minimum of three (3) members.

45. He noted that, in addition to these amendments that emanated from the Auditor General, the Management of ECOWAS proposed amendments to a few other provisions to give the Procurement Code full effect, that were endorsed by the AFC. They are as follows:

- A contradiction was detected in Article 18 (11) of the current Code which reads as follows: "The Review Committee **Shall** neither approve nor reject the recommendation of an Evaluation Committee. Any rejection or Objection on a solicitation document or evaluation / negotiation report shall be duly substantiated with the reference to the provision of this code". This provision was therefore rephrased to read: *"The Review Committee may endorse or object to the recommendation of an Evaluation Committee. Any rejection or objection on a*



*solicitation document or evaluation / negotiation report shall be duly substantiated with the reference to the relevant provision of this code”.*


- Article 90 (1) has also been rephrased as follows: *“The Contracting Authority shall sign the contract immediately after a stand-still period of fifteen (15) calendar days. To this effect, the Legal Affairs Directorate shall ensure finalization of the contract within the stand-still period.”*
- The Procurement Code in its current state does not envisage possible disagreements arising between the Evaluation Committee and the Review Committee. There is no provision made therefore to deal with an inherent stalemate from such disagreements. A provision was therefore introduced to cater for such and it reads: *“Whenever a conflict arises between the Review Committee and the Evaluation Committee, the matter shall be referred to the President or Head of Institution, Head of Agency or Head of Bureau for final decision. The Commissioner responsible for Procurement at the Commission and/or Director Responsible for Procurement at the Institutions or Agencies or Bureau shall escalate the matter to the President or the Head of Institution or Head of Agency or Head of Bureau”.*

### **c) Draft Revised Financial Regulation**

46. The Chairperson of AFC recalled that Council at its 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session held in Abuja, from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018, considered and adopted the Revised Financial Regulations, New Procurement Code and New Grant Code with amendments as recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and further directed that, the three (3) documents be further reviewed by the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and the ECOWAS Commission to ensure legal alignment and consistency.

47. In compliance with Council’s directives and recommendations an inhouse Ad-hoc Committee met and proposed thirteen (13) amendments to the Financial Regulation which was presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary meeting of the AFC to ensure improved text renditions to the ECOWAS Financial Regulation in line with the international best practices.

48. He informed that, following the presentation by the Commission, the AFC endorsed the thirteen (13) amendments and sixty (60) alignments with minor revisions to the Financial Regulations, for the approval of Council. The AFC further made the following recommendations:

- a) On Membership of the Strategic Planning and Budgetary Advisory Committee contained in Article 63, all the five (5) thematic Commissioners under the new Institutional Arrangements of the ECOWAS Commission shall be Members of the Committee;
- b) The ECOWAS Commission should propose specific provisions on the application of sanctions contained in Article 42(5) that would be incorporated into the revised Community Levy Protocol. 

49. Council adopted the report and the recommendations contained therein alongside the annexed revised Staff Regulations, Procurement Code as well the revised Financial Regulations.


**Item 4: Presentation and Consideration of Report of 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee on the Staff Skills Audit**

50. The Fifth Extraordinary meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) on ECOWAS Staff Skills Audit of ECOWAS Institutions, which was held in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021, was chaired by Mr Mohammed Nurudeen Ismaila.

51. In his presentation, the Chairperson of the meeting, Mr Nurudeen Ismaila recalled that the Staff Skills Audit was initiated as an integral part of the ongoing Institutional Reforms in ECOWAS. The general objective of the Skills Audit is to establish the skills set among the staff of ECOWAS Institutions and make recommendations that will provide adequate information on the profile of each employee to allow decision makers to determine an appropriate plan for skills development and other measures needed to close the gaps identified.

52. Mr. Ismaila stated that the evaluation results were used to categorise staff members into different levels of competency labelled as: **A:** Staff members with potential for self-development, who could be recommended for higher posts (135 staff members, 13.46%); **B:** Staff members who are doing their jobs well and are capable of improving their performance (145 staff members, 14.46%); **C:** Staff members who need training in order to realize their potential, and who therefore need to benefit from targeted training (545 staff members, 54.54%); **D:** Staff members who have difficulties in fully performing their functions, whether due to a lack of capacity, interest or motivation, but who could nevertheless improve their performance (115 staff members, 11.47%); and **E:** Staff members who have no capacity, training or motivation to work efficiently within ECOWAS (61 staff members, 6.08%).

53. He further stated that the Consultant, in his report, made the following recommendations which were endorsed by the AFC:

- a) Transform the Harmonization Committee to a Fixed Term **"Change Management Committee"** to implement, monitor, and evaluate the results of the implementation of this Action Plan of the Skills Audit, the new approved Staff Regulations and of the overall Reform Programme.
- b) Undertake benchmarking to determine the numbers of staff ECOWAS Institutions should have. Following the benchmark study and the identified challenges, define the objectives, the scope of service, the priorities, the staff complement, and the payroll costs of ECOWAS for the short-term, medium-term, and the long-term 



- c) Review, streamline, and update the current organogram to ensure that it responds to the identified objectives, scope of service, and priorities of ECOWAS and also to ensure the effective implementation of the results of the Skills Audit.
- d) Develop a compensation system to make remuneration both internally and externally equitable and implement (non-retroactively) the new Remuneration Policy and align the current Employment Categories and the Remuneration Scale for the Functions and Positions that staff members occupy on the new approved organogram (without any additional costs to the personnel budget of ECOWAS).

54. In conclusion, Mr. Ismaila indicated that the members of the AFC, after exhaustive deliberations, made the following specific recommendations for the approval of Council:

- a) Update of the current organizational structure to:
  - i. Rebalance the organization's ratio of jobs in core versus support functions (in favour of the core functions) in order to improve implementation of the organization's strategic objectives for services towards Member States;
  - ii. Ensure effective implementation of the results of the skills audit and apply clear principles in line with international standards to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the organogram. To this end, adopt human resources management tools such as Staff Strategic Management Plan, Manual of Procedures on Recruitment, Career Management, Performance Evaluation and Training, among others;
  - iii. Align with the decision on the new seven (7) member statutory structure of the ECOWAS Commission.
- b) Regarding the lifting of the suspension on the recruitment process, the AFC urged the Commission and other Institutions to come up with the optimum staff complement, where necessary recruitment would be considered on a case-by-case basis by the AFC;
- c) Task the new management with the development and completion of a change management programme, based on the recommendations of the Skills Audit, within one year upon assumption of duty;
- d) The Action Plan has been reorganized in chronological order with clear timelines;
- e) Encourage the Commission to ensure that the organization is more efficient and less costly;
- f) Update the current organogram of all ECOWAS Institutions by February 2022.

55. After deliberations, Council adopted the report and all recommendations contained therein. 



**Item 5: Presentation and Consideration of the Final Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee**

56. The final report of the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AFC was presented by Mr. Mohammed Nurudeen Ismaila who chaired the meeting. The report covered the following:

- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of Status of Tasks Assigned to Community Institutions by the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of Report on the Financial Situation of the Community;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of the Community Levy Report;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on allowances for Virtual Meetings;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on the Revised Operational Manual for National Offices;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum on allowances for internationally recruited staff of the Maritime Security Centre;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Regional Food Security Reserve;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Institutional Framework for the Regional Integrated Development Programme of the Fouta Djallon Highlands;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of Memorandum of ECOWAS Young Professional Programme;
- ❖ Presentation and Consideration of the 2022 Draft Consolidated Budget of ECOWAS Institutions;
- ❖ Presentation of the Auditor General's 2021 Interim Report;

57. After the presentation and the deliberations that ensued, Council adopted the report and all the recommendations contained therein with the exception of the issue relating to payment of allowances for attendance at virtual meetings which Council observed was not in consonance with best practices in similar multilateral institutions.

