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**2013 Interim Report of the President of the ECOWAS
Commission**

Abidjan, June 2013

INTERIM REPORT 2013

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	4
LIST OF FIGURES	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
INTRODUCTION	15
CHAPTER I: RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST AFRICA	17
1.2 GROWTH OF THE AFRICAN ECONOMIES	19
1.3 THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIES	21
1.3.1. Economic Growth	21
1.3.2. Inflation	22
1.3.3. Budget deficit	23
1.3.4. External Balance	24
CHAPTER II: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME	26
2.1 HARMONIZATION OF MACROECONOMIC POLICIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR PROMOTION	26
2.1.1 Multilateral Surveillance	26
2.1.2 Private Sector Promotion	28
2.1.3 Research and Statistics	31
2.1.4 Community Development Programme (CDP)	32
2.1.5 Economic Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU)	33
2.2. TRADE. CUSTOMS. INDUSTRY. MINES, FREE MOVEMENT AND TOURISM	34
2.2.1 Trade	34
2.2.2 Customs	37
2.2.3 Free Movement of Persons	39
2.3 AGRICULTURE. ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES	40
2.3.1 Agricultural Development	40
2.3.2 Environment	42
2.3.3 Water resources	43
2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT	44
2.4.1 Transport and telecommunication	44
2.4.2 Energy	48
2.5. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	49
2.5.1 Social and Humanitarian Affairs	49
2.5.2 Gender and Child	50
2.5.3 Youth, Sports and Employment	50
2.5.4 Drug Control and Civil Society	50
2.5.5 Education, Culture, Science and Technology	51
2.5.6 ECOWAS Youth Development Centre	51
2.5.7 ECOWAS Gender Centre	51
2.5.8 Malaria Elimination Programme	51
2.6. POLITICAL AFFAIRS, REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY	52
2.6.1 Political Affairs	52
2.6.2 Early Warning	53
2.6.3 Peacekeeping and Regional Security	55
2.7. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)	56
2.8 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MATTER	57
2.8.1 Legal Affairs	57
2.8.2 Strategic Planning	58
2.8.3 Monitoring and Evaluation System	59
2.8.4 External Relations	60
2.8.5 Institutional Reforms	61
2.8.6 ECOWAS Community Levy	61
CHAPTER III: ACTIVITIES OF OTHER COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS	63

3.1 THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENT	63
3.2 WEST AFRICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION (WAHO)	67
3.2.1 The Main Objectives for 2013	67
3.2.2 Summary Results of WAHO's Achievements	68
3.2.3 Challenges	70
3.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING IN WEST AFRICA (GIABA)	71
3.4 ECOWAS BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (EBID)	75
3.4.1 ACTIVITIES OF THE DECISION-MAKING BODIES	75
3.4.2 ACTIVITIES RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE BANK	76
3.4.3 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	77
3.4.4 Cooperation and resource mobilization activities	83
3.4.5 Financial Situation of the Bank as at 31st March 2013	84
3.5 THE WEST AFRICAN POWER POOL	87
3.5.1 Projects Under Preparation	88
3.5.2 Projects Under Implementation	90
3.5.3 Projects Commissioned and Operational	92
3.5.4 Regional Electricity Market	92
3.6 COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE	93
CONCLUSION	99

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: World Economic Output (annual percent change).....	19
Table 2 : Real GDP Growth of African regions (Percentage difference).....	21
Table 3: Staff situation in EBID as at 31 May. 2013.....	76
Table 4: Net cumulative commitments of EBID between 2011 and 2012 (in UA).....	80
Table 5: Breakdown of the net cumulative commitments of EBID by sector as at 31/05/2013	80
Table 6 : Breakdown of net cumulative commitments by country between December 2012 and May 2013 (in UA).....	81
Table 7: Breakdown of Loans Outstanding by Country as at 31st May. 2013 (in UA)	83
Table 8: Balance Sheet as at March 2013, 2012 (in UA thousand).....	85
Table 9 : Quelques agrégats significatifs au 31 mars 2013 (en milliers d'UC)	85
Table 10: Income statement as at 31st March. 2012 (in thousands of UA).....	86
Table 11: Some Important Aggregates as at 31 st March 2013 (UA '000)).....	86

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: World inflation situation by region (2011-2013)	19
Figure 2: Real growth rate of ECOWAS States.....	22
Figure 3 Inflation rate of ECOWAS States.....	23
Figure 4 Budget deficit of ECOWAS Member States.....	24
Figure 5: Ratio of current external balance of ECOWAS States	24
Figure 6: Net cumulative commitments of EBID between 2004 and Mai 2013 (in UA million)	78
Figure 7: Breakdown of net cumulative commitments of EBID by area of intervention as at 31/03/2013 (%)..	79
Figure 8: Breakdown of net cumulative commitment by country as at 31st may. 2013(in %)	81

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The editorial team would like to take this opportunity to thank all Commissioners and Directors of the Commission as well as other Community Institutions for their important contributions to this annual report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- i. The ECOWAS Interim Report for 2013 gives a comprehensive account of the status of implementation of the Community Work Programme in the first half of the year from January to June and outlines key prospects for the remaining part of the year. It also assesses recent socio-economic developments in West Africa and the international environment and highlights potential challenges, prospects and the way forward for the West African economic integration process.
- ii. The Interim Report is based on contributions from the various Departments of the Commission and other Community Institutions, on the implementation of their activities in the first half of 2013. These activities were carried out in an environment characterised by relative improvement in national economic governance, and the political will of the ECOWAS policy makers to accelerate regional integration and development, albeit the sluggish global economic recovery and the continuing sovereign debt concerns in the euro zone area.
- iii. At the Community level, the environment was marked, among other things, by the re- election of H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as Chairman of ECOWAS during the 42nd Ordinary Session of Authority of Heads of State and Government held on 27 and 28 February 2013; restoration of the territorial integrity of Mali and the deployment of an ECOWAS peace keeping force under an African-led Internal Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA); and preventive diplomacy/mediation efforts in a number of Member States either to promote dialogue for national reconciliation or to ensure restoration and consolidation of constitutional order, notably in Mali, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea.
- iv. **Economic performance:** Growth in the global economy is projected at 3.3 percent in 2013, before increasing to 4.1 in 2014. In sub-Saharan Africa, growth in 2013 will rise to 5.4 percent partly as a result of the high growth rate expected in West Africa. The growth drivers in sub-Saharan Africa include further increases in output in the natural resources sector, which underpins rising fiscal expenditure, especially in infrastructure projects
- v. In the West African economy, growth forecasts have been positive qualifying it as one of the most performing regions of the continent with a projected GDP of 7% in 2013 against 6.6% in 2012. This remarkable projected growth rate in West Africa is partly attributed to the expected high demand for minerals and hydrocarbons and improved production in the agricultural sector. The dynamism of the regional economy is as a result of consolidation of growth in the major ECOWAS economies such as Nigeria (7.2 percent), Côte d'Ivoire (8 percent) and Ghana (6.9 percent) and Senegal (4.0 percent). Other Member States that are expected to record significant growth rates are Sierra Leone (17.1%), The Gambia (8.9%), Liberia (7.5%) , Burkina (7.0%), Mali (4.8 percent), Guinea (4.5 percent), and Guinea Bissau (4.2 percent)

- vi. **Regarding the status of implementation of the Community's Work Programme in 2012**, the Commission and other community institutions recorded the following achievements in the implementation of activities programmed in the various intervention areas during the first half of the year:
- vii. **Monetary Integration:** progress was made in ensuring the harmonisation of economic and financial policies of Member States within the framework of the ECOWAS Multilateral Surveillance Mechanism strengthening as well as monitoring the effective implementation of the Roadmap for the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme leading the establishment of the second West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) in 2015 and the ECOWAS-wide single currency in 2020. Key activities included; (i) monitoring and evaluation of economic performance in the Member States in order to assess the overall status of macroeconomic convergence in the region; (ii) completion of studies on the harmonisation of public debt management and public procurement policies and practices in ECOWAS; and strengthening cooperation the UEMAO Commission, West African Monetary Agency (WAMA), West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) and the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) within the framework of the multilateral surveillance of economic and financial policies on Member States.
- viii. **Private Sector:** The Commission realised significant progress in the formulation of a Community investment code and policy as well as the development of a competitive and enhanced regional investment climate for private sector development. Key achievement realised included the completion of the draft ECOWAS Investment Policy (ECOWIP), finalisation of report on ECOWAS Investment Climate indicators, commissioning of a feasibility study on the establishment of cross border and payment and settlement systems in ECOWAS and facilitating the promotion of regional business associations.
- ix. **Research and Statistics:** In the area of research and statistics, the implementation of the Community programme focused on the launch of activities for the review of the regional poverty reduction strategy paper (RPRSP), continued drafting of the ECOWAS Research Programme, management and update of data bases and the continued establishment of methodologies for the harmonisation of consumer price indices (CPI) and national accounts.
- x. **The ECOWAS Community Development Programme (CDP):** The Community activities with regards to the ECOWAS Community Development Programme (CDP) revolved around: (i) the completion of the Draft CDP Regional Document (CDP-RD); (ii) Consultations and comments by stakeholders at ECOWAS Commission level and Member States on the CDP Regional Document; (iii) elaboration and adoption of projects datasheet template for selected CDP priority projects; (iv) Establishment of the Resource Mobilisation Committee comprised of EBID, UEMOA and ECOWAS Commission; and (v) development of CDP logical framework and formulation of the CDP financing strategy.
- xi. **Economic Policy Analysis (EPAU):** Key activities undertaken focused on the completion of three studies on various research themes as well as the compilation

of the first volume of the Journal of West African Integration that is now awaiting final publication. In addition, a book on Domestic Resources Mobilization for ECOWAS Member States was successfully edited and is awaiting final publication. In line with the project document, a Mid-Term Review of the project was launched on 6 March 2013 in Abuja and the consultants hired are expected to submit their report by the end of June 2013

- xii. **Trade:** Activities implemented by the Directorate of Trade included: (i) a preparatory meeting for the 7th ECOWAS Trade Fair scheduled to hold in Accra, Ghana from 24 October to 4 November 2013; (ii) installation and operationalisation of the Business Information System (Ecobiz) at trade events organized in Member States; (iii) organisation of a training workshop for Member States on the formulation of trade policy and negotiation arrangements in Ouagadougou from 14 to 18 January 2013; finalisation and adoption by the Ministerial Monitoring Committee of the EPA of the overall EPA document and (iv) organisation of a high level expert workshops on the ECOWAS Aid for Trade Initiative, Regional and the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (RCA) to share regional, national and international experiences.
- xiii. **Customs Union:** The activities carried out by the Commission during the first-half of 2013 focused mainly on the finalisation of the works aimed to put in place the ECOWAS Common External Tariff. In that regard, the 51st meeting of the statutory technical committee on Trade, Customs and Free Movement of Persons and the extraordinary meeting of the ECOWAS Ministers of Finance held from 18 to 20 March 2013 in Praia respectively approved all the ECOWAS CET draft texts.
- xiv. On the harmonisation of Indirect taxes, the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions initiated works on the harmonization of the Directives of the two Institutions on VAT and Excise Duties. Regarding fiscal transition, with the prospect of concluding an Economic Partnership Agreement between West Africa and the European Union, the Commission started putting in place a fiscal transition programme in West Africa aimed to mitigate fiscal revenue losses that may arise from the customs disarmament when the EPA comes into force.
- xv. **Free movement,** the Commission, in collaboration with representatives of the ECOWAS National Units in Member States, National Immigration Institutions and Civil Society, organised a brainstorming session to critically conduct a comprehensive review of the Protocol on Free Movement and develop appropriate action plan for the popularization of the text as well as recommend for removal from the texts obsolete sections that are impediments to the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement

Agriculture, environment and Water resources

- xvi. **Agriculture:** The implementation of activities revolved around the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) with particular focus on the following programmes: (i) the promotion of strategic products for food security and sovereignty, (ii) the promotion of an overall environment conducive to regional agricultural development, (iii) the reduction of vulnerability and the promotion of sustainable food access; and (iv) governance, and the coordination and monitoring-evaluation of ECOWAP implementation.

- xvii. **Environment:** The Commission, in collaboration with key partners, organised a workshop and conferences on major conventions relating to the promotion of enhanced management of pollutions, nuisances, chemicals and hazardous wastes. Other activities executed in relation to the promotion of sustainable management of resources for improving the sub-regional economy within the context of the environment include: (i) capacity building of National Actors from the Forestry Sector of the Member States; (ii) organization of the workshop to validate the sub-regional strategy for managing community forests and / or community in West Africa, from 19 to 20 March 2013; (iii) and implementation of Initial activities of the Regional Strategic Program for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Adaptation to climate change."
- xviii. **Water resources:** In the area of water resources, the Commission provided support to Member States and basins in the implementation of IWRM plan and strategies leading to the adoption of the National Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (PANGIRE) in Côte d'Ivoire and the development and validation of draft constitutional and organic texts on the Mono Authority Basin. The Commission also served as AMCOW technical secretariat for West Africa, being fully involved in the preparation of national reports on the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments by countries of West Africa.

Human Development

- xix. **Humanitarian and Social Affairs:** Key activities implemented during the first half of 2013 included; (i) a Leadership Training event on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as well as sensitisation and capacity building on Member States on the ECOWAS Action Plan against Child Labour in May 2013; (ii) Capacity building of Member States for the strengthening and establishment of national platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in Niger and Guinea Bissau; and (iii) deployment of one ECOWAS Emergency Response Team (EERT) Officer in Bamako in April 2013 to facilitate the coordination of the humanitarian assistance with the partners.
- xx. **Gender and Child:** The Commission signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Women for Africa Foundation, a Spanish private non-profit Foundation, on 11 March 2013. The MOU is intended to promote Gender equality and Women's empowerment, and to establish a framework of cooperation in the areas of education, health care and empowerment of women.
- xxi. **Youth and Sports:** Within the framework of the ECOWAS Youth Action Plan, the Commission organised a meeting to build the capacity of Member States on the development of National Youth Action Plan in April 2013 in Accra.
- xxii. **Drug Trafficking:** The Regional Action Plan on Illicit Drug Trafficking, crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa was finalised along with the modalities for its implementation.

Education, Culture, Science and Technology

- xxiii. A Meeting of Experts on Girls education and other vulnerable children was organised in April 2013 in Banjul. The objective is to ensure the enrollment of the girl child in the education system in line with the objectives of the MDG and Education for All. The Commission participated in the 23rd edition of the Pan African Film Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), which was held in February/March, 2013. The event is the largest Film Festival in Africa which showcases the works of African filmmakers. ECOWAS gave a prize worth ten thousand dollars for the best film featuring integration.
- xxiv. **ECOWAS Youth Development Centre:** Key activities executed, included the organisation of a training and induction meeting for forty (40) ECOWAS Volunteers in Guinea in May 2013 and the organisation of a preparatory meeting on the 3rd ECOWAS Games in Abidjan in March 2013.
- xxv. **Gender Development Centre :** National Gender training workshops were held in Banjul and Niger in April 2013. These workshops were aimed at mainstreaming gender in national policies and programs and strengthen the capacities of women..
- xxvi. **Malaria Elimination Programme: In line with the agreement** the Protocol Agreement signed between ECOWAS and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for malaria eradication in Africa, the Commission organised the launching ceremonies for the construction of the biolarvicides factories in Côte d'Ivoire, Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire in the margins of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on 28 February 2013 and in Port Harcourt, Nigeria on 11 April 2013.

Infrastructure

- xxvii. **Infrastructure:** the following achievements were recorded under infrastructure development:
- xxviii. With respect to the **Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme**, the principal activity was the implementation of regional road transport and transit facilitation programme comprising, Joint Border Posts (JBPs) construction, Regional Transport Observatory, Axle Load Harmonization Policy and the Nigeria-Cameroon Multinational Highway and Facilitation Programme as part of the Trans-Africa Highway programme. Out of the initial seven (7) JBP sites approved under the transport facilitation programme, construction works at (3) JBP sites namely (Sémé-Kraké Plage, Noépé and Malanville) are currently on-going.
- xxix. In the area of **Air Transport sub-sector**, key activities executed included the focused on the replacement of the ground-based air navigation aids by a satellite-based air navigation system under the Single African Sky Phase 1 and facilitating the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision in West Africa.
- xxx. In the **telecommunications sector**, A detailed feasibility study including business plan was commissioned on the missing inter-states links in the ECOWAS region with a focus on Mano River countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea), Mali and Guinea Bissau. Two Studies to develop a harmonized law on the right of way to facilitate transit and reduce cost for the access to submarine cables by ECOWAS landlocked countries and another on taxation on Telecommunication/ICT services and related products in the region are being funded by the ITU through the HIPSSA project and the AfDB respectively

- xxxi. **Energy sector**, In line with the United Nations "Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) by 2030", the Commission, within the framework of the implementation of the UEMOA-ECOWAS White Paper for increasing access to energy services for rural and peri-urban, supported the remaining seven ECOWAS Member States to conduct a "Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis, in order to ensure the effective involvement of all Member States in the SE4ALL process.

Political affairs, regional peace and security

- xxxii. **Political Affairs:** The Commission continued to play a leading role in the regional and international efforts to stabilize the security and political situation in the region, in particular in Mali and Guinea Bissau.
- xxxiii. With respect to Mali, the Commission facilitated the meetings of the Mediation and Security Council and the Authority of Heads of State and Government facilitated ECOWAS's political input into the deployment of AFISMA and the processes at the AU and UN, and the development and implementation of the transitional roadmap.
- xxxiv. **Democracy and Good Governance:** The Commission, among other things, facilitated ECOWAS's political input into the deployment of Human Rights Observers in Mali in March 2013, and the organisation of the 5th Annual General meeting of the Network of National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa in April to map out strategies for addressing human rights challenges identified in the region.
- xxxv. **Electoral assistance**, In order to improve professionalism in ECOWAS Observation Missions, the Commission organised an elections observation training course at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana in January 2013
- xxxvi. In the area of **Early Warning**, during the period under review, the Commission conducted a holistic review of the current early warning and early response structure in order to analyze its strengths and weaknesses and identify if the system is responding adequately to the changing profile of conflicts in Member States. A round table consultative meeting was also organised on 12 and 13 March 2013 to address the security challenges in Nigeria.
- xxxvii. As regards **peace keeping and regional security**, following the attempted insurgence in southern Mali in January 2013, UNSCR 2085 endorsed the intervention of an Africa-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). The multinational force comprising ECOWAS member states and supported by the French Forces (SERVAL) curtailed the activities of the insurgents and secured the major northern cities of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu. A Fund Management Unit has been established to fast-track the maintenance of troops particularly the payment of salaries and allowances.

Legal and Institutional matters

- xxxviii. **Legal Affairs:** The Commission through the Legal Affairs Directorate commenced the adoption process for ten (10) Draft Community Acts and Directives on different areas of Business Law which have been fully harmonized taking account of the Anglophone and Francophone business laws, principles and procedures.
- xxxix. **Institutional matters:** In line with the Directive of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers on the recruitment of staff into critical positions in the Commission, a consulting firm was identified and selected, through an International Competitive Bidding process in accordance with the ECOWAS Procurement Procedures. Another consulting firm was also identified to undertake the consultancy on the institutional review of the ECOWAS Commission, its institutions and Agencies.
- xl. **Information and Communication Technology (ICT):** Key activities undertaken included: (i) development and deployment of sectoral applications to Member States with special focus on the ALISA project; (ii) creation of the ECOWAS Regional Computer Society (ERCS) under the IT partnership sub programme; and (iii) strengthening partnership with the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce to promote the business information system (ECOBIZ) in conducting business transactions in the region.
- xli. **On strategic planning,** the focus during the review period included, commencement of the work for the Automation of the Logical Framework for the Medium Term Action Plan (MTAP), hosting of Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee (SPCC) meeting on the Regional Medium Term Action Area (RMTAA) adoption, and commencement of preparatory activities on the 2016-2020 Regional strategic Plan.
- xl.ii. **On Monitoring and Evaluation System,** the Commission finalised the performance report for 2012 on the basis of performance reports submitted by departments and services. Business intelligence is also regularly maintained, including through quarterly monitoring of the actions of the Commission, as well as provisions for the effective implementation of the M & E Manual of the Commission.
- xl.iii. **External Relations:** The Commission organised the seventh edition of the joint retreat between the Community Institutions, the National Units and the Permanent Representations in Abuja which made recommendations on the institutionalization of open Days on regional programmes and the setting up of periodic consultation platforms between the Institutions and Permanent Representatives.
- xl. iv. With regards to activities undertaken by other **Community institutions,** the following achievements were recorded in the implementation of their work programmes in 2012:
- xl. v. **ECOWAS Parliament:** During the period under review, the ECOWAS Parliament held an extra Ordinary Session from 26 to 28 February 2013 to examine the unfolding events in Mali as they affect the peace and security in the region and beyond and adopted a resolution relating to the political and situation in Mali. On the situation in Guinea Bissau, the Honourable Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, His

Excellency Senator Ike Ekweremadu, CFR, embarked on a working visit to the country to have a first hand assessment of the achievements so far made towards the attainment of peace and stability in Guinea Bissau.

- xlvi. The ECOWAS Parliament also held its First Ordinary Session from 6 to 21 May 2013 to review country reports, review the political and security situation in Mali, and listen to the Activity Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission for 2012/2013. The Parliament also received five referrals from the ECOWAS Commission which were considered and supported. Regarding the project on the enhancement of the powers of parliament, a meeting of Multidisciplinary Experts from Member States was summoned by the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Accra from 22 to 16 April 2013 to review the proposals made in the draft Supplementary Act presented by the Parliament with the aim of making necessary recommendations for possible adoption.
- xlvii. **West African Health Organisation (WAHO):** WAHO facilitated the implementation of a number of health programmes in the region, including (i) technical and financial support to Member States in epidemic control, strengthening of health information, mother and child health interventions; (ii) Harmonisation and validation of the Code of Practice and ethics for Physicians environmental health professionals, health information professionals, and Medical Biology and Imaging professionals; (iii) and development of a strategic plan for malaria control and the Operating Procedures of the ARVs Buffer stock.
- xlviii. **Inter-governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA):** GIABA continued to provide assistance to Member States on the implementation of effective Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regimes. In the area of Among others, GIABA engaged in follow-up actions in a number of Member States, notably Sierras Leone, Benin and Guinea Bissau on the framework of Mutual Evaluations with a view to sensitise political authorities and to eliciting further commitment to AML/CFT issues. These missions produced significant outcomes, including the passage of the AML/CFT laws, amendments to existing legislations, increase in funding to the FIUs and more support to the Inter-Ministerial Committees of these countries.
- xlix. GIABA during the review period also organised its 19th Technical Commission/Plenary Meeting in Accra, Ghana, from 6-10 May, 2013. The meeting, among other things, considered and adopted the Draft Typologies Report on Terrorism and Terrorist Financing in West Africa and the 2012 Monitoring and Evaluation Report of GIABA which highlighted the achievements of GIABA in program and project implementation in 2012.
- I. **ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID):** During the period under review, EBID continued to channel its interventions into the financing of infrastructure in all sectors; electricity interconnectivity works, the construction of inter-State roads, development of ports or the financing of port equipment, opening up of rural areas and development of digital coverage areas. These activities absorbed about 65.8% of the Bank's net cumulative commitments.

- li. The operational activities undertaken by the Bank involved project appraisal, loan approvals, signing of loan agreements and project supervision. Regarding Risk analysis, the main actions related to the continued implementation of the AFD subsidy for the capacity building of the Bank on risk management, updating of the anti money laundering procedures and anti-terrorism and the elaboration of a plan for updating the environmental and social environment. In order to reduce project implementation risks, the Bank strengthened the supervision of active projects in its portfolio: a total of seventeen (17) projects were supervised including sixteen (16) in the private sector. Total net commitments of the Bank in favour of the Member States of the Community amounted to UA 708 136 154 in respect of 124 active projects. As at 31st May, 2013, total loans granted amounted to UA 444 202 235 for the financing of 67 public sector projects representing, 62.73% of the Bank's net cumulative commitments. With regard to assistance for the development and promotion of the private sector the Bank made available the amount of UA 263 933 919 (representing 37.27% of the net cumulative commitments) for the financing of 58 projects.
- lii. **The West African Power Pool (WAPP):** In order to ensure the establishment of a well-functioning wholesale electricity market within the ECOWAS region, the WAPP Secretariat has developed Governance documents and started to put in place the appropriate framework that shall guide the development of the regional electricity market. To this end, the WAPP has adopted the WAPP Operations Manual to achieve a harmonized and coordinated operation of the interconnected system and developed a transmission tariff methodology. The WAPP Secretariat has also developed and adopted a Market Design and Market Rules that are fundamental for the well-functioning of the wholesale electricity market.
- liii. **Community Court of Justice:** During the review period, the Court registered eleven (11) new cases and one (1) application for review. It held twenty-four (24) court session and delivered four (4) final decisions and seven (7) Preliminary Rulings (Rulings). The Court adjourned five (5) cases for decision on the merit and two (2) other cases for Ruling. Regarding the compendium of the case Law, the Court completed the drafting of the 2010's Law Report and commenced work on finalising the 2011 and 2012 editions of the said Law Report. In the area of capacity building, training sessions were organised on Result Based Management (RBM) and Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E) on 15 and 16 January 2013 , and in Information Technology focused on the use of 2013 software such as Microsoft 2013, Word, Outlook, SharePoint and Lync for profesional staff of the Community Court.

INTRODUCTION

1. This interim report reflects the implementation of the work programme of the Community during the first half of 2013. It evokes the evolution of the global economic situation and the economic performance of Member States in respect of 2012 and the outlook for 2013.
2. The implementation of the program of work of the institutions of the Community in 2013 was carried out in the context of an environment characterized by relative stability despite the political crises in Guinea Bissau and Mali, improving national economic governance and political will of the authorities of ECOWAS Member States with a view to promoting regional integration and development.
3. After a declining growth in the global economy in recent years, economic forecasts show that it could record a slight increase from 3.2% in 2012 to 3.3% in 2013. A number of factors behind this trend could include more accommodative monetary policies in developed countries, high commodity demand, robustness of economic activities in developing countries, including Africa.
4. In 2012, the West African economy recorded a growth rate of 6.6%, one of the highest in the African Regional Economic Communities rates. Forecasts of 2013 show a growth rate of 7.0%. This increase is based on the evolution of the demand for natural resources such as oil, and the good performance of the agricultural sector. In this regard, the good economic performance expected of the three largest economies in the region namely Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are key factors contributing to the improvement of growth in the region.
5. According to projections, the 2013 growth rate of Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire stood at 7.2%, 6.9% and 8% respectively.
6. The work programme of ECOWAS and the Institutions of the Community in 2013 focuses on the following main areas:
 - consolidation of peace and security, democracy and respect for human rights;
 - Accelerating the pace of economic and monetary integration in the region; The promotion of economic prosperity in establishing an environment conducive to private sector investment and regional environment.
 - Building mutually beneficial partnerships with other parts of Africa and the rest of the world to take advantage of opportunities.
7. The projects duly implemented take into account the key issues addressed by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government of Summit held on 27 and 28 February 2013 in Yamoussoukro in Côte d'Ivoire. These are:
 - Strengthening economic growth to reduce poverty;
 - Develop and implement infrastructure programmes, including those on energy and railway;

- Negotiate and conclude a fair regional economic partnership which focused on development with the European Union;
 - Promoting democracy and good governance.
8. This report is structured in three main chapters . Chapter I examines recent economic developments in the region in the context of the global economic environment. Chapter II reports on the implementation of the programme of the Commission in the first half of 2013 as adopted by the Council of Ministers and approved by the Conference of Heads of State and Government. Finally Chapter III reviews the activities of other ECOWAS institutions during the period under review

CHAPTER I: RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST AFRICA

1.1 External environment: the global economic environment

9. After a marked downturn over the past two years, the global economic activity is expected to gain momentum in the second half of 2013. Most world regions are likely to see a moderate strengthening, but growth will still remain below potential. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as stated in its flagship publication on the world economy, April 2013 World Economic Outlook (WEO), the global economic prospects will improve in 2013 and beyond. Overall, the IMF's forecast for global growth has been revised upward to 3.3 percent in 2013 and an increase to 4.1 percent in 2014. The increase in growth is predicated on accommodative monetary policies in developed and developing economies, and increase in economic growth of emerging market economies, sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa.
10. With respect to the advanced economies, economic growth is expected to remain at 1.2 percent as in 2012, and gradually accelerate starting in the second half of 2013. Growth in the United States is forecast to be 1.9 percent in 2013 compared to 2.2 percent in 2012. The 2013 US growth forecast of 1.9 percent is insufficient to address its high unemployment rate of 7.5 percent as of May 10, 2013, which is the lowest since 2008. In the US, the avoidance of the fiscal cliff and expansion of monetary easing, along with a continued recovery in the housing sector, have improved growth prospects.
11. In contrast, the euro area is expected to experience a negative growth rate of -0.3 percent in 2013 as in 2012 when it experienced a growth rate of -0.6 percent. The forecast for negative growth in the euro area reflects not only a weakness in the periphery (Cyprus, Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain) but also some weakness in the core (Germany and France, but also the UK, Italy and the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg). Germany's growth is strengthening but is still forecast to be 0.6 percent in 2013. France's growth is forecast to be -0.1% in 2013, reflecting a combination of fiscal consolidation, poor export performance, and low confidence. This may affect the ability of the core to help the periphery, if and when needed. Most euro area periphery countries are expected to experience negative growth rates in 2013. The countries include Greece (-4.2%), Portugal (-2.3%), Slovenia (-2.0%), Italy (-1.5%) and Spain (-1.6%).
12. In Japan, the economic growth rate which improved from -0.6% in 2011 to 2.0% in 2012 may decline to 1.6% percent in 2013. It is expected that the bold expansionary policy actions adopted by the monetary and fiscal authorities will enhance economic activity which may also increase the public debt and thereby raise the issue of sustainability.
13. Contrary to the mixed results for the advanced economies, emerging market and developing economies continue to register stronger growth than developed economies. In response to the economic slowdown in 2012, many of them, including some large countries in East Asia, South Asia and Latin America, adopted more

expansionary monetary and fiscal policies to strengthen domestic demand. The increase in both domestic and external demand will boost economic growth.

14. In sub-Saharan Africa, growth in 2013 will rise to 5.4 percent partly as a result of high growth rate of 7.0% expected in West Africa. The growth drivers in sub-Saharan Africa include further increases in output in the natural resources sector, which underpins rising fiscal expenditure, especially in infrastructure projects. West Africa, in particular Nigeria, will benefit from continued high oil prices, despite some declines in output. Also, Africa's trade and investment ties with emerging and developing economies within the frameworks of TICAD¹, India-Africa trade relations, and BRICS, are expected to intensify further.
15. The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) will continue to play major economic roles in the global economic environment. The BRICS bloc has emerged as a dynamic and balancing global voice, viewing Africa as the new global growth centre. BRICS countries are emerging as the new largest investors and trade partners to the African Continent with strong exponential growth potential for the future. An estimate of BRICS total trade with Africa reached US\$ 340 billion in 2012, representing more than a ten-fold increase over the course of a decade. The BRICS countries currently hold the largest foreign reserves base in the world, estimated at US\$ 4.4 trillion², and have finance and capital for major project cooperation in strategic sectors including infrastructure development.
16. In essence, the top priority for macroeconomic policies worldwide remains to support a robust global recovery, with a focus on promoting job creation. The policy stance and policy mix in individual countries should, however, be based on country-specific circumstances, while taking into consideration potential tradeoffs and institutional and resource constraints. Meanwhile, international policy coordination should be enhanced to mitigate negative policy spillovers across countries, curb protectionism, promote cooperation in reforming the international financial system, and ensure sufficient resource flows to the least developed countries.
17. Concerning global inflation, inflation pressure is easing. In the major advanced economies, domestic inflation pressure, as measured by the consumer price index, is low. As shown in Figure 1, it is expected to decline from 2.7 percent in 2011 to 2.0 percent in 2012 and further down to 1.7 percent in 2013. However, in emerging market and developing economies, inflation which declined from 7.2 percent in 2011 to 5.9 percent in 2012 is expected to remain at 5.9 percent in 2013. Examination by country groupings shows that inflationary pressure will vary widely in 2013. It will range from 4.4 percent (Central and Eastern Europe) to 6.1 percent

¹¹ TICAD is an acronym for Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The last one was held in Yokohama, Japan from 1st to 3rd June 2013.

² See Briefing Note to Participants at the BRICS Leaders – Africa Dialogue Forum: “Unlocking Africa's Potentials: BRICS and Africa Cooperation on Infrastructure” held in Durban, South Africa on 27 March 2013.