58. Finally, Council approved the 2021 budget of the Community in the total sum of **UA 393,612,400** as represented in the table below: 

**Table 2: 2022 Budget of the ECOWAS Community**

DESCRIPTION	COMMUNITY PROPOSAL	AFC RECOMMENDATION	VARIANCE	
	UA	UA	AMOUNT	%
<b>Chapter I – Institutions</b>				
<b>Comprised of:</b>				
<b>Programme Cost (65%)</b>				
<b>Administrative Cost (35%)</b>				
<i>Commission</i>	207,384,748	206,669,465	-715,283	-0.34%
<i>Parliament</i>	21,083,476	21,005,052	-78,424	-0.37%
<i>Court of Justice</i>	16,417,016	16,287,335	-129,711	-0.79%
<i>WAHO</i>	59,711,064	59,744,474	33,410	0.06%
<i>GIABA</i>	10,715,641	10,634,021	-81,620	-0.76%
<i>OAG</i>	6,891,907	6,809,972	-81,935	-1.19%
<b>Chapter II – Statutory Obligations</b>	<b>11,711,966</b>	<b>11,711,966</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Chapter III – Special Programmes &amp; Intervention in Member States</b>	<b>29,881,222</b>	<b>30,436,264</b>	<b>555,042</b>	<b>1.86%</b>
<b>Chapter IV – Peace &amp; Security</b>	<b>30,313,851</b>	<b>30,313,851</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>394,110,921</b>	<b>393,612,400</b>	<b>-498,521</b>	<b>-0.13%</b>

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	% OF BUDGET
Community Levy	152,162,209	38.7%
Year-End Bank Balances	66,188,824	16.8%
Arrears of Community Levy	58,389,968	14.8%
Arrears of Contribution	0	0.0%
Other Income	798,130	0.2%
External Funding	116,073,269	29.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>393,612,400</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Item 6: Presentation and Consideration of Auditor General's 2021 Interim Report**

59. The Auditor General presented his 2021 Mid - Year Report to the 87<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in accordance with Regulations C/REG/17/2017 establishing the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). The Report was presented in two parts, Part A and Part B.

60. **Part A** reported on the Summary of Observations of all Audits, Inspections and Investigations covering Operations, Human Resources, Finance, Programme Performance and Information Systems Audit of all Institutions, Agencies and Presidents Representation Offices with an **overall Audit Opinion of Limited Assurance**. The community-wide risk implications indicated a high incidence of Non-Compliance with Community Laws and Regulations, which require

immediate remedial actions by Management. The AG provided a context as to why the Audit Opinion of the ECOWAS Community was Limited Assurance and detailed the necessary measures taken by Management to address the situation as follows:-

- i. All financial statements for 2016 to 2020 audited by External Auditors with clean opinions;
- ii. Implemented an average of 64% of the Audit recommendations of the External Auditors and Office of the Auditor General (OAG);
- iii. Internal directive issued by the President of the Commission for all procurement contracts to be vetted by the OAG before they are signed;
- iv. Delegation of Authority, setting limits for all procurement activities;
- v. Implementation of the Travel Management Module (TVM) in ECOLink and this drastically reduced staff advances;
- vi. Implementation of the Cashless Policy to minimize the risk of handling cash;
- vii. Completion of work on Risk Assessment which has provided a framework for managing risks highlighted in the Audit Reports.

61. The AG presented to Council, the work done by the OAG in the year, i.e. the Audits carried out, the Management Services provided, Audit Committee Meetings held, the Operational Activities carried out and the challenges faced. He provided an update on the status of implementation of the OAG HR Strategy, approved by Council in 2018, highlighting the savings accrued to the Community.

62. The AG also updated Council on the status of ceding-off Control responsibility to Management. He presented an updated timetable for the progressive handing over of this function to Management by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022 to Council following the establishment of the Project Committee in May 2021 to work with the OAG on the transfer of Controls. He indicated that though some effort is being made by Management to take over, little progress has been achieved so far.

63. On Risk Management, the AG updated Council on actions taken so far and informed Council that All ECOWAS Institutions and selected Departments of the ECOWAS Commission, except for 2 Departments, have concluded work on their Risk Management documents and are ready to be uploaded un to the Governance Risk and Compliance Module (GRC) in January 2022.

64. The AG further emphasized the need for Management to complete the urgent recruitment of staff for the OAG, having recruited 5 staff so far with 31 recruitments outstanding. Also, the recruitment of critical staff for the Finance, General Administration & Conferences and Human Resources Departments of the ECOWAS Commission, WAHO (RCSDC) and ERCA, directed by Council, remain pending.

65. **Part B** reported on the Income & Expenditure, Community levy & Contribution Arrears, Community Financial Trends and Staffing Analysis of the Commission. On Income and Expenditure,




18% of income was mobilized against the Budget, with the largest proportion coming from Community Levy, the expenditure execution rate was 15% against the Budget which mirrors the Income Mobilization Rate. However, against opening Cash Balances and Community Levy receipts by the Institutions, an average expenditure execution rate of 35% was achieved. The low execution rate is largely accounted for by the adoption of smarter ways of executing programmes virtually by Management, resulting in cost savings i.e. Travels and Conference costs and the reduction in the number of Meetings and Participants.

66. On Staffing, Staff representation per Member State, Gender Balance and Staff Age Analysis were reported on. The Male-Female ratio is 71:29 which as compared to AfDB target of 62:38 by 2025 shows good effort in the right direction. He further stressed again the need for an ECOWAS target on gender mainstreaming as has been done by peer organizations such as the UN and AfDB. On the Staff Age analysis, he highlighted the need for ECOWAS to have a policy on youth employment as only 12% of staff are within the AG bracket of 20 - 29. He highlighted to Council the decline in number of Staff from June 2018 to June 2021, projecting the further decline in 2024 if the ban on Staff Recruitment is not lifted. He recommended to Council for them to consider lifting the ban on recruitment.

67. The AG updated Council on the status of their Directive on Staff Conversions. Out of the 211 requests received 178 were endorsed (84.4%), and these staff have already been converted. This has resulted in an improvement in the Permanent to Contract Staff Ratio from 59:41 in 2017 to 82:18 by June 2021. The AG recommended to Council for a target Permanent to Contract Staff Ratio to be set for all future recruitments in line with peer practice. Focus on recruitment of staff in the age category of 20-29 and promotion of high performing G- staff into the P1 grade in line with the Staff Regulations was also recommended. He informed Council that their Directive for Staff recruited under Donor Agreements to be converted provided they are in the A to C category of the Skills Audit exercise has still not been done and recommended that Council should direct Management to get this done by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

68. Council considered and approved the 2021 Interim Report of the Auditor General and directed Management to take the necessary steps to:

- i. Develop a Roadmap detailing steps to move from Limited Assurance to Moderate Assurance by the end of 2023;
- ii. Ensure on-going compliance with Supplementary Acts, Directives and Regulations and build the capacity of staff and use of rewards and sanctions to ensure compliance;
- iii. Urgently recruit staff for Critical / High Impact Control Functions;
- iv. Urgently carry out conversion of Staff recruited under Donor Agreements with satisfactory performance appraisals and rating A-C in Staff the Skill Audit Report by 15 February 2022; 

- v. Urgently implement all Critical and High-Risk issues raised in the SAP Post-implementation Audit;
- vi. Commission a Special Audit to review and report on the cost of implementing the various Modules by ECOWAS versus Cost incurred by Peers for same Modules, recommend cost to fix issues raised and recommend cost for all new Modules to be implemented;
- vii. Direct the ECOWAS Commission to recruit a Consultant urgently to carry out work on the Authorities Schedule and complete same by 15 February 2022;
- viii. Fully take over the Control Function from the OAG on the 31 January 2022;
- ix. Set target for Permanent to Contract Staff Ratio for all future recruitments in line with peer practice and present to Council for approval in their last session for 2021.

69. Council encouraged Member States to promptly settle their Community Levy obligations in line with Protocol.

**Item 7: Presentation and Consideration of Report of the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Audit Committee**

70. A member of the Audit Committee, Mr Amadou Salley Oumarou presented the Summary of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Audit Committee Report to Council on behalf of the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Mr Mongo Aharh-Kpessou. The report focused on the following:

- i. The 2022 Budget and Workplan of the OAG
- ii. Auditor General's 2021 Mid - Year report to be presented at the 87th Ordinary session of the Council of Ministers;
- iii. Status of the implementation of the Audit recommendations of the External Auditor and those of the Office of the Auditor General;
- iv. Presentation of the 2020 Community Levy financial statements and the Consolidated Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

71. At the end of the presentation, the Audit Committee made the following recommendations to the Council of Ministers for onwards submission to the Authority of Heads of State and Government, for adoption:-

- a) To approve the Auditor General 2021 mid-term report;
- b) Approve the Consolidated Financial Statements for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 of ECOWAS;
- c) Approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Statements of the Community Levy;
- d) Instruct Management to develop a roadmap outlining the steps to be taken to strengthen governance within ECOWAS by moving from the Limited Assurance opinion expressed by the Auditor General to Moderate Assurance by the end of 2023;



- e) Instruct management to proceed without delay to recruit the necessary staff for the transfer of the Control Functions;
- f) Instruct management to take the necessary steps to implement the transfer of Control Function by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, in accordance with the established schedule;
- g) Instruct Management to proceed with the recruitment of the necessary staff for the proper functioning and safeguarding of ECOWAS Assets at the level of all Institutions, Agencies, Center and Offices in general and more specifically at the level of OAG, GIABA WAHO and ERCA;
- h) Note the high amount (UA 252 million) of provision made for the arrears (UA 602 million) of the Community Levy, to avoid qualified opinion of the External Auditors on the Financial Statements;
- i) Encourage Member States to pay the arrears of Community Levy due, to avoid the accumulation of provisions in accordance with the standards and rules required by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).
- j) To approve the amendments to the already approved Organization Chart of the Office of the Auditor General. It should be noted that these amendments have no Financial impact.