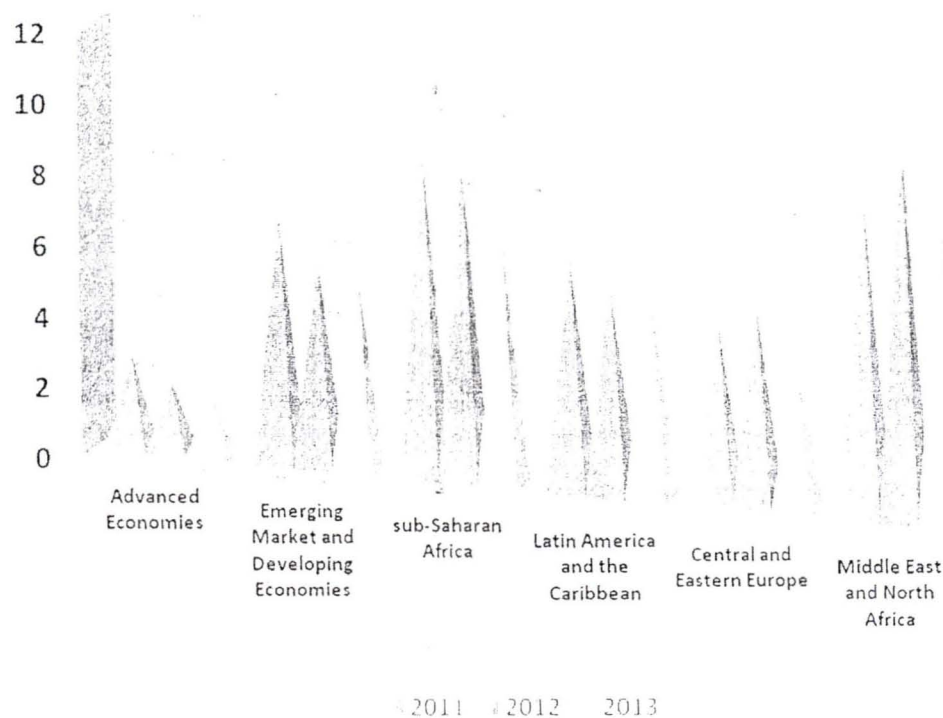
(Latin America and the Caribbean). to 7.2 percent (sub-Saharan Africa) and further to 9.6 percent (Middle East and North Africa) in 2013 (see Figure 1)

Table 1: World Economic Output (annual percent change)

	2011	2012	Output Projections
			2013
World Output	4.0	3.2	3.3
Advanced Economies	1.6	1.2	1.2
Developing & Emerging Economies	6.4	5.1	5.3
Africa	3.5	6.6	4.8
sub-Saharan Africa	5.3	5.1	5.4
West Africa (ECOWAS) ³	6.6	6.6	7.0
Value of World Output (\$ billion) at market exchange rates	71.707	74.172	77.805
Consumer Prices:			
Advanced economies	2.7	2.0	1.7
Developing & Emerging Economies	7.2	5.9	5.9

Sources: IMF (2013) *World Economic Outlook*, April
AfDB.OECD.UNDP.UNECA (2013) *African Economic Outlook*

Figure 1: World inflation situation by region (2011-2013)



1.2 Growth of the African Economies⁴

18. The economic growth of the entire African continent is expected to decline from 6.6% in 2012 to 4.8% in 2013 according to the African economic outlook presented during the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (ADB) held in

³ West Africa here consists of all Member States of ECOWAS and excludes Mauritania.

⁴ Most of information in this section was obtained from the ECA and the AU Economic Report on Africa, 2012, Addis-Ababa: ECA

Morocco from 27 to 31 May 2013. Uneven growth among countries and among the major regions of the continent is the main feature of the overall growth (see Table 2).

19. Oil exporting countries will record a higher growth rate which will average 5.2% in 2013 against 4.3% for importing countries.
20. An analysis of growth rates reveals disparities among African regions, even though the gaps observed were smaller in 2013. Indeed, growth disparities dropped from almost 6 percentage points in 2012 to 3 percentage points in 2013.
21. In specific terms, the performance in 2013 amounted to about 3.9% growth in North Africa, against 9.5% in 2012, after a year's stagnation in 2011. The decline in economic growth in 2013 is mainly due to the sharp fall of 15% in growth in Libya in 2013 compared to an exceptional increase of 95.5% in 2012, following a 59.7% contraction in 2011. Also, apart from Egypt whose growth rate in 2013 was will be than the pre-revolution figure, the economic performances of the other countries should maintain an upward surge in 2013.
22. Growth forecasts in Southern Africa indicate a rise of 4.1% in 2013 compared to 3.7% in 2012 as a result of the economic dynamism of some of the countries in the region and the expected improvement in growth in South Africa, particularly following the negative effects of the strike in the mining sector in 2012.
23. Most countries in **East Africa**, particularly Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania should sustain a growth path of between 5% and 7% in 2013. In addition, the relatively successful elections held in Kenya would enable the country to maintain an expected growth rate of 4.5% in 2013. The Sudanese crisis is one of the major factors holding back growth, worsened by the secession of Southern Sudan and the tension between the two countries.
24. Growth in **Central Africa** remains strong consistently maintaining an average annual rate of more than 5%. The region's GDP should remain buoyant reaching 5.7% in 2013, sustained by a higher growth rates in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad which are more than the regional average. With an expected growth rate of 8.3% in 2013, the growth dynamism in DRC is attributed to the success of the mining, agriculture and construction sectors. In Chad, oil production and agriculture remain the growth engines which is expected to reach 8.1% in 2013. However, political instability and insecurity are the major challenges hindering sustained economic growth of the two countries.
25. Growth forecasts for West Africa have been positive, qualifying as one of the most performing regions of the continent with a projected GDP of 7% in 2013 against 6.6% in 2012. The dynamism of the regional economy and projected increase in real GDP in 2013 which is about 0.5% higher than the rate in 2012 is as a result of consolidation of growth in the major ECOWAS economies such as Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The growth rate in the ECOWAS region should be higher than the continent's average for all countries of the region with the exception of Cape Verde and, to a lesser extent, Senega

Table 2 : Real GDP Growth of African regions (Percentage difference)

	2011	2012	2013
South Africa	4.0	3.7	4.1
Central Africa	5.2	5.7	5.7
East Africa	6.3	4,5	5.2
North Africa	-0.1	9.5	3.9
West Africa	6.6	6.6	7.0
Sub-saharan Africa	5.3	5.1	5.4
Africa	3.5	6.6	4.8

Source :IMF and ADB

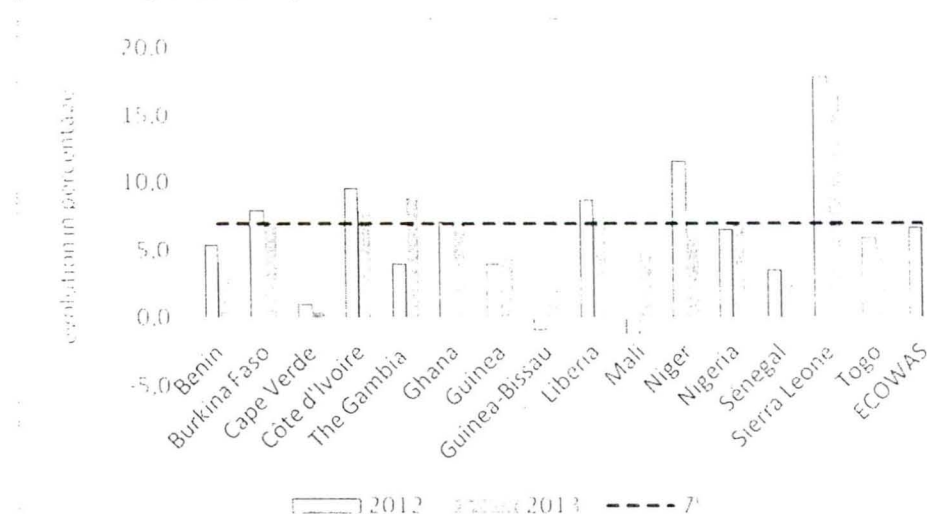
26. Overall, the economic outlook for Africa, particularly Sub-saharan Africa is generally positive with Africa recording a real GDP growth of 4.8 % in 2013 against 5% in 2012. The continent's attainment of this growth rate places it in the league of the best performing regions in the world in terms of growth. However, African growth is dependent on the international environment, and on the political and climatic conditions.
27. Countries rich in natural resources continue to enjoy high commodity prices, even though weak global demand results in low prices. In several countries, successful agricultural seasons have boosted production and reduced the effects of increasingly subsidised international prices on the consumer. However, the poor international environment, political uncertainties and conflicts in some countries affect these prospects.

1.3 The West African Economies

1.3.1. Economic Growth

28. The West African economic outlook confirms the dynamism of economic growth in the region. In 2012, the 6.6% real GDP growth rate was the highest among all the African Regional Economic Community (RECs). The ECOWAS Commission's projections reveal that the region will record a high GDP growth rate of 7.0% in 2013 (see figure 2). The estimated increase in production for 2013 is within the framework of consolidating the fundamental factors of regional growth, including, in particular, demand for minerals and hydrocarbons as well as an increase in agricultural production. Indeed, there are also indications that the real GDP growth rate for Nigeria, the biggest African oil-producing country will increase to 7.2% against the 6.5% in 2012. Growth consolidation in Côte d'Ivoire (8.0% in 2013) and buoyant growth in Ghana (6.9%) are also contributing factors.

Figure 2: Real growth rate of ECOWAS States



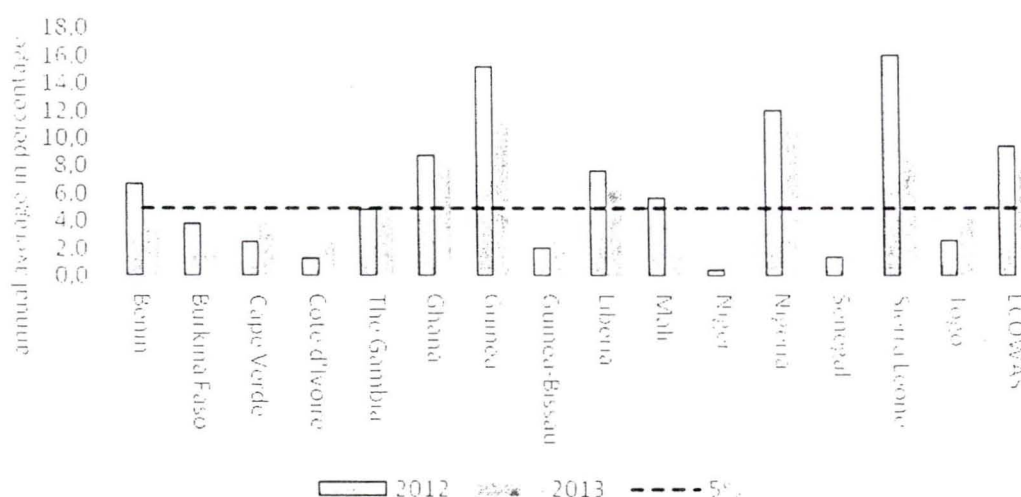
29. The other positive element is that the projections make it possible to determine the six countries in the region whose growth rates in 2013 meet the minimum 7% required for the attainment of the MDGs. The countries are Sierra Leone (17.1%), Gambia (8.9%), Liberia (7.5%) and Burkina (7.0%), in addition to Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire. However these positive developments are relative given the disparities among the countries and the need to maintain sustained growth over time.
30. The increase in ECOWAS growth rate in 2013 would also be in consonance with projected real GDP growth in Senegal (4%), Guinea (4.5%), Guinea Bissau (4.2% against -0.9% in 2012) and economic growth in Mali (4.8% against -1.2% in 2012) with the assumption that the political and security situation in that country would return to normal.
31. The expected real GDP in 2013 in relation to the 2012 figure will however be worsened by the decline in growth in Benin (4.1%, Niger (6.2%) and Togo (5.1%). Also, persistent dominant risks, including in particular those relating to the engines of global recovery (demand for minerals and hydrocarbons), crisis in the Euro zone and global food market cast gloom over the regional economic outlook.

1.3.2. Inflation

32. The performance of the economies of the region could also be attributed to the success of macro-economic policy management for some years now, particularly in terms of the stability of domestic value of the currencies. Indeed, despite fluctuations caused by the effects of rainfall on agriculture, inflationary trends dropped. From an average rate of 9.4% in 2012, inflation will decline to 8.3% within the ECOWAS region in 2013.
33. The decline in global inflation in 2013 is due to the good performance of some of the regular inflation-prone countries such as Sierra Leone (8.7% against 16.1% in 2012), Guinea (11% against 15.2% in 2012) and Nigeria (10.7% compared to 12.0%) and Ghana which has consistently maintained a rate below the 10% in the last few years. However, inflation in Guinea and Sierra Leone is quite disturbing because of

its volatile nature even though it is expected that there will be an improvement from 2013 (cf. figure 3).

Figure 3 Inflation rate of ECOWAS States



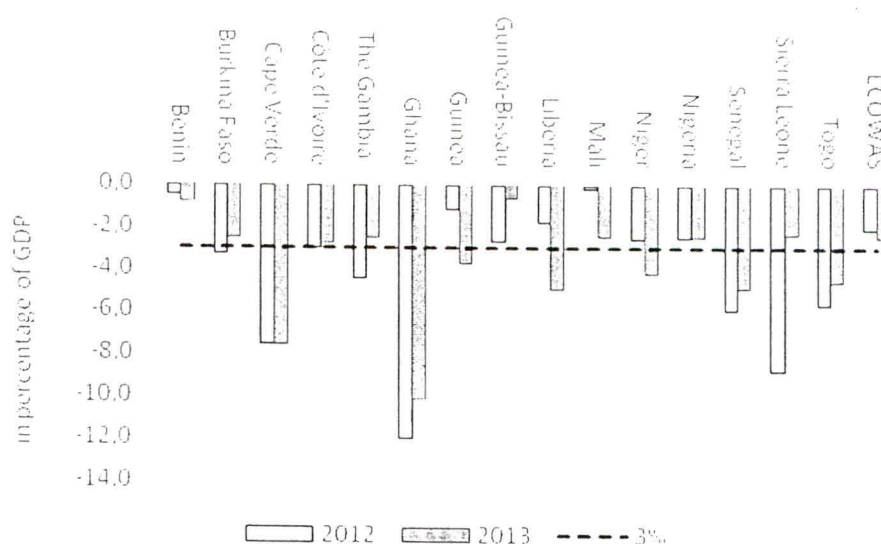
Source : ECOWAS Commission

34. Faced with the now permanent challenge of continuous increases in the price of foodstuff, aggravated by climate change, ECOWAS Member State should embark on macro-economic stabilisation efforts in order to ensure the convergence of inflation rate to the Community's 5% maximum objective.

1.3.3. Budget deficit

35. The consolidation of public finance stabilisation is one of the major challenges of States in the region. Multilateral surveillance mechanism built around various indicators such as public accounts, including budget deficit, makes it a top priority. The reduction of budget deficit and ensuring that it is maintained below 3% of GDP is one of the imperatives of macro-economic management. In this regard, encouraging results have been achieved by the region since 2000, with significant decline in budget deficit.
36. However, the criterion's performance in the last few years reveals a deterioration of the ECOWAS budget deficit which should rise to 2.5% of GDP in 2013 against 2.1% in 2012 and 1.8% in 2011, as well as country disparities (see Graph 4). Indeed, the increase in public deficit of the region in 2013 is attributed to the deterioration of budget deficits in Guinea (3.7% against 1.2% in 2012), in Liberia (5.0% against 1.8%), Mali (2.5% against 0.2%) and Niger (4.2% against 2.6%).

Figure 4 Budget deficit of ECOWAS Member States



37. This under performance contrasts with the observed improvement in budget deficits in countries such as Benin (0.9%), Burkina (2.6% against 3.3% in 2012), Côte d'Ivoire (2.88%), The Gambia (2.5% against 4.4% in 2012), Guinea Bissau (0.7% against 2.7% in 2012), Nigeria (2.5%), Sierra Leone (2.4% against 8.8% in 2012) and Ghana (10.1% against 12.0% in 2012).

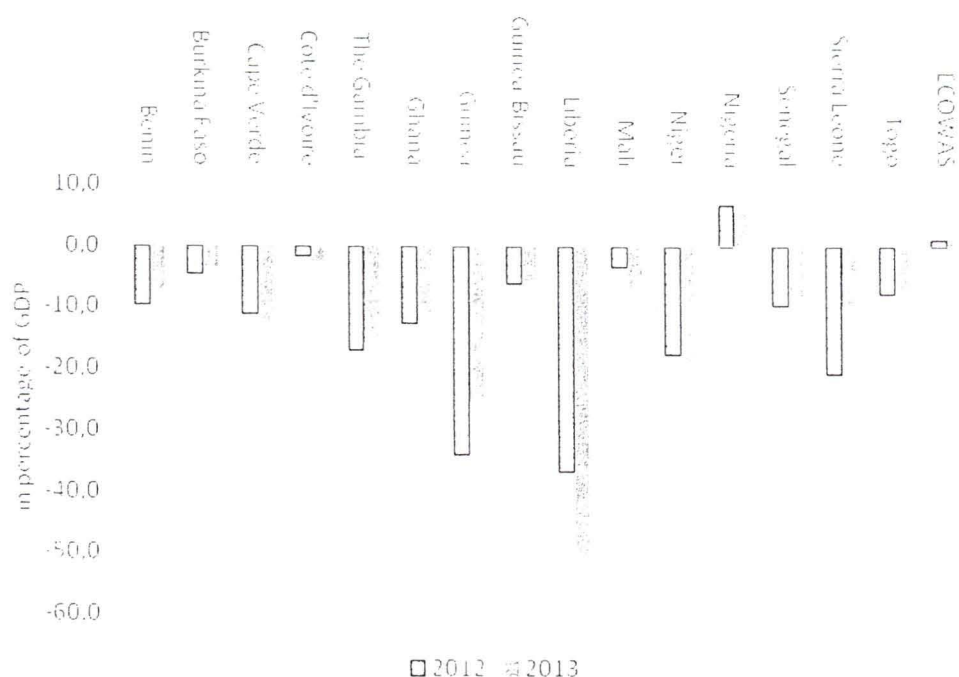
38. The disparities among the countries in the region constitute a hindrance to macro-economic convergence.

1.3.4. External Balance

39. The structural imbalance of external balance prevailing in countries of the region is also a major source of concern. Indeed, the external balance of most countries is at a deficit with the exception of Nigeria and, to a lesser extent, Côte d'Ivoire. However, the crisis that ravaged the latter caused a deterioration of its current account which will be negative at 2.7% of GDP in 2013 after a -1.8% fall in 2012.

40. Buoyed by Nigeria's surplus which will reach 5.5% of GDP in 2013, the ECOWAS external current account maintained a surplus balance, albeit declining from 1.1% of GDP in 2012 to 0.4% in 2013 (cf. Graph No.5). The performance is mainly due to the fall in Nigeria's surplus from 6.6% of GDP in 2012 to 5.5% of GDP in 2013 as well as the downturn of Cote d'Ivoire's external balance in the last three years (-2.7% against -1.8% in 2012).

Figure 5: Ratio of current external balance of ECOWAS States



Source : ECOWAS Commission

41. Overall, the external balance of Member States remains weak and unstable. Indeed, whereas there would be improvement in the external balance of several countries in 2013, the external balance would deteriorate in countries such as Cape Verde (-13.2%), Mali (-6.9%), Niger (-19.0%) and Liberia (-51.3%) where it would reach an alarming rate.
42. However, Sierra Leone is expected to maintain the path of a reduced deficit reaching 9.7% in 2013 compared to 20.8% in 2012 and 52.9% in 2011, on account of the expected strong export growth in the wake of the exploration of new mineral deposits.
43. Overall, in the light of increases in the production of gas, oil and several other minerals and on the assumption that socio-political stability will be strengthened, the region should be able to sustain GDP growth in 2013.
44. However, uncertainties such as weak global demand, the euro zone crisis, the effects of floods and the general political climate may alter the dynamics of regional growth continues to be vulnerable and depend on the ability of the ECOWAS authorities to work together at the regional level to manage exogenous risks that may threaten regional growth.
45. The sources of concern include the challenge of putting in place effective surveillance mechanisms against external risks that may affect the region, explosion of budget deficits and debts of Member States and persistent macro-economic imbalances in some countries.

CHAPTER II: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME

2.1 *Harmonization of macroeconomic policies and private sector promotion*

2.1.1 *Multilateral Surveillance*

46. Multilateral surveillance of economic and financial policies of ECOWAS Member States is one of the core activities in the implementation of the ECOWAS monetary and integration programme. It is achieved through the monitoring and evaluation of the macroeconomic performance and convergence of the Member States; the implementation of the roadmap for the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme; the effective establishment and operation of the institutional organs of multilateral surveillance; the management of the ECOMAC database; and participation in cooperative and collaborative activities with other regional and international institutions involved in multilateral surveillance:

✓ *Monitoring and evaluation of performance and macroeconomic convergence*

47. During the first half of 2013, the Commission participated in the statutory convergence meetings of the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) and the West African Monetary Zone (WAMI) in Abuja from 11 to 18 January 2013 to examine, among others, the status of macroeconomic convergence of ECOWAS Member States and the West Africa Money Zone (WAMZ) for the first half of 2012 and prospects for the second half of 2012. Furthermore, three appraisal missions to the NCCs in Senegal, Liberia and Guinea Bissau were undertaken in February and March 2013 to review the operations of NCCs in 2012 in those countries. The key findings of the appraisal missions underscored the need for the Commission to strengthen its oversight activities to address the challenges hampering the effective establishment and operations of the NCCs in the Member States.

✓ *Implementation of the Roadmap for the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme*

48. Within the framework of Roadmap for the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme, the Commission, in collaboration with the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) and the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI), conducted joint surveillance missions to ECOWAS Member States to evaluate the status of macroeconomic convergence in the region and assess prospects for the first half 2013. In pursuance of this objective, the joint surveillance missions held policy dialogue with key Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs) and other stakeholders in the Member States on the multilateral surveillance mechanism, reviewed recent macroeconomic developments in the ECOWAS region, assessed the status of macroeconomic convergence for 2012 and the operations of the macroeconomic database on multilateral surveillance mechanism (ECOMAC) in the various countries.

49. As part of key activities outlined in the Roadmap for the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme, the Commission organised two meetings in Abuja on the harmonisation of public finance frameworks in ECOWAS with specific focus on the harmonisation of policies and practices in public debt management and public procurement in the region. These meetings allowed for the consideration of the study reports submitted

by the consultants, and approval of a roadmap for the implementation of key conclusions and recommendations.

50. The first technical review meeting on the draft study reports on the harmonisation of public debt management and public procurement was jointly organised by the ECOWAS Commission and GIZ on 25 and 26 March 2013 in Abuja. The second validation meeting on the draft final reports on was held in Abuja from 21 to 24 May 2013 and was attended by experts and practitioners on public procurement and public debt management policies and practices in the region as well as the approved consultants and resource persons for the studies. The main objective of the meeting was to validate the draft final study reports and associated with these, the draft regulations.
51. The ECOWAS Commission also participated in a joint workshop organised by WAMA and BCEAO on the Harmonisation of regulations on current and capital account transactions in ECOWAS in Dakar from 13 to 17 May 2013. A key output of the workshop was the validation of a harmonisation matrix which outlined core activities and recommended timelines for the harmonisation of regulations governing current and capital account transactions in ECOWAS.
52. Moreover, the ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with other regional institutions involved in the implementation of multilateral surveillance mechanism. organised a meeting of the Inter-Institutional Sub-Technical Committee 23 to 25 January 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the status of implementation of the road map on the single currency programme, review progress made by the various regional institutions in the implementation of core activities assigned under the road map and plan for programme implementation in 2013. The meeting was attended by the key regional institutions involved in the implementation of the ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Programme, namely ECOWAS Commission. West African Monetary Agency (WAMA), UEMOA Commission. West African Monetary Institute (WAMI). BCEAO. EBID and the West African Bankers Association (WABA) as well as officials from the national Central Banks of the non- UEMOA Member States.

✓ Establishment and effective operation of the institutional organs of the multilateral surveillance mechanism

53. During the period under review, the ECOWAS Commission continued to strengthen the technical and financial capacity of NCCs in the implementation of multilateral surveillance activities in the Member States. In this regard, the Commission disbursed the sum of US \$60.000 to each NCC to support their operations including the payment of salaries for the macroeconomists and bilingual secretaries working in the NCC secretariats.
54. Additionally, a regional meeting of the National Coordinating Committees would be held in Dakar from 10 to 14 June 2013 to review the operations of the NCCs and assess and validate their country macroeconomic convergence reports as well as the status of Member States' macroeconomic convergence for 2012. Furthermore. a

meeting of the ECOWAS/UEMOA/WAMA/WAMI/EBID Joint Secretariat was held in Guinea Bissau from 6 to 10 May 2013 to examine the country macroeconomic convergence reports of the National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) for 2012. These meetings revealed that progress has been made in improving the quality of analysis and reporting by the NCCs. However, efforts are still required by them to fully comply with the recommended framework adopted for the preparation of country convergence reports.

✓ *Management of the ECOMAC database*

55. In an effort to ensure the effective operationalisation of the ECOWAS Multilateral Surveillance database (ECOMAC), the Commission organized a technical meeting in Ouagadougou, from 12 to 15 February 2013, which allowed for the improvement and update of the database. The purpose of the meeting was to review and update the database and identify the gaps that are to be addressed by the Member States during the course of 2013.

✓ *Cooperation with other regional and international institutions*

56. The Commission continues to cooperate with regional institutions involved in multilateral surveillance and international financial institutions with a view to strengthening partnership with them and increasing the visibility of ECOWAS at the regional and international level. It is in this context that the Commission participated in the regular meetings of the AfDB, ECA, IMF / World Bank, etc. During the review period, the Commission participated in the IMF/World Bank Spring meetings held in Washington from 15 to 20 April 2013 and the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Marrakech, Morocco from 27 to 31 May 2013.
57. In its efforts to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with other regional institutions involved in the multilateral surveillance mechanism in the region, the Commission would participate in the meeting of the ECOWAS–UEMOA Joint Technical Secretariat in Ouagadougou from 10 to 14 June 2013 to review the status of convergence between the two institutions. The Commission also participated in the UEMOA Technical Sub-committee on Multilateral Surveillance held in June 2013 to review the macroeconomic convergence reports of the National Economic Policy Committees (NEPC) in the UEMOA Zone.
58. The Commission also organised the ninth meeting of the ECOWAS-WAMI Joint Task Force on Trade and trade-related issues in Accra from 7 to 9 March 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to review the status of implementation of tasks assigned to the Joint Task Force in 2012 as well as to develop a work programme for its operations in 2013.

2.1.2 Private Sector Promotion

59. In line with the approved Work Programme of the directorate for 2013, the following activities were carried out:

✓ *Development of Common Investment Code and Policy*

60. Considerable progress was made on the formulation of the Common Investment Code (CIC) and ECOWAS Investment Policy (ECOWIP). The process reached an

important milestone during the period with the completion of the draft ECOWIP report, following two technical meetings of resource persons held in Accra and Abidjan. A joint meeting of the two committees on the draft CIC and ECOWIP would be held in due course to align the contents of the two draft documents in preparation for validation by Member States.

✓ ***ECOWAS Investment Climate Monitoring Framework and Indicators Study***

61. The report on the study on ECOWAS Investment Climate Indicators was finalized and submitted to the Commission by the Lead Consultant. The study investigated issues relating to enterprise mortality, alternative dispute resolution mechanism, public procurement transparency, construction permit approval time, status of investment promotion agencies, labor, utilities and other costs of production and their impact on investment in the region. The President's approval has been obtained for the report to be published. The report is presently being prepared for publication.

✓ ***Financial Markets Integration***

62. **Feasibility Study on Establishment of Cross Border Payment and Settlement System in ECOWAS:** Following the successful engagement of **CRIDY Consultancy Company** to undertake this study, a project scoping and briefing meeting between the Consultants and Stakeholders, including Central Banks, WAMI, WAMA, EBID and ECOWAS, was held at the Commission in January 2013. Inception and Model Options reports have been submitted to the Commission.

✓ ***ECOWAS (West Africa) Investment Forum***

63. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Commission and **Legacy Investment Company Ltd. Lagos.** to organize the "ECOWAS Investment Forum" in partnership with the **Association of Investment Promotion Agencies of West African States (IPAWAS)** in June 2013 on a solely private sector funding arrangement and support from the Commission. Preparation for the forum is currently in progress and the event's website has been designed and launched with the web-page as follows (<http://ecowasinvestmentforum2013.legacy.com.ng/>).

✓ ***Implementation of ECOWAS-China Programmes***

64. Engagements with the Commercial Counselors' Office of China in the Federal Republic of Nigeria continued during the first half of the year on the following projects:
- The Headquarters expansion project, and
 - Completion of portions of the Dakar – Lagos Highway
65. Letters were sent to the Vice Minister of Commerce of the Peoples Republic of China to formally request for the support of the Government of China to finance the above-mentioned projects which were agreed upon during the visit of the Minister to the ECOWAS Commission in October 2012. The letters also provided detailed information requested by the Chinese counterparts to enable them assess the

projects in greater detail and send a mission to the ECOWAS Commission for a joint assessment of the projects. Also, in compliance with Article 3 of the Implementation Mechanism and Framework Agreement on Economic, Trade, Investment and Technical Cooperation signed between ECOWAS Commission and the Peoples Republic of China, the Commission sent a letter to the Vice Minister of Commerce of China with a list of membership of the Committee.

✓ ***Annual General Meeting of the Federation of West African Employers' Association (FOPAO).***

66. The Commission participated and supported the above meeting which was held in January 2013 in Lome, Togo. It called on the Commission to expedite the establishment of the ECOWAS Business Council to provide the private sector with an effective platform to influence regional policy and programmes in favour of business.

✓ ***ECOWAS – AMSCO/UNDP Partnership***

67. This partnership with African Management Services Company (AMSCO) and the UNDP is to enable the Commission benefit from the African Training and Management Services Project (ATMS) established by UNDP but implemented by AMSCO. A meeting was held on 7th February, 2013 to clarify potential added values and agree on modalities for collaboration. The next steps include the endorsement of an MoU and working framework.

✓ ***Meeting of Presidents of Regional Business Associations (RBAs)***

68. The Commission organised this meeting in Cotonou, Benin Republic from 19 - 21 February. 2013. Among other things, the meeting reviewed the operational modalities of RBAs including their relations with the ECOWAS Commission, elected Mr. Bai Mattarr Drameh, President of FEWACC as coordinating President for all RBAs and decided to construct an ECOWAS (World) Trade Center as an all purpose business and trade development institution with offices for RBAs.
69. A meeting was held on 5-7 March, 2013 in Accra, Ghana to validate the TOR for ECOWAS Business Council (EBC) and the Regional Strategic Framework and Policy for Private Sector and Enterprise Promotion (RS-PSD). The EBC will provide the apex structure for private sector representation and policy dialogue at the highest level in the region while the RS-PSD will provide development action guidance for private sector development practitioners in the region. The documents will now be presented to sector Ministers for adoption.

✓ ***ECOWAS Diaspora Programme***

70. The programme will establish a framework to engage ECOWAS nationals outside West Africa on the integration process. A preparatory meeting for the 2nd ECOWAS Diaspora Conference was held with representatives of the ECOWAS Group of Ambassadors and the Diaspora in Washington DC. USA on 19 – 21 March. 2013.

✓ **ECOWAS – CIPE Partnership**

71. Within the context of the MOU signed between the Commission and the US – Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) a curtsey call was paid to CIPE top executives during the visit to the Washington DC on the Diaspora programme. At the meeting, CIPE confirmed a better appreciation of the ECOWAS Commission and the vast potential the ECOWAS – CIPE partnership offer for the improvement of the private sector in the ECOWAS region and also indicated their readiness to endorse an operational framework agreement with the Commission.
72. The inaugural presentation of ECOWAS Business Chains Hub took place in Abuja from 20 to 30 April. 2013. The event brought together stakeholders of the project under the auspices of NEPAD Business Group West Africa, promoters of the business, to agree on modalities for implementation.