72. Council commended the Audit Committee for the quality of the report and thereafter endorsed it and all recommendations contained therein.


**Item 8: Presentation and Consideration of Status of Tasks Assigned by the 86<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of Council of Ministers**

73. A total of nine (9) tasks were assigned by the 86<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to the ECOWAS Commission, Institutions and Specialised Agencies. The overall execution rate for these tasks is 66.6%.

74. The main challenges experienced in the execution of tasks assigned by the 84<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> Council relate to the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the approved 2020 work programme for the ECOWAS Commission, as well as Institutions and Specialised Agencies. In specific cases, the low execution of the tasks assigned was also attributable to lack of adequate staffing, delays in procurement, payment to suppliers and in the conclusion of negotiations with partners.

75. Following clarifications sought, Council took note of the presentation and requested the Commission to accelerate progress on key tasks

**Item 9: Presentation and Consideration Draft Agenda of 60<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government**

76. The President of the Commission presented the draft agenda of the 60<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government. 



77. After presentation and amendments, Council adopted the draft agenda annexed to this report.

#### **ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT**

##### **Item 10: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Planning on Vision 2050**

78. Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu, Director, Economic Strategy and Research, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Memorandum on the report of the meeting of ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Planning on the ECOWAS Vision 2050. The meeting was held via videoconference on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, to validate the draft ECOWAS Vision 2050.

79. Dr. Iddrisu indicated that the main objective of the meeting was to validate and recommend the draft ECOWAS Vision 2050 to the Council of Ministers for endorsement. He further noted that the meeting considered the report and recommendations of the National Experts; reviewed and deliberated on the draft ECOWAS Vision 2050 and considered the activities and strategic documents being finalised by the Commission in preparation for the adoption, operationalisation, popularisation and mobilisation of resources for the effective implementation of the Vision.

80. With respect to the report of the meeting of National Experts presented to the Ministers, he noted that the Ministers endorsed the report and the key recommendations made by the Experts to guide the popularisation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the Vision.

81. He further stated that after listening to the presentation of the ECOWAS Vision 2050 by the ECOWAS Commission, the Ministers concluded that the approach followed in the development of the Vision was participatory and consultative and in line with best practices. Furthermore, he noted that the Ministers affirmed that the ECOWAS Vision 2050 is a comprehensive strategic document that will provide the strategic guidance required for the transformation of West Africa into an integrated, peaceful and prosperous region.

82. In this regard, he highlighted the Vision 2050 Statement as ***“A fully integrated Community of peoples, living in a peaceful and prosperous region, with strong institutions and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, striving for inclusive and sustainable development”***. He particularly stressed that the Vision is premised on five key pillars namely: Pillar 1: Peace, Security and Stability; Pillar 2: Governance and Rule of Law; Pillar 3: Economic Integration and Interconnectivity; Pillar 4: Transformation, Inclusive and Sustainable Development; and Pillar 5: Social Inclusion.

83. He also emphasised the guiding principles and success factors that will underpin the realisation of the ECOWAS Vision 2050.

84. Pertaining to the activities and strategic documents being finalised by the Commission in preparation for the adoption, operationalisation, popularisation and mobilisation of resources for

the effective implementation of the Vision, the Honourable Minister stated that the following documents are being finalised by the ECOWAS Commission: The first Medium Term Strategic Framework (5 year implementation plan of the ECOWAS Vision 2050); the Communication Strategy and the Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

85. Finally, Dr. Iddrisu confirmed that after deliberations, the Ministers of Planning validated the draft ECOWAS Vision 2050 and recommended it for endorsement by the Council of Ministers. The ECOWAS Parliament has also passed a resolution on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 giving its support to the Vision 2050.

86. Following the presentation, Council approved the Vision 2050 with its slogan “**ECOWAS of People: Peace and Prosperity for All**” and recommended same to the Authority of Heads of State and Government for adoption.

**Item 11: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Report of 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Finance on: a) The Community Levy Supplementary Act and b) Consolidation of the ECOWAS Customs Union**

87. In his presentation, Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu, Director, Economic Strategy and Research, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta stated that the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Finance on the Community Levy and the consolidation of the ECOWAS Customs Union was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in Accra, Ghana. He stated that the Ministers of Finance validated the underlisted draft texts which are meant to improve the financing mechanism of the Community, enhance the fluidity of intra-community trade and strengthen the ECOWAS Customs union:

- a) Draft Supplementary Act laying down the conditions and modalities of application, monitoring and management of the Community levy;
- b) Draft Supplementary Act on ECOWAS Community Transit;
- c) Draft Regulation relating to the additional modalities for the application and management of decisions, including advance rulings, relating to the implementation of Community Customs regulations;
- d) Draft regulation relating to the modalities for the functioning of the ECOWAS community transit guarantee mechanism;
- e) Draft Regulation on the definition of the list of categories of goods contained in the ECOWAS Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature based on the 2022 version of the Harmonized System;
- f) Draft Regulation relating to the determination of Community regime for customs duty reliefs in the ECOWAS Region;
- g) Draft Regulation on the procedures for the recognition and certification of the origin of products from ECOWAS Member States;





- h) Draft Regulation on the determination of the components of ex-works price and the value of non-originating materials.

88. He concluded by highlighting that the Ministers of Finance recommended the texts for endorsement by the Council of Ministers.

89. Council took note of the presentation of the report of the Ministers of Finance and endorsed the two (2) Draft Supplementary acts on the Community Levy and Community Transit and recommended same to the Authority of Heads of States and Government for adoption.


90. Council further adopted the six (6) draft regulations listed above and contained in the report of the Ministers of Finance and urged Member States to ensure the effective implementation of all the texts in order to improve the finances of the Community and enhance the trade competitiveness of the ECOWAS region.

**Item 12: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Infrastructure, of Energy, of ICT and of Water Resources on the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan**

91. On behalf of the Minister for Roads and Highways of the Republic of Ghana, Mr Kwasi Amoako-Atta, the Minister of Transport of Ghana, Mr. Ofori Asiamah indicated that West Africa is faced with an infrastructure deficit in infrastructure development, which hinders the promotion of regional integration, economic development and the competitiveness of the Region in the global economy.

92. He mentioned that, at its 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session, the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government underscored the importance of infrastructure in improving the region's competitiveness and directed the ECOWAS Commission to intensify its efforts to develop regional infrastructure and mobilise the necessary resources for this purpose.

93. Mr Ofori Asiamah stressed that the Commission through its Project Preparation and Development Unit and the Infrastructure Sector Department prepared a 25-year Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (2020-2045). The Master Plan identifies the region's infrastructure requirements in the Transport, Energy, ICT and Transboundary Water Resources sectors.

94. The ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Master Plan comprises one hundred and forty-four (144) investment and fifty-six (56) "soft" projects, which is estimated at USD 122.45 billion over the period of 2020-2045, to be financed jointly by public funds (USD 64.45 billion) and private funds (USD 58 billion). 



95. He concluded by requesting Council to approve the ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Master Plan and its accompanying Regulation and recommend same for the adoption of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

96. After presentation, Council endorsed the report. They however urged the Commission to ensure even distribution of projects amongst Member States. Council also directed the Commission to conduct periodic review of the projects in the masterplan.

**Item 13: Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Finance relating to the Supplementary Act on the ECOWAS Regional Public Private Partnership**

97. In his presentation, Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu, Director, Economic Strategy and Research, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta stated that ECOWAS has prioritized infrastructure development in its successive regional strategic frameworks, to serve as the main catalyst for the realization of its people-centred regional integration Agenda.


98. He highlighted that, the new Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan for the period 2020-2045 will require about US\$58 billion of the total investment to be financed by private sector resources. Such an ambition requires the establishment of an enabling and well-structured environment at regional level to attract private sector participation. In this regard, the ECOWAS Commission has prepared an ECOWAS Regional PPP Policy Framework.

99. Dr. Iddrisu mentioned that, the policy and its associated guidelines would provide the platform to raise alternative and innovative financing for regional projects. It would also create an enabling and investor friendly environment for the mobilisation of private capital for regional infrastructure development and service delivery.

100. In conclusion, he requested Council to consider and recommend the adoption of the ECOWAS PPP Policy and Guidelines for Regional Projects.

101. Council stressed on the need to strengthen exchanges between experts in order to ensure that such initiative can contribute to the achievement of the targeted objective. They thereafter endorsed the ECOWAS PPP Policy documents and recommend it for adoption by the Authority.