2.1.3 Research and Statistics

73. The main activities undertaken during the first half of 2013 relate to the following:
74. **Regional Poverty Reduction Strategy (RPRSP):** Following the recommendation of the Joint Technical Committee of the ECOWAS-UEMOA on the revision of the RPRSP, two meetings were held - a consultative meeting between the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions followed by an internal meeting of the departments of the ECOWAS Commission. These meetings enabled the elaboration and validation of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Roadmap for the revision of the RPRSP. A regional workshop was organized in collaboration with the UEMOA Commission at which the TOR and Roadmap were presented and discussed with the Member States. The meeting also enabled amendments to be made to the two documents and subsequently validated. According to the roadmap, the revision of the RPRSP has to be completed by the end of 2013.
75. **Regional Research Programme:** In order to enable the implementation of the regional research policy of ECOWAS, the Commission initiated the development of a regional research programme. A working group was established for this purpose. The group prepared a draft document defining the axes of the programme (RRP 2014 - 2018). The research programme being developed will be submitted for discussion and validation at the regional level in 2013.
76. **Harmonization of Statistics:** Within the framework of the implementation of methodologies for the harmonization statistics of Consumer Price Indices and National Accounts. A working group of regional experts on statistics of Consumer Price Indices has revised the roadmap and tools for data collection. A regional workshop of the Regional Technical Committee on National Accounts was held. The workshop validated the implementation plan of the regional nomenclature for the harmonisation of national accounts in the region. The Commission intends to make an inventory of capacities in Member States in June in order to elaborate a regional capacity building plan for the implementation of the harmonized methodology for Consumer Price Indices in the ECOWAS region.
77. **Managing and Updating Databases:** Efforts were made to recruit national consultants for data collection for the production of statistical publications of the

Commission. The Access application base "EcoBase" data has been completed and was tested at meeting of regional institutions. The EcoBase will be submitted to the Regional Management Committee on the ECOMAC Database in July 2013 for validation, adoption and implementation. The EcoBase will provide data for the ECOMAC Database of ECOWAS, the BDSM Database of UEMOA as well as the databases of WAMI and WAMA for multilateral surveillance.

78. As part of efforts to strengthen capacity in trade statistics, a regional training was undertaken with the technical support of" EUROSTAT. National data from all 15 Member Countries were collected. The regional database will be updated before the end of June 2013.
79. As part of the strategy of strengthening and dissemination of regional statistical information the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB), has set up a platform of data (Data Portal) which should enable Member States and the Commission ECOWAS to better facilitate the dissemination of data. The Commission and the AfDB signed a grant of four million dollars (US \$4 million)..
80. **Statistical Studies:** An ad hoc committee met and validated the institutional and operational framework of the Regional Statistical Fund. The Committee recommended that the determination of an alternative plan to the original plan which defines the statistical fund a counter for solidarity fund whose establishment is about to be reviewed. The framework report on the state of Statistics has been finalized. An Ad Hoc Committee met in April and helped validate the document. The committee recommended its submission to the next meeting of the regional technical committee on statistical issues.

2.1.4 Community Development Programme (CDP)

81. In the course of the the year 2013, the Community's activities with regard to the Community Development Programme revolved around i) the finalization of CDP formulation and CDP project sheets; ii) the consolidation of the ownership of regional projects by the stakeholders of the ECOWAS region, and iii) capacity building in long-term quantitativ planning tools.
82. Regarding the finalization of CDP formulation and project sheets, there was a wide process of consultation with all the stakeholders (the ECOWAS Commission, the Member States, Intergovernmental Organisations (OIG), Non-State Actors (NSA) and Development Partners. That is why consultations were held on the Regional CDP document internally within ECOWAS and with the Member States. Besides the consultations, information-sharing and briefing sessions were organized with development partners on the development of the project. Some of the other activities under way are : i) the elaboration and validation of the format of the CDP project sheets, ii) la finalisation of the list of priority CDP projects and CDP project sheets, iii) the establishment of the Internal Committee to mobilize resources for the CDP; and iv) the drafting of the draft document on the CDP logical framework and the strategy for funding and mobilizing resources for the CDP.
83. As regards the consolidation of the ownership of regional development initiatives by the regional stakeholders, the participatory and inclusive approach underlying the CDP was concretized through meetings with some stakeholders in the CDP

formulation process. This enabled the Commission to gather, for collation and finalization, the observations and recommendations of the Commission Departments, Regional Institutions (EBID), UEMOA and BOAD), the technical and financial partners and the Member States. The various stakeholders were informed of the prospects of the CDP finalization process.

84. Capacity building in quantitative tools for long- term planning focused on the regional dimension with refinement based on the regional ECOWAS T 21 model
85. In terms of prospects for the second half of 2013, activities will revolve around the finalization of the CDP Document , the adoption of the programme through the meeting of the sector ministers of the ECOWAS Member States (September 2013) and the ECOWAS Council of Ministers (October-November 2013), the Regional Conference on development finance and the Donors Round Table (December 2013). It is also expected that in the months of June and July 2013, the model will be used to evaluate the impact of the priority programmes on regional development.

2.1.5 Economic Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU)

86. During the period under review, At operation level, the Unit organized on January 25, 2013 its first Technical Committee meeting to review both its 2012 Annual Report and 2013 work program. The meeting resulted in the adoption of these two documents.
87. The Unit has been operational for two years and seven months. In line with the Grant Agreement between the ECOWAS Commission and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), a mid-term review of the activities of the Unit was initiated. This Midterm Review began with a kick-off meeting on March 6, 2013 in Abuja with the presentation of the Consultant committed to this task. The results of this evaluation are expected because they will allow a restructuring / reform of the project to improve its efficiency.
88. In terms of research and economic analysis, three studies were finalized on the following research themes: (i) Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Regional Economic Outlook: Challenges and Opportunities, (ii) environmental challenges, institutions and agricultural export the ECOWAS countries, and (iii) Assessment of the feasibility of a single currency for ECOWAS Member States. In addition, the second volume of the Journal of West African integration is being compiled.
89. The Commission has undertaken an analysis of the tax systems of the Member States. This analysis is being done in collaboration with Think Tanks from member States. The Think Tanks are to conduct detailed analysis on the yield and efficiency of the tax system in their respective countries. These studies should lead to the publication of a book on "the yield and efficiency of tax systems in ECOWAS countries". Started in late 2012, a review workshop was held in Lome, Togo in February 2013 with the aim to assessing progress made by each country team in conducting the study.
90. Finally, the Unit took an active part in the activities of several African institutions namely AfricaRice as a resource for the evaluation of the Common External Tariff

(CET) on rice;; the International Union for Conservation of Nature by presenting a paper on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Regional Economic Outlook; the Directorate of Customs as a resource person to assess tax reforms and the Economic Partnership Agreements in the member states during a workshop in Cotonou, Benin.

2.2. Trade. Customs. Industry. Mines, Free Movement and Tourism

2.2.1 Trade

91. In the first half of the year 2013, the Commission made significant contributions towards promoting intra-and inter-regional trade through the implementation of the following programmes:

✓ ECOWAS trade fair

92. Preparatory meetings for the 7th ECOWAS Trade Fair scheduled to hold in Accra-Ghana from 24 October to 4 November 2013, commenced with the organisation of two meetings. Advertising campaign and awareness raising for the event was officially launched by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce in Ghana and the ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Customs, Free Movement, Tourism and Industry. A suitable site has been assigned for the event by the Ghanaian authorities and renovation works have already started at the site. The third (3rd) meeting of the Regional Organizing Committee (ROC) of the Fair was held at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja (Nigeria) from 23 to 25 April 2013. The Committee deliberated on the status reports by the Commission and the Executing Agency, and reviewed the budget for the organization of the Fair and draft programme of activities for the Trade Fair.

✓ Trade Information System (Ecobiz)

93. The Commission installed and operationalised the Business Information System (Ecobiz) at trade events organized in Member States. An assessment was also made to examine how the system was being installed and utilized by traders in the ECOWAS Member States.

✓ Formulation of the ECOWAS Common Trade Policy

94. Following the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the study on the harmonization of the Common Trade Policy of ECOWAS Member States, the Commission organized, with financial contribution from the German Cooperation (GIZ) and technical assistance from the World Trade Organization, a seminar/workshop on the factors of the policy. A roadmap for the preparation and finalisation of the Common Trade Policy is being prepared for consideration by experts from the Member States.

✓ Competition

95. Following the adoption in December 2008 of the community texts on Competition, A high level expert workshop was organized on the establishment of the ECOWAS

Regional Competition Authority (RCA) to share regional, national and international experiences. The workshop opened some vista on the most appropriate measures for the establishment of the Authority.

96. Sensitization missions were conducted to ensure that all Member States are well informed about all activities relating to the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority and to ensure that they all have the Community Regulations and Laws on Competition at their disposal. Moreover, these missions were conducted with a view to providing all relevant information to Member States that may express interest in hosting the ECOWAS specialized institution.
97. In this regard, a Memorandum on arrangements for the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority will be submitted to the next meeting of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

✓ *Informal Trade*

98. Within the framework of the development of a Regional Informal Trade Regulation Programme, a study was conducted and validated by Member States to identify the intervention areas of the said Programme at the regional level and provide guidelines for the development of a roadmap. The outcome of the activities of the Technical Thematic Group on Informal Trade, following the recommendations of Member States, provided the basis for the final preparation of the Informal Trade Regulation Project/Programme in the ECOWAS region that is scheduled for operationalisation from 2013. In furtherance of the operationalisation of the informal trade regulation Programme, an interdepartmental meeting on the support of the Regulation was held in Abuja in February 2013.

✓ *Trade Negotiations*

99. The Commission has organised series of meetings namely ECOWAS UEMOA joint and Consultation meeting between January and May 2013. Starting with the working group meeting in Lome in January, a new proposal on WA market access offer was finalized and preparations were made for the Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) meeting. Consequently, the MMC meeting at the Experts level was held in Accra from 20th to 22nd of February 2013 while the Ministerial meeting took place in Praia from 21 to 22 February 2013.
100. The Ministers directed the two Commissions to lend technical support to the countries in making their analysis. They would then present the results of the analyses at a regional meeting to be held at the end of April 2013, in Banjul. The outcome of the meeting would be taken into account in the dossier that would be submitted to the next ECOWAS Council of Ministers.
101. Consequently, in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee meeting held in Praia, Cape Verde on 21st and 22nd March, 2013, the Commission organised a regional meeting on the West Africa market access offer and the Economic Partnership Agreement Development Programme (EPADP), as well as other EPA related matters in Banjul, the Republic of the Gambia from 6 to 10 May 2013.

102. Following consideration of the proposals of Member States on the West African Market Access offer and EPADP, the meeting came up with new proposals on the Market access offer and EPADP for the consideration of the Council of Ministers. It is envisaged that the EPA negotiations with the EU shall resume subject to the Council's directives.
103. As previously reported, the new proposal is now based on the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) which has been finalised following the adoption by the meeting of the ECOWAS Ministers of Finance in Praia in March 2013. The proposal has been fine-tuned taking into consideration all the products or group of products under the CET.
104. Regarding the EPA Regional Fund, the Ministerial Monitoring Committee on Negotiations had requested in November 2011 that the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions should finalize the establishment of the Fund by October 2012. Pursuant to this decision, the ECOWAS Commission carried out some technical activities which led to the development of a Framework Document on the EPA Regional Fund. This document, which was adopted by Member States in July 2012, was sent to the European Union party, which is the main contributor to the Fund, so that they could agree on the operating modalities of the Fund in line with the provisions of the Agreement that is being negotiated.
105. With respect to the EPA between West Africa and the EU, the overall document was finalized at the expert level. It was submitted to the Ministerial Monitoring Committee of the EPA, which adopted it but recommended that further analysis be done at the national level within 45 days.
106. A training programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of regional experts on computable general equilibrium model was organised. This was intended to enhance the capacity of the region to assess the impact of the ECOWAS CET and EPA on the economies of the ECOWAS Member States.

✓ **Communication Strategy:**

107. In order to empower a greater proportion of the West African public to effectively understand and participate effectively in the West Africa – European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) process, the EPA Ministerial Monitoring Committee recommended the formulation and implementation of an EPA Communication Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy and Action plan was developed in four stages: (i) Communication Analysis. (ii) the Strategy design; (iii) Action Plan (Implementation); and (iv) Monitoring and Evaluation

✓ **Trade and Development**

108. The Commission organised a training programme for a number of staff from the Trade and trade-related directorates of the Commission on the use of TradeSift in the Trade Policy Training course in Abuja from 15 to 17 May 2013.
109. In furtherance of the implementation of the ECOWAS Aid for Trade Strategy, the Commission organised a meeting for the ECOWAS Aid for Trade Expert Group in May 2013 with the overall objective of maximising opportunities of the Aid for Trade Initiative by strengthening instruments for its effective implementation. The

meeting was also used to prepare the regional position for presentation at the 4th Global Aid for Trade review meeting coming up in Geneva July 2013.

✓ ***Trade Negotiation Capacity Building (TNCB) Project***

110. The ECOWAS Commission continues to build the capacity of Member States to formulate Trade Policy and Negotiation Agreements through the Trade Negotiation Capacity Building (TNCB) project, which is funded by SIDA.
111. A workshop for members of the Inter-institution Committee was held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 14 – 18 January 2013. Forty eight participants from different trade and trade related sectors, (civil society, private sector and different ministries related to trade) participated in the workshop. Also, a training session on ECOWAS CET, ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme was organised in Conakry (Guinea) in February 2013. Forty participants from different ministries, Civil Society, parliaments and private sectors benefitted from the training.
112. The Project is preparing for a training session. a seminar and a workshop for trade experts in Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Sierra Leone respectively in the months of May and June 2013.

✓ ***Project on Support to Regional Trade (Hub and Spokes Project)***

113. The second phase of the project is to run from 2013 to 2015 in line with the roadmap that was drawn at the Hub and Spokes Steering Committee meeting held in Paris on 18 July 2012. Accordingly, the necessary tasks had been executed and the new project commenced in January 2013. A consultation meeting between ECOWAS and OIF was held in Abuja in March 2013 to formulate strategies for the implementation of the programme and discuss the legal documents. Consequently, the protocol and financial agreements between the parties were prepared and submitted for the approval signature of the President.

2.2.2 Customs

114. The activities carried out by the Commission during the first-half of 2013 focused mainly on the finalisation of the works aimed at putting in place the ECOWAS Common External Tariff. In this regard, the 51st meeting of the statutory technical committee on Trade, Customs and Free Movement of Persons and the extraordinary meeting of the ECOWAS Ministers of Finance were held from 18 to 20 March 2013 in Praia respectively to approve all the draft texts of the ECOWAS CET.
115. The meeting of the Ministers of Finance examined the issue on the rate of the ECOWAS Community Levy (0.5%) which should be harmonised with the rate of the UEMOA solidarity community levy (1%). In that regard, the Ministers adopted a uniform rate of 1.5% to be levied on all products imported from third countries into the Community with a view to ensuring that the duties and taxes that have equivalent effect are levied equally by the customs administrations of all ECOWAS Member States. This new mechanism shall be known as **"Integration Community Levy"**. Its scope of application and the modalities for its collection, administration, management and use shall be defined by a regulation to be submitted to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers for decision.

116. With a view to finalising the ECOWAS CET mechanism and on the instruction of the meeting of Ministers of Finance held in March 2013 in Praia, the trade protection measures were considered and validated successively by the 13th meeting of the ECOWAS-UEMOA Joint Technical Committee on the ECOWAS CET Management and the 52nd meeting of the Technical Committee on Trade, Customs and Free Movement held in April-May 2013 in Dakar, Senegal. In this respect, three (3) draft Acts relating to the i) Regulation on the safeguard measures, ii) Regulation on antidumping measures and iii) Regulation on the compensatory measures, were approved by the Experts and will also be submitted to the Council of Ministers in June 2013 for decision to pave the way for the implementation of the ECOWAS CET by all Member States with effect from 1st January 2014.
117. Regarding the consolidation of the free trade zone, the Commission carried out the following actions during the period under review with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme by the Member States:
 - Analysis and validation of the requests for registration approved by the National Registration Committees in order to notify all the Member States;
 - Creation of the ECOWAS Web site dedicated to the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme; and
 - Investigation and follow-up on the complaints lodged by economic operators relating to cases of violation of the regulatory provisions on intra-community trade perpetrated in Benin, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Guinea.
118. On the harmonisation of domestic indirect taxes, the Commission provided technical and financial assistance to The Gambia and Liberia to support initiatives for the implementation of value added tax (VAT). The support enabled the establishment of Steering Committees for the Introduction of VAT in these two countries. The Gambia successfully introduced the Value Added Tax in January 2013.
119. Furthermore, the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions initiated activities on the harmonization of the Directives of the two Institutions on VAT and Excise Duties. In this regard, the Commission with the support of GIZ, conducted a vast survey on VAT and excise duty exemptions in the Member States. The survey reports will be shared with the UEMOA Commission before submitting them to the Member States for validation in the second-half of 2013.
120. Regarding fiscal transition, with the prospect of concluding an Economic Partnership Agreement between West Africa and the European Union, the Commission started putting in place a fiscal transition programme in West Africa which aims at mitigating fiscal revenue losses that may arise from the removal of customs duty when the EPA comes into force.
121. In this regard, the Commission, with the support of the German Cooperation (GIZ), undertook missions to Member States and Mauritania to collect data on the fiscal and customs reforms with a view to finalising the relevant policy matrices with all the countries. At the end of the missions, a draft programme on the support of fiscal and customs reforms was developed on the basis of the fiscal reform policy matrices

obtained. The programme will be validated by the Member States in the second-half of 2013.

122. The Commission also provided support for capacity building initiatives. In this regard, the West African Tax Administrations Forum (WATAF) and West African Tax Institutes Forum (WAUTI) received support for the holding of regional meetings.

2.2.3 Free Movement of Persons

123. During the period under review the Commission with the support of technical and financial partners, opened at some border posts centres for information and observation on free movement to sensitise Community citizens, migrants and government officials on the need to implement all ECOWAS texts on free movement of persons, right of residence and establishment. Presently, 12 Member States use the standard ECOWAS passport with technical specifications consistent with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. In the area of capacity building, the training module on free movement intended for training institutions for border control officers, which was prepared with the help of migration experts from the European Union (MIEUX) has been adopted. The objective was to harmonise training within the ECOWAS region in order to put in place a homogenous system of procedures in border management. The training manual also includes issues relating to human and work rights.
124. In addition, representatives of the ECOWAS National Units in Member States. National Immigration Institutions and Civil Society were engaged in a brainstorming session to conduct a critical and comprehensive review of the Protocol on Free Movement and develop an appropriate action plan for the popularization of the text as well as recommend for removal from the texts obsolete sections that are impediments to the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement.
125. Furthermore, there is an on - going experts' meeting for the drafting of a Regional Migration Policy to address the incoherent deployment of migration regime in the region in fulfilment of the ECOWAS Vision 2020.
126. Cross-border peace and security networks, common infrastructure for health. education, trade and preservation and storage of food products and other social and economic products are either being put in place or being designed in the Sikasso-Korogho-Bobo-Dioulaso, southern Senegambia, Mano River Union and Kano-Katsina-Maradi **border** areas. Work on the development of the ECOWAS Cross-border Cooperation Programme has also commenced and efforts are underway at the Commission to find external partners for the implementation of the trans-border cooperation programme.
127. In the area of tourism, the Commission has revised the standards governing the classification of hotels, motels and hostels adopted by ECOWAS Ministers for Tourism. In this regard, work continues on the preparation of a tourist guidebook entitled "Destination ECOWAS".

2.3 Agriculture. Environment and Water Resources

2.3.1 Agricultural Development

128. The activities programmed for 2012-2013 revolved around the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP).
129. They were structured around the following programmes : (i) the promotion of strategic products for food security and sovereignty, (ii) the promotion of an overall environment conducive to regional agricultural development, (iii) the reduction of food vulnerability and the promotion of sustainable food access, and (iv) governance, and the coordination and monitoring-evaluation of ECOWAP implementation.

✓ *Promotion of strategic products for food security and sovereignty*

130. *The activities conducted in this component yielded the following outcomes :*
 - ECOWAS Commission's presented three initiatives to operationalize the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP), namely, (i) the « Regional Offensive for rice production » ; (ii) the « Zero Hunger Initiative in West Africa » and (iii) the « Strategy for the creation of a Regional Food Reserve». A study on the land policy of ECOWAS ,with focus on harmonization, was conducted .
 - The identification, in the area of animal health, of priority deceases demonstrated the need to prepare two regional reference documents on: (i) harmonized laboratory procedures within ECOWAS and (ii) harmonization of the epidemiological surveillance system within the ECOWAS region.
 - The launch of a feasibility study of the regional rice offensive.
131. Discussions held between the Commission and national and regional partners on the fishery sector led to the establishment of a Regional Committee on the Coherence of Fishery Policies in West Africa. The Committee's aim is to "ensure the follow-up and monitoring of the coherence of fishery policies in West Africa." Its key role is to advise and alert the regional authorities and to contribute to improving the coherence and governance of fisheries in West Africa. The Committee comprises all stakeholders, especially Non-State actors, States, Intergovernmental Organizations, and Development Partners.

✓ *Promotion of an overall environment conducive to regional agricultural development*

132. The creation of an overall environment conducive to regional agricultural development of a sector and of a regional agricultural market is at the core of RAIP activities. Implementation of the activities of this important intervention component has led to the following major outcomes:
 - The implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural System of Information (ECOAGRIS) is in its first phase in 7 Member States. which made it possible to interconnect the national agricultural information mechanisms ;
 - The validation by CTAERE and adoption of a regional regulatory framework on quality control and marketing of fertilizers (Règlement C/REG.13/12/12);

- The signing of two regulations for the establishment of the West African Committee for the Approval of Pesticides and the West African Committee on Seeds, finally leading to the operationalization of the regulations on Seeds (ECOWAS Regulation N°C/REG.4/05/2008) and Pesticides (ECOWAS Regulation N°C/REG.4/05/2008), (principle of subsidiarity and complementarity) for a provisional period of 5 years to three partner institutions for (i) the establishment of the West African Pesticide Approval Committee: CILSS ; (ii) the establishment of the West African Seeds Committee : – the CORAF/WECARD ; and (iii) the establishment of the West African Fertilizer Quality and Control Committee : IFDC;
- The launch of two West African fertilizer and seeds development programmes (WAFP) and (WASP) respectively;
- The comprehensive dialogue embarked on with a view to signing the partnership agreement with West African regional professional umbrella agricultural organizations to enhance their involvement in the implementation of ECOWAP/PDDAA in the framework of sector restructuring ;
- The finalization of a specialized training programme, thanks to the partnership developed with the Songhaï Centre at Porto-Novo, with the participation of thirty-five (35) Young Agro businessmen from 15 ECOWAS Member States (including almost 50% young women) ;
- the formulation and evaluation of a West African regional market regulation support programme ;
- the validation by the European Union under the 10th EDF of the Regional Campaign against fruit flies, which will benefit from French Development Agency funding totaling Euro 17.5 million.

✓ ***Reducing food vulnerability and promoting sustainable food access***

133. This component is the manifestation of ECOWAS solidarity to the citizens of the Community and the member states. It is aimed at providing structured responses to combat the resilience of the populations affected by food crises. During this year, the ECOWAS Commission conducted actions that led to :
- The adoption of a consultation strategy for coordinated and harmonized responses in times of food crises within ECOWAS (including Mauritania and Chad);
 - the formulation and financial evaluation of a programme of national social security networks in West Africa.

✓ ***Governance. Coordination and Monitoring-Evaluation of ECOWAP Implementation***

134. The implementation of ECOWAP/PDDAA falls within the competence of the Commission in a relation to a mandate issued by the Heads of State and Government. In that specific area, the following key activities have been undertaken :
135. The institutional arrangements have been put in place and the implementation mechanisms are being finalized especially through the establishment of the technical Committee for Food and Agriculture, and the Regional Fund for Food and

Agriculture. As far as support to the states is concerned, each Member State now has a concerted framework for programming, coordination, and monitoring interventions in the Agricultural sector: the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP). The ECOWAS Commission has kept mobilizing support for the States for PNIA implementation.

136. ***As regards development and the implementation of new regional programmes :*** with the support of the ECOWAP Donor Group, the Commission has continued the implementation of the programme under way and has been mobilizing funds from partners of new projects and programmes for agricultural sector stakeholders. The major projects obtained during this year amounted to about US\$33.35million dollars. They are: The regional Seeds Development project (WASP), funded by USAID for about 9 million US dollars ;

- The regional Fertilizer Development programme (WAFP), funded by USAID for almost 20 million US dollars ;
- The Veterinary governance Project in Africa funded and financed by the European Union;
- The Capacity building Project for African States' participation in the activities of the standardization organizations (PAN-SPSO. Phase 2), with EU finance ;
- The « West Africa Hunger Free Zone », financed by German Cooperation for 2 million US dollars ;
- The project for support to the implementation of the regional food reserve under validation by the European Union within the framework of the 10th EDF for a total amount of Euro 56 million ;
- The Commission's capacity building project to support Member States formulate NAIP –related projects financed by Spain and implemented by FAO;
- USAID support and Spanish cooperation for capacity building of the Commission for the operationalization of the ARAA.

137. ***Monitoring of programmes under implementation*** Several cooperation projects were negotiated in 2010/2011 with technical and financial partners and under execution. They are the Agricultural Productivity Project in West Africa (WAPP), the Joint UEMOA-ECOWAS Regional inputs Project (MIR PLUS), the Project for Food Facility based on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity: the implementation of the programmes has been conceded to the ECOWAS technical and regional partners (partnership agreements), with the Commission playing its role of coordination steering and orientation. The leading partners and institutions are, among others: CSAO/OCDE, IFDC, CORAF/WECARD, CMA-AOC, IFPRI, FAO-régional, CILSS.

2.3.2 Environment

138. In 2013, the activities of the Directorate of Environment centred on the following programmes:

- Improvement of environmental governance and capacity building;
- Promotion of sustainable management of resources for the improvement of the sub-regional economy within the context of the environment; and

- Enhanced management of pollutions, urban wastes, chemical products and toxic wastes.
139. Concerning the programme for enhancing environmental governance and capacity building, the following were realised:
- Completion and validation of a study on MESA implementation where the **University of Ghana, represented by the Oceanography and Fishing Department**, was unanimously selected by all the stakeholders, as the programme implementing institution for the ECOWAS Commission.
140. With regard to the Promotion of Sustainable Management of Resources for Improving the sub-regional Economy within the context of the Environment, the following activities were undertaken:
- Capacity building of States and National Actors from the Forestry Sector of the Member States, with a view to preparing the Convergence Plan for sustainable management and utilisation of forest ecosystems in West Africa;
 - Technical validation of the regional programme to combat desertification;
 - Finalisation of a draft document on the implementation of preliminary activities of the Strategic Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change;
 - Organisation, jointly with UICN, of a meeting of the partners of Convergence Plan for the management and utilisation of sustainable forest ecosystems in West Africa as a prelude to the adoption of the Convergence Plan for the management and sustainable utilisation of forest ecosystems in the ECOWAS region ;
 - The organization of the workshop to validate the sub-regional strategy for managing community forests and / or community in West Africa, from 19 to 20 March 2013. The objective of this workshop is to review and amend the draft document of the sub-regional strategy for managing municipal and/or community forests in West Africa for its validation as a reference tool for the promotion of decentralized and participatory management of forests in our sub-region,
 - The organisation of meetings to prepare draft Regulations on biosafety in West Africa,
 - The signature of the ECOWAS-Sweden funding Agreement for the project: "Implementation of Initial activities of the Regional Strategic Program for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Adaptation to climate change."
141. **Promoting Enhanced Management of Pollutions, Nuisances, Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes.** This sub-programme essentially entailed the organisation of a workshop and conferences with Member States in collaboration with key partners on major conventions such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

2.3.3 Water resources

142. As part of its primary mission to assist ECOWAS States in the implementation of an equitable and effective water management while ensuring the sustainability of its

uses, in 2012, the Centre undertook activities scheduled in its 2007-2015 strategic plan, which are centred on three main thrusts as follows:

✓ *Support to countries and basins in the implementation of IWRM plans and strategies.*

143. The main results achieved during the year are:

- adoption of the National Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (PANGIRE) in Côte d'Ivoire;
- initiating the process of setting up a Bia-Tano-Comoé basin organization with the completion of a feasibility study ;
- L'élaboration et la validation des avant-projets de textes constitutifs et des avant-projets de textes organique de l'Autorité du Bassin du Mono (ABM) prélude à la réunion du Conseil des Ministres inaugurale qui doit consacrer la création formelle de l'Autorité du Bassin du Mono.

✓ *Support to effective regional integration in the water sector.*

144. In the context of support for effective regional integration in the water sector, the following important activities were undertaken:

- dissemination of Water Resources Policy in West Africa ;
- Creation of a Regional Water Observatory with financial assistance from SIDA,
- Initiation of studies towards the formulation of a framework directive on management of shared water resources in West Africa and a directive on sustainable development of large water infrastructure in West Africa,

✓ *Coordination of the water initiatives and programmes in the region.*

145. In this aspect, the Centre served as AMCOW technical secretariat for West Africa, being fully involved in the preparation of national reports on the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments by countries of West Africa.

2.4 Infrastructure Development

2.4.1 Transport and telecommunication

146. The Infrastructure Department is guided by Goal 2 of the regional strategic plan. "To facilitate the development of infrastructure for the attainment of a Competitive Business Environment and Investment Capacities". According to the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic report (AICD), "with regional spending needs of \$1.5 billion a year, catching-up on infrastructure could boost economic growth by five percentage points". Consequently, the programmes, projects and activities of the Commission in this sector are tailored towards accelerating the development of community infrastructure in order to promote regional integration and support growth in intra ECOWAS trade and free movement.

147. These projects are also in tandem with continental infrastructure development agenda such as the African Union (AU) and PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa) for which the ECOWAS Commission is the designated coordinator of projects in West Africa

TRANSPORT

148. The Transport programme oversees the implementation of multimodal transport infrastructure and policies which seeks to promote physical cohesion among Member States and to facilitate the movement of persons, goods and services within the Community with special emphasis on increased access to island and land-locked countries.

✓ *Road Transport sector*

149. The principal activity in the Road Transport sector has been the implementation of regional road transport and transit facilitation programme comprising. Joint Border Posts construction, Regional Transport Observatory, Axle Load Harmonization Policy and the Nigeria-Cameroon Multinational Highway and Transport Facilitation Programme as part of the Trans-Africa Highway programme. Key projects that are currently being implemented are as follows:

Trans-West African Coastal Highway (Dakar – Lagos) and Praia Maritime Link

150. The Trans-West African Coastal Corridor connects the eleven (11) Coastal Countries from Nigeria to Senegal covering a total distance of over 4500km. This Corridor carries more than 75% of trade in West Africa and links very vibrant sea ports to all the landlocked countries in the region – Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. At the continental level, it is envisaged as a key link connecting the ECOWAS Community to Eastern Africa through Central African countries like Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

Praia-Dakar-Abidjan Maritime link

151. The project also involves the development of the Praia Hub into a maritime hub Port with a new marine service based in the Port of Praia, Cape Verde, to speed up regional integration and increase trade and tourism between the Cape Verde Islands and the rest of West Africa.

Trans Gambia and Senegal Road Transport Corridor

152. The Trans-Gambia and Senegal road transport corridor is an economic strategic link connecting the northern and southern parts of both The Gambia and Senegal, and an extension to ECOWAS countries along the Lagos – Dakar corridor. The project comprises two parts: the construction of the Trans-Gambia Bridge and Two (2) Joint Border Posts (JBP) at Keur Ayib – Keur Ali and Senoba – Missera and the rehabilitation of 97km of Senoba-Ziguinchor road in Senegal and pavement and strengthening of 40km of Keur Ayib – Nioro road which will be supervised by Senegal.
153. The total cost for Phase I of the project is UA 67.36 million, which is co-financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) 99.07%, the Government of the Gambia (0.24%) and the Government of Senegal (0.69%) and will be executed over a five year period (2012-2017). The European Union financed the reconstruction of the 24km Trans-Gambia Highway which complements the project.

Trans-West African Sahelian Highway (Dakar-Bamako-Ouagadougou-Niamey Multimodal Corridor (PIDA)

154. This 4.700 km Corridor connects the Sahelian sections of West Africa to Central and Eastern Africa. On the Trans-African Highway network, the link is envisaged to provide a direct link from Senegal to Djibouti. The Commission will work towards opening up of this corridor to promote trade among the Sahelian Region of ECOWAS including between Niger and Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso.
155. Project Identification Forms were completed in December, 2012 for the consideration of the European Union. Under the PIDA-PAP Champion's initiative agreed with the AfDB and African Union Commission in February 2013, the Dakar-Bamako-Ouagadougou and Dosso (Niger)-Northern Nigeria railway link will be studied for further development and as a complementary mode to the road network.