**Item 14: Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Transport on the Regional Road Safety Policy**

102. In his presentation, Mr. Ofori Asiamah, Minister for Transport of the Republic of Ghana indicated that the ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with Member States have prepared a harmonized Regional Road Safety Policy, an Action Plan, a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and a Regional Road Safety Charter to guide the coordinated and harmonised improvement of safety in the ECOWAS Region. 

103. This is in response to reports which shows that roads in the ECOWAS Region are regarded as one of the most dangerous in Africa, considering the high rate of road traffic crashes and fatalities recorded by Countries. WHO reports a high annual death rate of about 6000 deaths from road accidents, for every 100,000 people in ECOWAS, with youth from between the ages of 21 to 39 being the most affected. These deaths from road accidents are also estimated to be around \$ 6 billion per year in the ECOWAS region, which is equivalent to 1-6% of GDP. The fatality rates from road crashes in the ECOWAS Region surpasses COVID-19 related deaths and should be tackled with all seriousness.

104. This gloomy background led to the preparation of an ECOWAS Regional Road Safety Policy Framework which is made up of the following strategic documents:

- b) Road Safety Policy identifies the challenges of Member States for all Five (5) Pillars of the UN-WHO Decade of Action on Road Safety (2020-2030) namely road safety management, Safer Roads and Mobility, Safer Vehicles, Safer drivers and other road users and Better post-crash response, evaluates the risk factors while recommending specific policy statements and strategies to address the challenges
- c) Regional Road Safety Action Plan provides the key measures and actions to be implemented as a roadmap towards the implementation of the Road Safety Policy. It also indicates the parties responsible for implementing the activities and the timetable, as well as the targets to be achieved and the key performance indicators to confirm the implementation of the activities.
- d) Regional Road Safety Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

105. The three documents are supported by a new ECOWAS Regional Road Safety Charter, which is a declaration by Member States to jointly implement a set of decisive activities to reduce of deaths and injuries on our roads.

106. The Policy preparation was highly participative involving Member States road safety Agencies and key road safety stakeholders such as the World Bank, AfDB, the West African Federation of Engineering Organisations (WAFEO) and the West African Road Safety Organisation (WARSO).

107. In view of the need for coordinated and harmonised efforts to curb the rate of road safety deaths on our roads, and based on the endorsement of Transport Sector Ministers at their meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the Council of Ministers is requested to consider and recommend adoption the following documents:

- a) ECOWAS Regional Road Safety Policy;
- b) ECOWAS Regional Road Safety Action Plan;
- c) ECOWAS Regional Road Safety Charter;
- d) Regional Road Safety Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; 



108. Council endorsed the report and recommended it for adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

**Item 15: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Agriculture on the comprehensive Strategic Framework for sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in ECOWAS Member States**

109. The Commission stated that within the framework of the 2025 orientations of the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP 2025) adopted by the highest ECOWAS bodies in June 2015, and the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Investment, Food Security and Nutrition Plan (PRIASAN), it facilitated the formulation of the Detailed Strategic Framework for the Development of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (CSDD-PAD) in West Africa.

110. The overall objective of this programme is to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security and poverty reduction in West Africa with a specific objective of improving regional fisheries governance in West Africa through better coordination of national fisheries policies.

111. The specific objectives: (i) Fish production from capture and aquaculture fisheries has reached an optimal level and post-catch fish losses have been minimized; (ii) per capita consumption of fish and other fishery products for food and nutrition security in the ECOWAS region has increased; (iii) public funding and private sector investment in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors have increased; (iv) intra-regional trade in fish in order to reduce dependence on imports has been encouraged; (v) strategic partnership and institutional collaboration and cooperation in West Africa, particularly in the areas of scientific research related to fisheries and aquaculture, monitoring, control and surveillance (SCS) and maritime security, have been promoted and strengthened in the long term and (vi) human and organisational capacity in all types of management of the fisheries and aquaculture sector is developed and strengthened.

112. The cost of setting up and the CSDD-PAD is estimated at 350 million \$US 2020 - 2030. While ensuring the mobilization of the community's own internal resources for the financing of harmonization actions, incentive tools and regulatory public measures, the ECOWAS Commission will carry out advocacy, communication and concrete specific project proposals with existing international financing institutions and Development banks established in the region, in support of the development of value chains in the fisheries and aquaculture sector

113. The Commission concluded by stating that as this strategy document has been validated by the Specialized Ministerial Technical Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, the ECOWAS Commission submits this Memorandum on the Detailed Strategic Framework for the Development of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for adoption by the Council of Ministers.

114. Following presentation, Council endorsed the memorandum. 



**Item 16: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Agriculture on the Strategy to Support Youth Employability in the Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral and Fisheries Sector to combat Urban Migration and Uncontrolled Immigration in the ECOWAS Region**

115. The Commission stated that non-agricultural activities account for 22% of total employment in the food economy and 31% of total non-agricultural employment. Food marketing activities (transport, logistics, retail and wholesale) account for the largest share of employment in the non-agricultural food economy (68%), followed by food processing (22%). Given the size of the food economy, these activities play an important role in overall employment.

116. In accordance with ECOWAP 2025, the youth employability strategy in the Agro-Sylvo Pastoral and Fisheries sectors aims to contribute decisively to: (i) achieving food security and sovereignty of populations, (ii) improving the incomes of rural people, and (iii) fighting poverty and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations. In the context of the causes of the low attractiveness of the agricultural sector and the aversion of young people to agriculture, the strategy is in line with the ambitions of the "Sustainable Development Goals", in particular Goals No. 1 "Poverty Eradication", No. 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth", No. 10 "Reduction of Inequalities" and those of the declaration of the AU Heads of State in Malabo in 2014 on "Accelerated growth and transformation: Agriculture in Africa for shared prosperity and better living conditions."

117. This Memorandum submitted to Council summarises the strategy paper which takes into account the experiences of all Member States and local, national, regional and international partners. The strategy to support the employability of young people in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector is intended to be a collective action of regional scope to support the initiatives carried out by Member States, producers' organizations, pastoralists, breeders, fishermen, the private sector, technical cooperation institutions, NGOs and other associations. It makes the best use of the policy instruments provided for by the two regional agricultural policies, i.e. ECOWAP 2015 and the UEMOA Union Agricultural Policy (PAU).

118. The challenge for the West African region is to create the greatest number of remunerative jobs for young people (men and women) in the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector, fisheries and in agri-food value chains. That main issue is linked to others both at the macroeconomic and operational levels.

119. The strategy to support the employability of young people in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector with a view to combating rural exodus and uncontrolled emigration in the ECOWAS area covers all (i) sub-sectors of activities related to agriculture: crop production, livestock, pastoralism, forestry, fisheries on the one hand; (ii) the transformation and servicing of traditional and emerging agri-food value chains of all sectors.

120. The strategy is also aimed at all categories of young people (girls and boys) and gender, both rural and urban, from all social conditions, illiterate, out of school and with proven technical skills



that can contribute to the transformation of the agroforestry pastoral and fisheries sector and the dynamisation of agri-food value chains.

121. It aims to create a framework for intervention for all the actors: the fifteen Member States of the Community, the regional networks of organizations of agricultural producers, breeders, pastoralists, fishermen, young people, technical cooperation institutions, non-governmental organizations, technical and financial partners and the private sector.

122. The ECOWAS Commission submitted this Memorandum and Strategy Paper for adoption by the Council of Ministers.

123. Following presentation, Council endorsed the memorandum and its accompanying Strategy Paper.


**Item 17: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum on the Report of ECOWAS Ministers of Climate and Draft Declaration of Heads of State and Government**

124. In his presentation, the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation from the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Dr. Kwaku Afriyie stated that West Africa faces various environmental problems which hamper its social and economic development and are exacerbated by climate change, the effects and impacts of which are considerable in the Region.

125. He mentioned that, actions have been taken and are being implemented by Member States and the ECOWAS Commission to, as appropriate, adapt to climate change and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. He said, to date, the results are still very limited and the scale of climate change and the projections for the future are of concern to the international community as well as to the most vulnerable African states, including all of the ECOWAS Member States.

126. The Honourable Minister stated that Experts and Sectoral Ministers' meetings were held and the Ministers validated a draft declaration which essentially recalls climate governance at global and regional levels. It commits governments to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of fifteen (15) initiatives and actions already undertaken by Member States, and gives the ECOWAS Commission fifteen (15) key instructions to be implemented to strengthen climate governance at the regional level, invest in adaptation and mitigation, ensure the energy transition in order to contribute effectively to global efforts to combat climate change, and conduct advocacy with Partners to mobilize financial resources.

127. In conclusion, he requested Council to endorse and recommend the draft declaration for adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS.

128. Following the presentation, Council endorsed the declaration and agreed to forward same to the Authority of Heads of State for adoption subject to the amendment of Article (xi) on page 5 of the draft declaration presented. 