West African Joint Border Posts Programme: Construction of Joint Border Posts (JBPs)

156. Land Borders on key road trade corridors have been identified to be transformed into Joint Border Posts (JBP) for joint or simultaneous controls by border Agencies from pairs of neighbouring countries. The JBPs are aimed at enhancing trade facilitation through the efficient movement of persons, vehicles and goods within the Community and with adjoining regions through the reduction of border crossing time.
157. The ECOWAS Commission has completed Architectural and Technical Engineering Design Studies for an initial seven (7) JBP sites namely Sèmè-Kraké Plage (Nigeria/Benin), Hillacondji-Sanveekondji (Benin/Togo), Noépé (Togo/Ghana), Noé-Elubo (Côte d'Ivoire/Ghana), Kouremalé (Burkina Faso/Togo), Malanville (Niger/Benin), and Paga (Ghana/Burkina Faso). Out of the initial seven (7) JBPs, three (3) construction works contracts have been signed for three (3) JBP sites namely (Sémé-Kraké Plage, Noépé and Malanville) and construction works are currently on-going.

Nigeria – Cameroon Multinational Highways & Transport Facilitation Programme (Enugu-Bamenda Corridor)

158. The programme covers the 443 km long Bamenda–Enugu corridor and comprises the Cameroonian Bamenda-Mamfe-Ekok road sections on the RN 6 (203 km), the Nigerian road sections (240 km), the bridge over the Munaya River in Cameroon (100 m) and the border bridge over the Cross River (230 m). It will also construct a Joint Border Post on the Mfum Border.
159. The programme seeks to increase trade and strengthen cooperation between countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and those of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in general, and between Cameroon and Nigeria, in particular.
160. The total programme cost is estimated at US\$ 455 million and being by the African Development Bank, JBIC and IDA. The ECOWAS Commission is contributing counterpart funding of US\$1.32 million over the programme period, to cover its

responsibility for the coordination and monitoring of the programme and the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and Steering Committee (SC).

✓ **Railways Sub-Sector**

161. In the Railways sub sector, detailed engineering studies of the Kaya-Dory-Niamey link connecting the Abidjan-Ouagadougou railway line to the republic of Niger was initiated with funding from the European Union in 2010 but was halted due to the crisis in Cote D'Ivoire. However, the process for initiating the study is presently undergoing revision following discovery that a similar study on the same link is nearing completion by a Consultant commissioned by the African Union Commission. The major project in this subsector relates to the Cotonou-Niamey-Ouagadougou-Abidjan Railway Link.
162. The project will rehabilitate and reconstruct railway infrastructure to connect the Republic of Niger and South West of Mali including a connection to the ports of Cotonou and Abidjan. This will provide the needed support and cheaper alternative to road transport haulage services. The project has three main components as follows:
 - Construction of **1.024km rail linking** Parakou-Niamey-Dori-Kaya;
 - Rehabilitation of **1.657km between** Cotonou and Parakou;
 - Rehabilitation of the railway linking Abidjan-Ouagadougou-Kaya.

✓ **Maritime transport**

West Africa Hub Port and Rail Programme (PIDA)

163. This project was designed under the Programme for Infrastructure Development Africa (PIAD), to help West Africa deal with the major challenge of developing sufficient port capacity to handle future demand from both domestic sources and landlocked countries. This project has two components which would be carried out simultaneously:
 - A regional hub port and rail linkage master plan and
 - Port expansion.
164. A total estimate of US\$2.140 million is required for the entire project. Mobilization of funds for the project is currently underway with portions of the Hub project being pursued under the Dakar-Lagos Corridor development programme.

✓ **Air Transport**

Single African Sky Phase 1

165. The purpose of the Single African Sky is to define an evolution path for replacement of the ground-based air navigation aids by a satellite-based air navigation system insuring that operational and other concerns such as positive cost-benefit are fully taken into account in accordance with the ICAO's CNS/ATM plan. The total project cost is estimated at US\$ 275 million and is being funded by a cost-sharing mechanism involving African States. ANSP. EU and other donors and partners.

Yamoussoukro decision implementation in West Africa

166. This project is a continental effort to achieve full acceptance of the Yamoussoukro Decision by all African States (also known as "Open Skies"). It is primarily a technical assistance project supporting a series of consultation workshops and reporting activities.
167. The objective of the West African component is to establish a Common Air Transport Market within ECOWAS region. The project cost is estimated at US\$ 5 million and is funded by the ECOWAS Commission and the AfDB.
168. Other key projects in Airport Transport include the establishment of a viable airline industry in West Africa (PIDA), Regional Aircraft Maintenance Facility, Regional Aircraft Leasing Company, Regional Air Transport Database and upgrading of regional Airport Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

169. In the telecommunications sector, the priority is the development of a reliable and modern regional Telecommunications broadband infrastructure including the INTELCOM II programme, alternative broadband infrastructure and sub marine cables as well as the establishment of a single liberalized telecommunications market.

✓ *ECOWAS Wide Area Network (ECOWAN)*

170. This is a public sector e-governance computer network connecting all ECOWAS institutions. Member State Governments and affiliated organizations. The Project comprises the construction of fibre-optic cable connections between countries (Cross-border connectivity) and within a country (Middle Mile connectivity), deployment of Last Mile (end-user) connectivity and Capacity building programme.

✓ *Development of a modern regional and integrated broadband Telecommunication/ ICT Infrastructure*

171. The project aims at providing ECOWAS Member States national networks of modern and reliable telecommunications interconnection (cities and villages) to allow at least two broadband infrastructure connections for each country and ensure access to submarine cable to all landlocked countries. In addition to this regional infrastructure, awareness will be made for the deployment of submarine cables for international connectivity. The ECOWAS Commission will conduct detailed feasibility studies and assist countries in mobilizing resources for the implementation of these facilities.

2.4.2 Energy

172. The energy programme seeks to develop and implement cheap and efficient energy services, promulgate policies that promote integration among Member States and establish an energy market within the region.

✓ *Access to Energy Services; Implementation of the ECOWAS/UEMOA White paper on Access to Energy Services*

173. This project is concerned with the implementation of the ECOWAS/UEMOA White Paper for increasing access to energy services for the rural and peri-urban

population. The overarching goal of the project is to increase by four times over a 10-year period, access to modern energy services for the rural and peri-urban populations who are deprived of economic opportunities because they do not have access to or cannot afford adequate energy services. This will enable at least 36 million households and 49,000 extra localities to access modern energy services. The project is being financed by the ECOWAS Commission and for this purpose an allocation of UA 116.129 was made in its 2013 budget.

✓ ***Implementation of the UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative***

174. The main objective of this project is the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon aimed at mobilizing action from governments, the private sector, and civil society around three objectives: ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the global rate of improvements in energy efficiency, and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, all to be reached by 2030.
175. **Update of the ECOWAS Energy Policy Document** which entails a review of the 1982 Energy Policy and preparation of a comprehensive and suitable regional energy policy in line with the ECOWAS Vision.

✓ ***Development of the West African Gas Market***

176. This project will investigate the feasibility of the extension of the West African Gas-Pipeline to Dakar as well as the possibilities to feed the inland countries without proven gas reserves. The project will consist of studies on the gas market to analyze the possibilities of extension of the West African Gas-Pipeline to Dakar through Abidjan, Monrovia, Freetown, Conakry, Bissau and Banjul as well as the possibilities of making some derivations into the inland countries: a link from Takoradi (Ghana) to Ouagadougou and Niamey, a link from Conakry to Bamako, etc. Also an analysis of specific market development issues which will have major positive impact in the growth objectives of the market will be undertaken. An important component of the project is the design of a gas pipeline with diameter between 1.220 - 1.420 mm and annual throughput capacity up to 30 billion cubic meters of natural gas.

2.5. Human Development

2.5.1 Social and Humanitarian Affairs

177. The Commission implemented the following activities during the review period:
- A Leadership Training event on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as well as a meeting on the Presentation of the preliminary report of an Organizational Self-Assessment (OSAT) held at the ECOWAS Commission in March 2013. The meeting was organised with the collaboration of FOREWARN;
 - Capacity building of Member States for the strengthening and establishment of national platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in Niger and Guinea Bissau;
 - A meeting with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) stakeholders of Member States on the margin of the meeting on UNISDR Global Platform for DRR in Geneva in May

2013. During this meeting ECOWAS presented activities relating to the ECOWAS Plan of Action on DRR and the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015);
- Organisation of a Humanitarian affairs internal coordination meeting in May 2013 with the directorates of the Commission to facilitate the implementation of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy and Plan of Action;
 - Deployment of one ECOWAS Emergency Response Team (EERT) Officer in Bamako in April 2013 to facilitate the coordination of the humanitarian assistance with the partners;
 - Sensitisation and capacity building of Member States on the ECOWAS Action Plan against Child labour in May 2013. This activity was carried out in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

2.5.2 Gender and Child

178. The following activities were executed during the period under review

- ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Women Affairs hosted a Forum on “Financing for Gender Equality” in honour of the visiting Executive Director of the UN Women .Ms Michelle Bachelet in January 2013 ;
- An MoU between the ECOWAS Commission and Women for Africa Foundation, a Spanish private non-profit Foundation was signed on 11th March 2013. The MOU is aimed at strengthening the collaboration between ECOWAS and Women for Africa Foundation to promote Gender equality and Women’s empowerment, and to establish a framework of cooperation in the areas of education, health care and empowerment of women.
- The Commission attended the first meeting of the advisory board of the Women for Africa Foundation in May 2013. The meeting was aimed at reviewing the activities of the Foundation with respect to women.
- A meeting on Gender and Trade was held in June 2013 in Abuja to consider the outcome of a study on the dynamics of gender and trade. The overall objective is to remove obstacles faced by women traders in the region.

2.5.3 Youth, Sports and Employment

179. A Meeting was organised to build the capacity of Member States on the development of National Youth Action Plan in April 2013 in Accra. This is in line with the activities of the ECOWAS Youth Employment Action Plan.

2.5.4 Drug Control and Civil Society

180. The ECOWAS Heads of State and Government extended for two years of the Regional Action Plan (2013-2014) in February 2013. The Plan is aimed at fighting drug abuse and trafficking in West Africa.
181. During the first semester of 2013, the Action Fiche was finalised along with the modalities for the implementation of the Plan between EU, UNODC and ECOWAS. EU is financing the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organised Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa.

2.5.5 Education, Culture, Science and Technology

182. Key activities executed during the period under review were focused on the following:

- Capacity building for teachers in Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) was carried out in Niger and Guinea;
- A Meeting of Experts on Girls education and other vulnerable children was organised in April 2013 in Banjul. The objective was to ensure the enrollment of the girl child in the education system in line with the objectives of the MDG and Education for All;
- In the first quarter of 2013, the Commission participated in the 23rd edition of the Pan African Film Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), which was held in February/March, 2013. The event is the largest Film Festival in Africa which showcases the works of African film-makers, ECOWAS gave a prize worth ten thousand dollars for the best film featuring integration.
- A meeting of the Copyright observatory was held in May 2013 in Banjul. The objective of the meeting is to coordinate the fight against fraud and piracy of works of art with the aim of reducing the obstacles posed to the development of cultural industries in the ECOWAS region, and to evaluate the progress made towards the harmonization of national legislations on copyright protection

2.5.6 ECOWAS Youth Development Centre

183. The following activities were undertaken during the period under review :

- 2nd ECOWAS Games evaluation meeting in February 2013 in Accra;
- Preparatory meeting for the Third ECOWAS Games in Abidjan in March 2013;
- Financial support to sports activities/ tournament in the region;
- Organisation of the Niamey Wrestling tournament in June 2013;
- Training and induction of 40 ECOWAS Volunteers in Guinea in May 2013;

2.5.7 ECOWAS Gender Centre

184. A meeting with ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Gender and Women affairs was held on the margin of the meeting of the 57th Commission on the Status of Women « Violence Against Women » in March 2013. During this meeting the Ministers were briefed on the Commission's activities relating to women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

185. Furthermore, national gender training workshops were also held in Banjul and Niger in April 2013. These workshops were aimed at mainstreaming gender in national policies and programs and strengthening the capacities of women.

2.5.8 Malaria Elimination Programme

186. Further to the signing of the framework agreement for the implementation of the Protocol Agreement signed between ECOWAS and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for malaria eradication in Africa at the 69th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, the launching ceremony for the construction of the

biolarvicides factory were organized in Côte d'Ivoire, Yamoussoukro the margins of the Summit of Heads of State on 28 February, 2013, and in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, in the River States on 11 April. The launching ceremony of the facility in Ghana will be held in June 2013.

2.6. Political affairs, regional peace and security

2.6.1 Political Affairs

187. The Commission continued to play a leading role in the regional and international efforts to stabilize the security and political situation in the region, in particular in Mali and Guinea Bissau.
188. In the period under review, the following activities were undertaken:
 - Coordinated the work of the Thematic Group on Peace and Security (April 2013);
 - Coordinated the work of the Steering Committee on the implementation of the ECPF (February 2013);
 - Coordinated the political aspects of the inter-departmental working group on the situation in Mali (2012 and ongoing in 2013).

Mali

189. With respect to Mali, the Commission facilitated the meetings of the Mediation and Security Council and the Authority of Heads of State and Government which were held in February 2013, the participation of ECOWAS at the AU summit held in January 2013 as well as the donor conference and meetings of the Support and Follow-up Group on Mali in February and March 2013 respectively. Also, the Commission facilitated ECOWAS's political input into the deployment of AFISMA and the processes at the AU and UN, and the development and implementation of the transitional roadmap.

Guinea-Bissau

190. The Commission continued with ongoing efforts of building international consensus on the transition to constitutional order in the country and also participated in the joint assessment mission by ECOWAS, CPLP, AU, UN and EU. In addition, the Commission prepared ECOWAS position papers on the political and security situation in the country and facilitated the work of the Regional Contact Group in the promotion of internal dialogue and inclusiveness on the transition.
191. Other activities planned for the remaining part of the review period include the Commission's participation in the AU mid-year summit in May, the tripartite meeting between AU-ECOWAS and UN on the re-hatting of AFISMA in May and the EU-ECOWAS Political Dialogue.

Democracy and Good Governance

192. In its bid to continually deepen political governance and respect for rule of law and human rights in the region in 2013, the following activities were carried out:

- Facilitated ECOWAS's political input into the deployment of Human Rights Observers in Mali (March 2013),
- Facilitated the Annual General meeting of the Network of National Human Right Institutions in West Africa in April to map out strategies for addressing human rights challenges identified in the region;
- In order to strengthen the capacity of Heads of Human Rights Institutions in the region, a training workshop on investigation, Monitoring, reporting and documentation of human rights violations was organized by the Commission in April 2013.

Electoral Assistance

193. During the period under review, several achievements were recorded in the Commission's efforts to support Member States in organizing presidential and/or legislative elections. In order to improve or imbibe professionalism in ECOWAS Observation Missions, the Commission organised an elections observation training course at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana in January 2013. As voter registration constitutes a critical element of the electoral process, a BRIDGE Training (Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections) on voter registration was organized for ECONEC officials in charge of Voter Registration and IT. Another important achievement during the period was the presentation of the first draft of the ECOWAS Election Observers Database. The Database is now being test-run to enable the Commission commence implementation during the course of the year.

2.6.2 Early Warning

✓ Production of Early Warning and Security Reports

194. In the fulfillment of its mandate as spelt out in the 1993 Revised Treaty and the 1999 Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security from which the Directorate draws its legitimacy, the directorate continued to produce Early Warning and Security Situation Reports, especially on the crises in Mali and Guinea Bissau.
195. The outlook of various reports produced by the Commision has improved significantly with the involvement of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Unit.

✓ The ECOWAS Geospatial Data Infrastructure

196. Mindful of the fact that up to 80% of the work of most directorates in ECOWAS have a spatial component and that the relevance of GIS cuts across many departments as evident in the request by sister directorates for GIS support to their programmes, the EWD and its network of geospatial information experts commenced efforts towards setting up an ECOWAS Geospatial Data Infrastructure (EGDI). In this regard, two meetings of the technical committee on ECOWAS Geospatial Data Infrastructure (EGDI) were held to move forward the process of setting up the EGDI.

✓ ECOWAS Conflict Systems

197. The ECOWAS Conflict Systems is a project that identifies common neighborhood and contagion of conflicts in the region. The project seeks to interrogate the four

existing systems in West Africa, namely: the Sahel-Sahara, Senegambia, Mano River and the Gulf of Guinea Systems. The Commission has commenced actions on the other three systems. A meeting of the Mano River Union (MRU) was held in December 2012 and preparations are currently ongoing to engage resource persons to commence research on the Gulf of Guinea Conflict system.