**Item 18: Presentation and Consideration of a Memorandum of the Report of the ECOWAS Ministers of Trade on the Draft Supplementary Acts and Regulations of the Regional Competition Authority (ERCA)**

129. The Deputy Minister for International Trade at the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Herbert Krapa affirmed the interest and support of Ministers of Trade for the initiative to provide ECOWAS with adequate legal and regulatory texts relating to the Regional Competition Framework and the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA).

130. He also affirmed the importance of carrying out as soon as possible the implementation of Community provisions on competition in the light of changes at regional and continental levels, in particular the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with the start of negotiations on competition.


131. The Deputy Minister indicated that, in this regard, the ECOWAS Trade Ministers' meeting proposed for endorsement by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers the following five (5) legal documents:

- Draft Supplementary Act on the amendment of the Supplementary Act A/SA.2/12/08 on the establishment, powers and functioning of the ERCA;
- Draft Regulation defining the powers and composition of the ERCA Council;
- Draft Rules of Procedure of ERCA;
- Draft Regulation on the rules of procedure for mergers and acquisitions in ECOWAS in competition matters within ECOWAS;
- Draft Regulation on the rules and procedures relating to leniency and immunity.

132. After deliberation, the Council of Ministers adopted the four (4) Regulations and proposed for adoption by the Authority of the Heads of State and Government the draft Supplementary Act on ERCA.

133. Council also urged the Commission to accelerate the conclusion of a collaboration agreement with the UEMOA Commission in order to ensure a smooth implementation of the ECOWAS competition framework within the region.

**Item 19: Memorandum on the Report of Ministers of Regional Integration, Interior, Health, Trade, Finance and Transport on the Reopening of Land borders in ECOWAS for the Free Movement of Persons**

134. The Commission on behalf of the Co-Chairperson of the Sectoral Ministers meeting, which was held virtually on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, Mme Clarisse Merindol Ouoba, Minister of African Integration and Burkinabes Abroad, presented the memorandum. 


135. The Commission recalled that at its 59<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Authority held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 in Accra, Ghana, the Heads of State and Government directed the ECOWAS Commission to work with Member States and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) on the modalities to accelerate the reopening of land borders in a safe manner during the pandemic in line with the agreed ECOWAS Harmonized Guidelines for the Free Movement of Persons and Goods.

136. The Commission noted that, Technical Experts held a meeting from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 to define the essential practical modalities to be put in place for the implementation of the ECOWAS COVID-19 directives on hygiene measures for a coordinated, safe, secure and orderly reopening of borders.

137. It was stated that ECOWAS has a long history of cross-border mobility, inspired by trade, cultural and social affinities between communities. The advent of COVID-19 in 2019 in West Africa has negatively impacted the volume of trade and movement of people and has led to disruptions in demand, supply and investment in key economic sectors whereby the service sector (i.e., services) and the primary sector (agriculture) are experiencing significant losses due to travel and movement restrictions as a result of border closures disrupting supply chains and market access by small and medium-sized enterprises.

138. The Commission underscored that, the Sectoral Ministers expressed satisfaction and lauded the quality of the Experts' Report. They thereafter endorsed the Report of the Experts and all recommendations contained therein. The Sectoral Ministers thereafter made the following recommendations:-

- i. Encourage Member States to implement the adopted ECOWAS Guidelines on the Harmonisation and Facilitation of Cross Border Trade & Transport and Mitigation of Health Risks in the ECOWAS Region on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Related Post-Recovery Actions;
- ii. Encourage coordination, collaboration and cooperation through border agencies among Member States sharing contiguous borders;
- iii. The mutual recognition of PCR tests at borders;
- iv. Harmonisation of validity of test results in Member States;
- v. Member States to provide equipment and facilities at all points of entry;
- vi. That all ECOWAS land borders should be reopened on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.

139. The Commission highlighted that, in the light of the foregoing, the Sectoral Ministers in charge of Regional Integration, Interior, Health, Finance, Trade and Transport requested the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, with their usual wisdom and selflessness, to kindly consider and endorse the Sectoral Ministers Report, in the best interests of the Community. 




140. Council endorsed the report and recommended it for adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

**Item 20: Memorandum of the Report of ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Gender and Women Affairs on the ECOWAS Regional Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and the Elimination of all Violence against Women and Girls; and the ECOWAS Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Harassment in the Workplaces and Educational Institutions**

141. On behalf of the Caretaker Minister of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection of the Republic of Ghana Hon. Mrs. Cecelia Abena Dapaah, the Chief Director, Dr. Afisah Zakariah of the Ministry stated that the hybrid Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Gender and Women Affairs was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to validate the ECOWAS Regional Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and The Elimination of All Violence Against Women and Girls; and the ECOWAS Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Harassment in Workplaces and Educational Institutions in the region. The Ministerial meeting considered and endorsed the report of a Meeting of Experts that was held in Dakar from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

142. Dr Zakariah informed that, the Honourable Ministers considered, validated and endorsed the ECOWAS Regional Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and the Elimination of All Violence against Women And Girls, whose long term goals are to contribute to a society that is free of all forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women and girls, male and female of all ages; and a society in which all women and girls live free from all forms of violence and the threat of such, thereby becoming empowered to reach their potentials, and to benefit and participate equitably in societal development. The Strategy is built around eleven (11) pillars that translate into priority areas for intervention.

143. She highlighted that, the Honourable Ministers also considered, validated and endorsed the ECOWAS Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Harassment in Workplaces and Educational Institutions in the region, whose overall objective is to create the institutional framework at the regional and national levels for the elimination of Sexual Harassment in Workplaces and Educational Institutions in the ECOWAS region and mobilize all stakeholders to combat sexual harassments in all its forms.

144. She further mentioned that, the Policy is built around four (4) key areas of interventions that aimed at ensuring the official recognition of sexual harassment as a legal and human right violation within the ECOWAS region; mobilizing the whole of government and the whole of society on zero tolerance to sexual harassment; promoting public discussion and sensitization on sexual harassment as a human rights violation within the ECOWAS region; ensuring that all workers are protected from sexual harassment in workplaces within the ECOWAS region; and ensuring that all educational institutions in the ECOWAS region are free from sexual harassment. 

145. After presentation, Council endorsed the report and all recommendations contained therein and recommended it for adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Item 21: Presentation of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on the Single Currency**

146. In his presentation, Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu, Director, Economic Strategy and Research, on behalf of the Minister of Finance of Ghana, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta stated that the implementation of the activities included in the Roadmap for the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme, adopted on 25 May 2009 in Abuja and reviewed on 21 February 2018 in Accra, has led to significant progress in 2019 with the adoption of the main components of the ECO zone, including the name and symbol of the single currency, the exchange rate regime, the monetary policy framework and the name and model of the central bank.

147. As part of the financing of the implementation of the activities of the Roadmap, a Special Fund was established by Decision A/DEC.3/7/18 of 31 July. This fund is administered by a Management Board composed of representatives of contributing Central Banks, five Member States and the ECOWAS Commission.

148. Dr. Iddrisu mentioned that, in accordance with the texts governing the Special Fund, a financial report on the use of its financial resources during the 2019 financial year was adopted by the Ministerial Committee on the Single Currency Programme at its meeting on 6 December 2021, on the recommendation of the Management Board following the audit carried out by the Office of the Auditor General of ECOWAS Institutions. As of December 31, 2019, a total of three million US dollars (US\$3,000,000.00) has been mobilized, including two million US dollars (US\$2,000,000.00) as a contribution from the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) and one million US dollars (US\$1,000,000.00 \$US) from the Bank of Ghana. As of December 31, 2019, the balance of the accounts was two million six hundred and ninety-eight thousand seven hundred and nineteen (2,698,719) dollars US.

149. He underscored that at its 59<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, held in Accra on 19 June 2021, the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government adopted the Macroeconomic Convergence and Stability Pact among ECOWAS Member States, whose convergence phase covers the period from 2022 to 2026 and the stability phase from 1 January 2027. It also took note of the Roadmap for the launch of ECO by 2027 and the instruction to the Ministerial Committee to continue working to resolve all outstanding issues, including the definition of the concept of "majority" and the determination of a practical modality for transition to ECO.

150. With regard to the implementation of the mechanism for multilateral surveillance of the economic and financial policies of ECOWAS Member States, the joint multilateral surveillance missions were extended to all Member States in 2021. Indeed, in accordance with the decision of the Ministerial Committee on the Single Currency Programme at its meeting on 6 and 7 December 2019, these missions were carried out jointly by the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, the West 



African Monetary Agency (WAMA) and the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) in October 2021 to all Member States, with the exception of Guinea and Mali.

151. Dr Iddrisu concluded by stating that, the data and information collected during the said missions were used in the preparation of the ECOWAS Macroeconomic Convergence Report for the first half of 2021 which was adopted by the Ministerial Committee at its meeting on 6 December 2020. This shows a slight improvement in macroeconomic convergence in the first half of 2021 compared to the same period of 2020. However, challenges remain in meeting the criteria for the budget deficit, inflation and the public debt ratio.

152. Council took note of the memorandum.

**Item 22: Memorandum on Obstacles to Intra-Community Trade on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor**


153. The Commission presented the memorandum on intra-Community trade barriers on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor. It recalled that the 86<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Council of Ministers held in Accra, Ghana on 17 June 2021, had instructed the Commission to set up a tripartite ministerial committee (Ghana, Benin, Commission) in order to find an amicable solution to the issue of difficulties of passage and release for consumption of products originating in ECOWAS without payment of customs duties by the Republic of Benin.

154. The ECOWAS Commission, in its facilitating role, organized, after several attempts, a meeting at the level of experts and another at the ministerial level. The purpose of these two meetings was to serve as a platform for Benin and Ghana to mutually agree on concrete actions to resolve Benin's blocking of convoys of goods from Ghana in transit to Nigeria as well as products approved under the Trade Liberalization Scheme (SLE) to Benin.

155. Council was informed that these meetings have not led to a solution and difficulties in the passage of products originating in ECOWAS continue to persist on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor in the Republic of Benin. In the light of the above, Council was called upon to take note of the information and take a decision on the Commission's proposals for recommendations. The Commission informed Council that consultations took place with the Champion of Free Movement who directed that the five Member States on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor and the ECOWAS Commission should hold a meeting to find a lasting solution to remove all obstacles on intra-community trade.

156. Council took note of the memorandum.

**Item 23: Memorandum on ECOWAS Member States' Applications for International and Regional Statutory Positions**

157. The Commission informed that, to harmonize and give more chances to ECOWAS Member States' applications to vacant positions in regional and international organisations, the ECOWAS 

Authority of Heads of State and Government<sup>1</sup> requested Member States applying for these positions to submit their candidatures to the Chair of the Council of Ministers for arbitration in order to come up with single candidatures for different positions, and subsequently set up in 2016 a 5-Member Ministerial Committee, made up of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal, which agreed on criteria<sup>2</sup> for selecting candidates and emphasized on the importance for all countries of the Community to give full support to successful candidates.

158. As of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the Commission received a total of 34 requests for support from the ECOWAS Member States, out of which 14 positions are still available and are yet to be filled while 20 have been already occupied. Among the positions that have been filled, mainly those regarding the African Union, ECOWAS demonstrated a great leadership in harmonizing and agreeing on the candidates to represent the Region during those competitions. This strategy helped to obtain the position for Commissioner for Political affairs, Peace and Security, and that for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development.

159. The current 14 positions that are yet to be filled as of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, do not call for arbitration since each of the position matches a single application from ECOWAS.

160. To facilitate its work, the Committee pled with the Member States to (i) systematically notify to the ECOWAS Commission their applications to international and regional positions, as well as their requests Community support; and to (ii) provide accurate and complete information regarding the positions i.e. CV translated in the ECOWAS official languages, election dates, etc.).

161. Council took note of the memorandum.

#### **Item 24: Memorandum on ECOWAS Excellence Award, Edition 2020**

162. The ECOWAS Excellence Award was presented by the Commission. It was indicated that the ECOWAS Excellence Award is governed by Decision **A/DEC.2/06/17 establishing the criteria and procedures for the award of the ECOWAS Award of Excellence, boosted** by the fifty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government of June 2017.

163. The "ECOWAS EXCELLENCE AWARD " aims to promote the excellence and merit of natural or legal persons who, through their actions, initiatives, creativity, services, have contributed immensely to promoting regional integration, peace and socio-economic development of the ECOWAS Region.

164. It includes three categories:

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<sup>1</sup> Refers 49<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit on 4 June 2016 in Dakar, and the Chairperson of the Authority decision's on August 2016

<sup>2</sup> Quality of applications (i), Solidarity (ii), Geographical spread (iii), Alphabetical rotation (iv). 



- Category 1: Prize for Science and Technology, Arts and Letters with 3 sub-categories which are Science and Technology, Arts and Letters;
- Category 2: Honorary Award for Eminent Persons;
- Category 3: Award for Deserving Community Citizens.

165. The 2020 Excellence Award of Jury included:

- President: Mr. Adama SAMASSEKOU of Mali, Former Minister;
- Members :
  - Prof. Usman MOHAMMED of Nigeria, Head of Department, International Relations and Diplomacy, Baze University, Abuja;
  - Mr. Edison Mensah Agbenyegah of Ghana, Acting High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
  - Prof. Rita Carolina Angora YAO-KAKOU from Côte d'Ivoire, Researcher, Laureate of the African Union Kwamé NKRUMAH Prize for Women Scientist in 2011;
  - Prof. Carlos Eugénio MONTEIRO CARDOSO from Guinea Bissau, Researcher, Former Director General of the National Institute of Studies and Research (INEP);
  - Mrs. Silvia MEDINA LIMA from Cape Verde, actress and Woman of the Theatre woman;
  - Dr. Elavagnon Dorothée DOGNON du Bénin, Film critic, Teacher-Researcher at the University of Abomey Calavi.

166. The Jury appointed by the President of the Commission met from 18 to 21 May 2021 to examine the applications submitted by the Member States. After deliberation, the jury awarded the Prize of Excellence to the following laureates:

**i) Category 1: Science and Technology, Arts and Letters Award**

- a. Science and Technology:** Professor Basile KOUNOUHEWA from Benin for the manufacture of a disinfection cabin
- b. Arts (Cinema):** Loukou Akissi Delphine from Côte d'Ivoire, commonly known as Akissi DELTA, Director of Television Series, for the quality and richness of her cinematographic production broadcast and recognized in several ECOWAS States
- c. Letters (Dramatic Art):** Mrs. Werewere Liking-Gnepo of Côte d'Ivoire, self-taught and playwright, for the quality and richness of her artistic production recognized in several ECOWAS States;

- ii) Category 2: Honorary Prize for Eminent Personalities:** The Jury was unable to award the Prize to one of the proposed candidates. He therefore proposed the appointment of the late President Idriss Deby ITNO for his contribution to the fight against terrorism in West Africa. This proposal was not accepted by the Commission in view of the highly political nature of the personality. Further consultations are necessary for the award of this Prize.



- iii) **Category 3: Award for Deserving Citizens of the Community:** Mrs. Leymah Gbowee of Liberia for her contribution to peace in her country during the 2003 civil war. She is also co-winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Mrs. Tawakkoul Karman.

167. The ECOWAS Excellence Award is presented to the laureates by the current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, during a solemn ceremony.

168. Council took note of the memorandum.

**Item 25: Any Other Business**

169. There were no issues discussed under this agenda item.

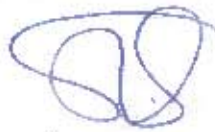
**Item 26: Adoption of Report**

170. The report was adopted after amendments.

**Item 27: Closing Session**

171. The Chairperson of Council, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, in her closing remarks, thanked Council Members for their active participation and constructive contributions during the session. Thereafter, she declared the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary Session of Council closed.

**DONE IN ABUJA, THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2021**



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**HON. SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWEY  
CHAIRPERSON  
FOR COUNCIL**





Original: English

**Date: 10 December 2021**

**EIGHTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
9 - 10 December 2021

**VOTE OF THANKS**

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The participants at the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Abuja, from 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the warm African hospitality extended to them during their stay in Abuja, and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the success of their Session.

**DONE IN ABUJA, THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2021**

**COUNCIL**

## **ANNEXURES**

**Annex 1: Welcome remarks by Host Minister, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;**

**Annex 2: Statement of the President of the Commission;**

**Annex 3: Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of Council;**

**Annex 4: Summary of requests for support to Member States' applications for international positions - as of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (Positions yet to be filled and Already filled)**

**Annex 5: List of Participants.**





## **Annex 1: Welcome Remarks by His Excellency, Amb. Zubairu Dada, Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

- **Your Excellency, the Chair of ECOWAS Council of Ministers, Honourable Shirley Ayokor Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic Ghana;**
- **Your Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, Honourable Ministers here present;**
- **The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Your Excellency Jean-Claude Kassi Brou;**
- **Esteemed Heads of ECOWAS Institutions and Commissioners;**
- **Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives;**
- **Gentlemen of the Press;**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am delighted to welcome you all to Abuja, on behalf of the People and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the occasion of the 87<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. We are pleased to host this meeting in person given that the 86<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council was held virtually due to the rampaging effects of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020.

2. The Council of Ministers meeting remains a very important platform for us to meet and review thematic issues in the region and advise our Heads of State accordingly. Indeed, this year's agenda is robust, which is a testament to the commitment of ECOWAS and its Institutions as well as Member States to the integration and developmental goals of our sub-region despite the COVID 19 pandemic. At this August gathering, we will consider, as we did in the past, several issues affecting critical areas of the Community through reports and memoranda on our agenda.

3. The meeting will also be expected to adopt guidelines, protocols and revised draft supplementary acts on the Community Levy, Customs Union, Road safety policy amongst others. As members of this important Organ of ECOWAS, we have a collective responsibility of deciding on matters relating to economic integration and political stability in our region. We must discuss these issues with open mind in order to find solutions to the numerous challenges threatening our region.




including the new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian challenges, climate change, and youth unemployment. The interest of the citizens of our community should be paramount and we must aim to articulate positions that will advance the achievement of sustainable economic integration and development in our region.

Excellencies

4. At this juncture, allow me to commend the Chair of the Council and the President of Commission for their continued untiring efforts on meeting tasks assigned to us by our Principals in an effort to achieve the aspirations of ECOWAS. I therefore urge the Management of ECOWAS to continue in the same strides towards the implementation of policies, guidelines, projects and programmes that improve the effectiveness of the organization and encourage prudent management of Community resources in order to achieve the fundamental goals of our regional integration goal.

**Dear Honourable Ministers, President of the Commission, Distinguished Guests,**

5. Let me conclude by encouraging you to take out time to explore the beauty in Abuja. I wish you a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Nigeria.

6. I thank you for your kind attention. 



## **Annex 2: Statement of the President of the Commission;**

- **Excellence Madame Shirley Ayorkor BOTCHWEY, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de l'Intégration Régionale de la République du Ghana, Présidente du Conseil des Ministres de la CEDEAO,**
- **Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest,**
- **Madame la Vice-Présidente de la Commission,**
- **Mesdames et Messieurs les Chefs d'Institutions de la CEDEAO,**
- **Mesdames et Messieurs les Commissaires,**
- **Mesdames et Messieurs les Membres du Corps Diplomatique et Représentants des Organisations internationales,**
- **Distingués invités,**
- **Mesdames et Messieurs,**

1. C'est une fois de plus avec grand plaisir que je m'acquitte de l'heureux devoir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue pour la seconde session ordinaire du Conseil des Ministres de la CEDEAO de l'année 2021. Je note que c'est la première fois depuis deux ans que le Conseil des Ministres se réunit en présentiel à Abuja, au siège de la Commission, dans un contexte toujours marqué par la plus grande crise sanitaire du 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle.

2. Hier déjà se tenait à Abuja la réunion du Conseil de Médiation et de Sécurité sur les questions de paix et de sécurité.

3. Je tiens donc à remercier chaleureusement les membres du Conseils des Ministres et nos distingués invités qui, malgré leur agenda chargé, ont tenu à réhausser par leur présence la portée des travaux qui se dérouleront au cours des deux prochains jours.

4. Permettez-moi de saisir l'occasion pour exprimer notre gratitude à l'endroit des Autorités Nigérianes, et en particulier, Son Excellence Monsieur Muhammadu Buhari, Président de la République Fédérale du Nigéria et Champion de la CEDEAO pour la Lutte contre la pandémie de COVID-19, pour son engagement toujours renouvelé pour la défense des valeurs de la Communauté et le renforcement de notre intégration régionale. Les Autorités Nigérianes n'ont en effet ménagé aucun effort pour la préparation de ces réunions statutaires. Je voudrais saluer le rôle joué par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

**Excellence Madame la Présidente,** 

5. Je tiens personnellement à vous remercier pour la qualité de votre leadership à la tête du Conseil des Ministres de la CEDEAO, qui traduit également votre engagement pour notre Communauté et celui de Son Excellence Monsieur Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo, Président de la République du Ghana et Président en Exercice de la Conférence.

**Excellence Madame la Présidente,**

**Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Membres du Conseil,**

6. L'année 2021 s'achève bientôt, et les activités des Institutions de la CEDEAO se sont déroulées dans un contexte mondial et régional toujours marqué par la pandémie de COVID-19, et les défis qu'elle soulève, notamment en ce qui concerne l'apparition du nouveau variant, Omicron, les risques d'une nouvelle vague, et les inégalités d'accès aux vaccins.

7. Sur le plan sécuritaire notre Région reste douloureusement marquée par les attaques meurtrières des terroristes. Je m'incline respectueusement, au nom des Institutions et du personnel de la CEDEAO, devant la mémoire des innocentes victimes qui ont hélas été injustement arrachées à l'affection de leurs au Burkina Faso, au Mali, au Niger et au Nigéria. A ces victimes s'ajoutent celles des accidents intervenus en Sierra Leone et au Nigéria.

8. Par ailleurs, aux effets dévastateurs de cette crise sécuritaire, viennent s'ajouter les ravages des catastrophes naturelles liées au climat, notamment les inondations.

9. Au plan politique, la crédibilité des élections récentes au Cap-Vert et en Gambie, de même que celles au Niger et au Bénin témoignent de la vitalité de la démocratie dans notre région. Néanmoins, les défis de la Transition au Mali et en Guinée doivent être relevés pour permettre à ces deux pays frères de reprendre leur place au sein de la Communauté.

**Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Membres du Conseil,**

10. Au cours de cette 87<sup>ème</sup> session ordinaire du Conseil des Ministres, vous aurez à examiner des dossiers liés au fonctionnement courant de nos Institutions, et aux différents programmes mis en œuvre par les Institutions de la Communauté.

11. L'Auditeur Général vous présentera également son Rapport.

12. Vous aurez par ailleurs à vous prononcer sur les rapports de réunions ministérielles sectorielles qui ont examiné les différents programmes au cours de l'année.

13. Différents points d'information vous seront également communiqués.

**Excellence Madame la Présidente du Conseil des Ministres,  
Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Membres du Conseil,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,  
Honorables invités.** 



14. L'agenda de votre réunion de l'année 2021 est assurément volumineux, mais je sais que vous ne ménagerez aucun effort pour y apporter toute l'attention requise pour l'avancement des chantiers de la Communauté.

15. Cette réunion sera la dernière qui se tiendra durant le mandat de la Commission actuelle. Aussi, au nom de l'ensemble des fonctionnaires statutaires qui achèveront leur mandat le 28 février 2021, je tiens à vous remercier sincèrement pour la confiance que vous nous avez témoigné au cours de ces presque quatre années, et surtout pour votre soutien constant pour la résolution de questions parfois difficiles.

16. Je vous souhaite donc de fructueux travaux et tiens à vous assurer de la disponibilité de l'ensemble des Commissaires et des Directeurs Généraux de nos organisations à vous fournir toutes les informations qui vous seront nécessaires durant votre session.

**Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention !**

**Thank you very much for your kind attention!**

**Muito obrigado pela vossa atenção!** 

### **Annex 3: Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of Council;**

**Your Excellency Ambassador Zubairu Dada, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Your Excellencies Distinguished Members of ECOWAS Council of Ministers,**

**Your Excellency Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the Commission,**

**Your Excellency Finda Koroma, Vice-President of the Commission,**

**Heads of ECOWAS Institutions,**

**ECOWAS Commissioners,**

**Representatives of the AU, UN and other International Organizations,**

**Experts of Member States,**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Chair of the Authority, to welcome you all to this beautiful city of Abuja, for the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.


2. Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you all for the efforts you have made to be with us here today.

3. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the facilities made available to us for our meeting.

4. Before I proceed, permit me to seize this opportunity to express our most sincere condolences to all ECOWAS Member States and to the grieving families of the Community citizens who have been victims of terrorist attacks and COVID-19, as well as the victims of the recent tragic incidents in Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

5. In memory of citizens of ECOWAS who died in those circumstances, may I request that we observe a minute of silence. Thank you. May their souls rest in perfect peace.

**Excellencies, Members of Council, Distinguished Guests,**

6. The year 2021 has been particularly busy at the regional level, with several Extraordinary Councils and Summits. This is a sign of vitality, but also a manifestation of a community beset by challenges. We can take satisfaction from the fact that we faced those challenges resolutely and have made consistent efforts to address those challenges. 



7. Our solidarity of action and our collective determination to move forward have enabled us to improve our resilience in facing both the health and security shocks. As a result, we expect improved economic growth of the Region relative to 2020.


8. On the political front, our Region has recorded significant achievements in the area of democracy and governance. The recent elections in Cabo Verde and The Gambia, after those of Niger and Benin, are examples of the dynamism of our democracy. The breaches in constitutional order in Guinea and Mali have undermined our progress and pose significant risks.

9. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS have taken very strong measures to ensure the restoration of constitutional order in those countries. One of the key decisions at the Extraordinary ECOWAS Summit on the situations in Mali and Guinea, held in Accra, on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, was the agreement to revise our Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. A report on the work done so far on the proposals for revision of the Protocol will be presented to the Authority of Heads of State and Government during the meeting of the Authority on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

**Excellencies, Members of Council, Distinguished Guests,**

10. In order to advance our regional integration agenda and transform the lives of Community citizens, we need to continue to build resilience and enhance our integration programme. This is particularly necessary with respect to the following threats:

- the health crisis of the Coronavirus which persists and has completely changed our way of life. With the new variant and the risk of a new wave and several countries closing their borders, we must rely more than ever on our regional solidarity.
- the recurrence of terrorist attacks in the frontline countries of the Sahel (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria) with its many victims and to which the response at this time is the diligent implementation of our plan of action against terrorism to support and complement national efforts;
- climate change, which is a constraint on the regional integration process and against which we must undertake an ecological transition, with, for example, renewable energy and an adapted agricultural policy.

11. By working together on all those issues, our prospects for success are significantly enhanced and would create the conditions for a thriving region. 

12. Finally, on internal matters, we have been able to adopt institutional reform. This reform will allow our organization to have a flexible organizational structure that fits perfectly with the new ECOWAS Vision 2050 which has been finalized and is ready for adoption. It will also allow Community Institutions to ensure both the continuity of the dreams of the Founding Fathers as well as adapt to new technological, economic and social realities. With an effective and efficient governance structure for our organization, the regional integration process will accelerate.

13. Our achievements would not have been possible without the determination and the commitment of the Commission. Therefore, I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. President and your team, for the remarkable work and the exceptional contributions you have made to our community.

**Excellencies, Members of Council, Distinguished Guests,**

14. I cannot end my remarks without congratulating you and expressing my gratitude to you, Members of Council, for the quality of your respective contributions, the consensus which has always prevailed during our various exchanges, and which have enabled us, among other things, to consolidate the political stability and economic growth of our region.

15. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the President of the Commission and all the Heads of Institutions and Commissioners for the remarkable work carried out during their tenure in a complex environment.

16. In conclusion, I am full of optimism that together, united, we will be able to surmount all the challenges we face in the process of regional integration for the well-being of our populations.

17. I wish us all fruitful deliberations.

**Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.**

**Thank you very much for your kind attention!**

**Muito obrigado pela sua atenção!**





#### Annex 4

#### Summary of requests for support to Member States' applications for international positions - as of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (Positions yet to be filled)

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
1	African Union	President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP)	• Mali <sup>3</sup>	• Suspension of the vote till further notice due to days of scuffles and discontent during the election in May 2021	• Request received on: 8 April 2021 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States
2	African Union	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)	• Sierra Leone	• Election to hold on 8th Nov – 3rd Dec. 2021 during the 63rd Ordinary Session of the AfCHPR	• Request received on 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2021 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States
3	African Union	Vice President of the Pan African University	• Sierra Leone	• Election couldn't hold during the 39th Ordinary	• Requested on 2 August 2021 • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States

<sup>3</sup> Mali was no yet under ECOWAS sanctions

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
				Session of the AU Executive Council and has been postponed till further notice	• Election postponed till further notice

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
4	International Criminal Court	Membership position of the Advisory Committee on the nomination of Judges	• Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elections to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 during the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of States Parties in The Hague</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested on 29 October 2021</li> <li>Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>
5	International Telecommunications Union	Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau at the International	• The Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the forthcoming Plenipotentiary Conference (pp-22) in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested on 16 September 2021</li> <li>Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
		Telecommunications Union (ITU)		Bucharest, Romania, from 26 <sup>th</sup> September to 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	
6	Niger Basin Authority	Executive Secretary of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA)	• Guinea <sup>4</sup>	• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester of 2021 in Abuja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request: 26 February 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> <li>• Chad still holding the position of the Executive Secretary</li> </ul>

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
7	UNESCO	Inscription of "Cultural practices and expressions linked to the M'Bolon, a traditional musical	• Mali	• 13-18 December 2021 in Paris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request received on: 14 April 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Guinea was no yet under ECOWAS sanctions



	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
		percussion instrument" on the list of intangible cultural heritage of UNESCO			
8	UNESCO	member of the Committee of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for the period 2023-2027	• Senegal	• November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 5 July 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>
9	United Nations	Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2024-2025	• Sierra Leone	• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 12 February 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>
10	United Nations	Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the period 2024-2026	• Mali	• October 2023 in New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request received on: 18 February 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>
11	United Nations	Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	• Burkina Faso	• June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 2 July 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
12	United Nations	Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO)	• Togo	• 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022, at the 344 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 21 September 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>
13	United Nations	Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2023-2024	• Bissau Guinea	• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 28 September 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>
14	United Nations	Membership position at the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for the term 2022-2027	• Ghana	• Elections to be held in June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 25 October 2021</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>

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**Annex 4(b)**

**Already Filled Positions: For the Year 2021, as of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
1-2	African Union	Commissioners at the AUC for the 2021-2025 period (2 seats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burkina Faso</li> <li>• Côte d'Ivoire</li> <li>• Gambia</li> <li>• Nigeria</li> <li>• Sierra Leone</li> </ul>	3-4 February 2021, 38 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the AU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigeria got the seat for Political Affairs Peace and Security;</li> <li>• Burkina Faso was elected for the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development position during the Octobers 2021 Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the Union.</li> </ul>
3	African Union	Member of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mali</li> <li>• Senegal</li> </ul>	3-4 February 2021, 38 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the AU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mali got one of the 2 vacant positions at the AfCHPR</li> </ul>
4	African Union	Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mali</li> </ul>	3-4 February 2021, 38 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the AU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mali lost the position</li> <li>• 4 new members elected: Angola, Burkina Faso (candidacy not notify)</li> </ul>



					to ECOWAS), Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Mauritius. • 2 re-elected members: Mauritania and Nigeria
5	African Union	Member of the African Union Advisory Board of Corruption (AUABC)	• Sierra Leone	3-4 February 2021, 38 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the AU	• Sierra Leone got the position
	<b>ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>VACANT POSITIONS</b>	<b>CANDIDATES</b>	<b>ELECTION DATES</b>	<b>OBSERVATIONS</b>
6	African Union	Chairperson for the 2022 – 2023 period	• Ghana • Togo • Senegal	6-7 February 2021, AU Assembly	• ECOWAS attributed the position to Senegal
7	African Union	Deputy Chairperson at the AUC for the 2021-2025 period	• Ghana • The Gambia	6-7 February 2021, AU Assembly	• ECOWAS withdrew the candidacy of the 2 countries in order to secure 2 Commissioners seats for the region
8	African Union	Assistant Secretary General of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU)	• Burkina Faso	• 7 - 25 June 2021 in Zimbabwe	• Request on 7 January 2021: • Notified to all ECOWAS Member States • Uganda won the position
9	Africa Union	Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights	• Senegal • Niger • Ghana	• October 14-15, 2021, during the 39 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the	• Election of 3 (three) new Members and re-election of 1 (one) Member, respectively The Gambia, Mauritius, Senegal, and Ethiopia

				Executive Council of the African Union	
10	CONFEJES	Secretary General of the Conference of Ministers for Youth and Sports of the Francophonie (CONFEJES).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burkina Faso</li> <li>• Mali</li> </ul>	23-27 February 2021, Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Burkina Faso and Mali lost</li> <li>• Cameroon got the Position</li> </ul>
11	International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)	Member of the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) for the term 2022-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghana not elected</li> <li>• The INCB is an independent monitor of the international drug control system</li> </ul>

	ORGANISATIONS	VACANT POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	ELECTION DATES	OBSERVATIONS
12	International Labor Organization	Board of Directors of the International Labor Organization (ILO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2021, in Geneva</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 24 April 2020</li> <li>• Election held in June 2021. Benin not selected</li> </ul>
13- 14	United Nations	Member of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the period 2022 - 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Togo</li> <li>• Cote d'Ivoire (re- election)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 24, 2021 in New York</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cote d'Ivoire re-elected</li> <li>• Togo elected</li> </ul>

15	United Nations	Re-election to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senegal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 June 2021 in New York</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senegal was reelected</li> </ul>
16	United Nations	Member of Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niger (Re-election)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New York in June 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niger was reelected</li> <li>• Were also elected Senegal and Benin</li> </ul>
17	United Nations	Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ghana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New York in June 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested on 28 August 2019</li> <li>• Notified to all ECOWAS Member States</li> </ul>
18-19	United Nations	Re-election as a member of the International Law Commission (ILC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cote d'Ivoire</li> <li>• Senegal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 November 2021, in New York</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal were elected</li> <li>• Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso were also elected.</li> <li>• ECOWAS got 4 seats out of the 9 allocated to Africa</li> </ul>
20	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senegal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 09-27 August 2021, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senegal got the position</li> </ul>