✓ ***Evaluation of the ECOWAS Early Warning System***

198. The Commission initiated a review of the Early Warning System. The objective was to conduct a holistic review of the current early warning and early response structure in order to analyze its strengths and weaknesses and identify if the system is responding adequately to the changing profile of conflicts in Member States. Part of the objective included the identification of the linkages between the ECOWAS Early Warning System and the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) of the African Union, since the former is a building block of the later. The overall goal of the review is to contribute to strengthening of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Mechanism in anticipating and responding early to Member States threatened by conflict through better coordination, management and implementation of the extant conflict prevention measures, as contained in the relevant ECOWAS legal texts.

✓ ***Consultative Roundtable with Civil Society for Addressing Security Threats in Nigeria***

199. In an effort to engage in robust deliberations and proffer practical strategies that will contribute to national and regional strategies for addressing the multi-level insecurity challenges in Nigeria, the Commission organized a roundtable meeting on the theme, 'Strengthening Civil Society Engagement to Address Current Security Threats in Nigeria' on 12-13 March, 2013. Participants were drawn from civil society organizations, the academia and peace building practitioners from the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. The Roundtable noted the critical role that Nigeria plays in the maintenance of peace and security in the region and the effects of insurgent attacks of the militant Boko Haram group in the region, particularly as manifested in their purported involvement in the on-going conflict in northern Mali. A Policy Brief on the security situation in Nigeria was issued by WANEP after the Roundtable.

✓ ***Pilot Study of National Early Warning Mechanisms Project***

200. Work on the pilot study on National Early Warning and Response Mechanisms (EWER) continued during the period. A framework document detailing concrete steps to assist the development of national early warning and response structures in all member states has been published in this regard and the Commission is working out modalities to engage Member States in strong advocacy, on the need to set up or harmonize National Early Warning and Response structures to more effectively address 'national conflicts', while at the same time feeding into the ECOWAS Regional Early Warning architecture. The proposed national EWER will engage more Member States in data gathering, analysis and reporting.

✓ ***Field Assessment Missions of Analysts***

201. As a means of pro-actively expanding networks and engaging Member States and other stakeholders in information sharing, the Commission sent analysts on field

missions to Member States in 2012. This programme has provided an opportunity to widen the EWD's 'contact basket' and deepened existing local information networks. This programme has enabled the Commission to better appreciate the challenges confronted by different actors in the field. Countries covered by the EWD analysts in 2013 include Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and The Gambia. The initiative is being expanded with joint EWD/UNOWA fact-finding missions, the first of which is to Guinea on a date to be agreed soon.

2.6.3 Peacekeeping and Regional Security

202. Following the attempted insurgence in southern Mali in January 2013, UNSCR 2085 endorsed the intervention of an Africa-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). The multinational force comprising ECOWAS member states and supported by the French Forces (SERVAL) curtailed the activities of the insurgents and secured the major northern cities of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu. AFISMA Mission and Force HQs have since been fully operational in Bamako. Five Member States- Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Togo and Burkina Faso - are fully deployed in major cities, namely Sevare, Segou, Banama and Mopti. The current status of the deployment is 85% operational capability. Logistics requirement of the AFISMA operation are enhanced through the support of the US. The deployed forces are sustained by the PAE, a US contracted logistics Support Company which provide potable water, ration and lubricants. Member States have been informed of the endorsed UNSCR for the transformation of AFISMA to a UN mission and the need to prepare their troops accordingly to meet the required standard.
203. A Fund Management Unit has been established to fast-track the maintenance of troops particularly the payment of salaries and allowances. The Unit was established in the Department of Political Affairs. Peace and Security. Financial experts from the EU, AU and ECOWAS have been assigned with the task of managing the finances of the on-going operation.
204. Also, the Security Sector Reform (SSR) programme in Guinea Bissau commenced with a team of experts from ECOWAS supported by partners.
205. ECOWAS Commission and Member States took active part in the elaboration and adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in New York, under the auspices of the United Nations. On the basis of a Common Position on the ATT initiated by the Commission and endorsed by Governmental experts in December 2010 in Cotonou, Benin, Member States expressed and defended the interest of the region throughout the negotiations in a coordinated manner. The Commission mobilized the necessary technical and financial resources for the effective participation and coordination of Member States. Further to the inconclusive first round which took place from 2 to 27 July 2012, a second round of negotiations was held from 18 to 28 March 2013 during which a draft Treaty was agreed. The Arms Trade Treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 April 2013.
206. In view of the opening to signature of the Treaty on the 3 June 2013 by the United Nations Secretary General, the President of the Commission apprised all Heads of State and Government to ensure that each Member State signs the Treaty on that

- date as a demonstration of the importance the region attaches to it. The Arms Trade Treaty is actually the first international agreement for regulating trade in conventional arms and lays the foundation for effective arms transfer control through standards which, if adhered to, would reduce the human suffering associated with this illegal trade, and the uncontrolled transfer of conventional arms and their ammunitions.
207. As a follow up to the inauguration of WAPIS Programme, the Commission participated at WAPIS Design Workshop, on 24th -26th January. 2013. On 18th -20th February, 2013, the Commission held a meeting in Abidjan and presented the first draft of the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) to independent experts.
 208. The Authority of Heads of State adopted in February 2013 the ECOWAS Counter Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action and Political Declaration.
 209. The Commission hosted an estimated 200 participants from ECOWAS Member States and the Central African region for a Ministerial Maritime Meeting on 18 and 19 March. 2013 in Cotonou, Benin, to validate 3 key documents (an MoU, Political Declaration and Code of Conduct) in line with UN Resolutions 2018 and 2039, which mandated the two regions and the Gulf of Guinea Commission to collaborate and combat illicit maritime activities in the Gulf of Guinea territory. Also, the Commission hosted the meeting of the Technical Committee for the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO) in the last week of March in Abuja. In addition, the Commission commenced, in April 2013, the process of recruiting a consultant to develop a 5 years implementation Action Plan for the Armed Forces Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Authority in 2000.

2.7. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

210. During the period under review, the programme of the Commission was focused on the following areas:
 - ✓ ***Harmonisation of ICT infrastructure and development of an ECOWAS ICT Policy for ECOWAS Institutions***
211. An ICT Technical Committee meeting was organized for Information Technology (IT) specialists from all ECOWAS institutions with the aim of defining and harmonizing technical specifications for IT equipment to be used in all ECOWAS institutions and developing the Terms of Reference for the engagement of a Consultant to develop an IT Strategic plan and help standardize the business processes to guide the delivery of IT services in all Institutions of ECOWAS.
212. Also the Centre assisted other ECOWAS Institutions and Agencies through the provision of continuous technical assistance in the design of their Websites and review of existing ones.
 - ✓ ***Development and deployment of sectoral applications to Member States***
213. Under the Technical Assistance to Member States and Institutions programme, the Commission undertook the launching of the ALISA project. In relation to this activity

a technical meeting on the survey reports of three trade corridors identified for the pilot phase was held in May 2013 and involved presentations from reputable network operators capable of providing the interconnection services.

214. A memorandum on the ALISA project to the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) has been developed and will be submitted to the mid-year session of the AFC to seek funds to launch the project beginning with the creation of the Centre of Excellence for the Automation of Trade. ALISA sensitization and advocacy drive in Member states, as well as the installation of the connectivity software in the headquarters of Member States that have been identified for the pilot phase.
215. The MoU for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for the Automation of Trade has been signed by both the Commission and UNCTAD. The stage is now set for the creation of the Centre of Excellence with assistance from UNCTAD.

✓ ***ECOWAS e-Learning Initiative***

216. The Commission supported needy West African e-Learning experts to participate in the e-Learning Africa conference held in Windhoek, Namibia in May 2013.

✓ ***Strengthening the Business Information System (ECOBIZ)***

217. Partnership with the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce was strengthened to ensure the effective commitment of the various National Chambers of Commerce to use the system in conducting business transactions. In addition, the Commission offered assistance to the Regional Agricultural Market Information System (RESIMAO) to build a web site and link it to the ECOBIZ system so as to help boost trade in agricultural products in West Africa.

✓ ***Creation of the ECOWAS Regional Computer Society (ERCS)***

218. Under the IT Partnership and Networking sub programme, the Centre embarked on constituting an ECOWAS Regional Computer Society (ERCS) whose mission is to provide an avenue for the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and promote best practices within the region.

2.8 Legal and Institutional Matter

2.8.1 Legal Affairs

219. The ECOWAS Commission through the Legal Affairs Directorate commenced the adoption process for ten (10) Draft Community Acts and Directives on different areas of Business Law which have been fully harmonized and takes into account the Anglophone and Francophone business laws, principles and procedures. These include:
 - Draft Supplementary Act on the Uniform Rules on Copyright;
 - Draft Supplementary Act on the Uniform Rules on Trademarks;
 - Draft Supplementary Act adopting the Community Regulations on the Establishment of the ECOWAS Accounting Standards Agency;
 - Draft Supplementary Act on the Uniform Rules on Patents;

- Draft Supplementary Act on Security of Tenure for Local and Foreign Persons in Relation to Business Premises in ECOWAS;
 - Draft Supplementary Act on Uniform Rules on Designs;
 - Draft Supplementary Act on Common Principles of Company Law and related Commercial Entities;
 - Draft Supplementary Act on Adopting Community Rules on the Establishment of the ECOWAS Accounting Standards Agency;
 - Draft Supplementary Act on the Uniform Rules on Carriage of Goods by Sea; and
 - Draft Supplementary Act on the Uniform Rules on the Sale of Goods.
220. These Draft Acts will be submitted to the Technical Committee on Legal and Judicial Affairs by the third quarter of the year for onward verification and adoption by the Authority through the forum of Ministers of Justice of Member States and the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.
221. Another important programme of the Commission is its routine Annual Consultative Sessions which, for 2013, will focus on the ECOWAS Peace and Security architecture. The session for 2013 will take place in the third quarter of the year and will assess the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention and Management Frameworks, the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy, the ECOWAS Disaster-Risk Reduction Policy and collaboration with major organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union in addressing Peace and Security issues.
222. The Commission will continue to backstop all ECOWAS integration programmes by advising on the legal sufficiency of these programmes. It is currently coordinating the process that seeks to enhance the powers of the Community Parliament by 2015 with the advent of its 4th legislature.
223. The Commission is also being positioned to provide guidance and advice on all the Laws, Rules and Regulations which underpin Community operations and to facilitate the Institutional reform process being undertaken on the Directives of the Authority of Heads of State and Government

2.8.2 Strategic Planning

224. The Strategic Planning Directorate (SPD) has the mandate to develop a mechanism for formulating sub- regional strategy and implementing the regional integration and development agenda; develop a detailed regional strategic plan and ensure its conversion into operational, sectoral, regional and national programmes; and develop short/medium and long term work plans and a mechanism for facilitating coordination of the Commission's strategic plans in collaboration with the Commissioners and Directors.
225. The major achievements during the period include the following;
- Provision of the basis for the Performance Measurement/Evaluation for the year ended 2012, –the Strategic Documents(ECSP, MTAP etc) ;

- Provision of the base documents for the development of the ECOWAS M & E Manual;
- Commencement of the work for the Automation of the Logical Framework for the Medium Term Action Plan (MTAP) ,
- Articulation, presentation and submission of the Short Term Capacity Development Plan proposal;
- Development of Road Map for the development of the next RSP 2016-2020 ;
- Hosting of Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee (SPCC) meeting on the Regional Medium Term Action Area (RMTAA) adoption ;
- Collaboration with capacity building institutions like West African Institute for Finance and Economic Management (WAIFEM) and the World Bank Institute on Capacity Development;
- Commencement of preparatory activities on the 2016-2020 Regional strategic Plan ;
- Commencement of consultations with Member States, ECOWAS Institutions and the West African Civil society forum for inputs into the next Regional Strategic Plan 2016-2020 ;

2.8.3 Monitoring and Evaluation System

226. The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit is mandated to ensure that all stakeholders in the regional integration process fulfil the reporting obligation with regard to their performance in the implementation of ECOWAS projects and programmes.
227. The two programmes included in the 2011 - 2015 Strategic Plan are: (i) establishment of an operational M&E system at the ECOWAS Commission, and (ii) extension of the system to other ECOWAS stakeholders. In the context of the first programme, the Commission in 2013, continued the consolidation of the reporting mechanism on programme performance of the ECOWAS Commission, while the goal of the second programme was the preparation of an integrated performance report on ECOWAS programmes. The support of the German cooperation agency GTZ was, as in the past, a crucial factor in the results obtained by the Commission in the area of M&E.
228. In relation to the first programme, the 2012 performance report has just been finalised based on the performance reports submitted by the directorates and units of the Commission. Strategic monitoring was also undertaken through quarterly follow-ups on the Commission's activities, as well as through the provisions for the effective implementation of the Commission's M&E manual. With regard to the second programme, the following activities are underway: (i) finalisation of reference data for key regional integration programmes, (ii) preparation of an ECOWAS M&E manual, and (iii) extension of result-based M&E training sessions to all ECOWAS stakeholders, in line with the recommendations of the second meeting of annual stakeholders forum on the ECOWAS M&E system (September 2012 in Lome) relating to the M&E training plan.

229. Several challenges still confront the establishment of an effective M&E system for ECOWAS programmes. They include:
- enhancing the reporting culture, particularly through the sensitisation of stakeholders on the reporting requirement for all activities undertaken in the area of regional integration,
 - issues relating to capacity building for directorates and departments of the Commission responsible for M&E and all stakeholders, with a view to providing an integrated report on ECOWAS programmes.

2.8.4 External Relations

230. As a strategy for strengthening the role of Member States in injecting dynamism into the regional integration process, the Commission provided technical support to some countries for the implementation of some sensitization activities relating to the promotion of integration.
231. Furthermore, the Commission's action focused on the consolidation of synergy between the ECOWAS Institutions and the Member States. In this context, the Seventh Edition of the Joint Retreat between the Community Institutions, the National Units and the Permanent Representatives which was held in Abuja recommended the institutionalization of open Days on regional programmes, the establishment of periodic consultation platforms between the Institutions and Permanent Representatives as well as strengthening the various mechanisms for consultation for a coordinated implementation of the regional programmes.
232. The annual coordination meeting between ECOWAS and the Development Partners which was held in April 2012 enabled the adoption of an institutional mechanism for structured coordination at three levels: a coordinated level through Thematic Groups at operational level, an intermediate level through half-yearly meetings, and a political and strategic level through the Annual Coordination meeting.
233. The implementation of this mechanism will help safeguard consistency, harmonization and an effective coordination of the interventions for deepening the integration process and the effective monitoring of regional programmes.
234. Furthermore, consultations were intensified with UEMOA and the UE to ensure an enhanced coordination of the implementation of the RIP 10th EDF as well as anticipate the RIP 11th EDF programming process.
235. Apart from these coordination activities, other initiatives were undertaken to concretize relevant partnerships for the implementation of ECOWAS Programmes. These were reflected by the signing of a Grant Agreement of over \$6 million with Sweden for the reduction of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in West Africa, a euro 50 million Grant Agreement and a euro 26 million financing agreement were signed with the EU to support AFISMA and the free movement of persons and migrations in West Africa

2.8.5 Institutional Reforms

✓ *Consultancy for the recruitment of staff into critical positions*

236. Following the approval of Council at its 68th Ordinary Session for the Commission to recruit fifty-two (52) positions, and also the need to fill eight (8) donor-funded positions for the Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU) of the Department of Infrastructure, the Commission initiated a procurement process to engage a Consulting Firm to support it in the delivery of the assignment.
237. As a result, a consulting firm has been identified and selected through an International Competitive Bidding process in accordance with the ECOWAS Procurement Procedures, to sort and capture candidates' information from 49,606 applications, filter candidates, screen applications and provide recruitment analytics for the positions. Following the successful negotiations with the selected firm and award of contract, this project commenced on 15 April, 2013 and is expected to be completed in 20 weeks.

✓ *Consultancy for institutional review of the ECOWAS Commission, its Institutions and Agencies*

238. The ECOWAS Council of Ministers, at its 66th Ordinary Session, directed that an institutional review of financial management, recruitment, discipline, internal controls, travel management, engagement of consultants and other important procedures be carried out. In furtherance of this directive, the Commission launched an International Competitive Tender for the selection of a competent consulting firm to carry-out this important assignment.
239. With technical assistance from the World Bank Office in Nigeria, a Consulting Firm has been identified. Negotiation with the firm was concluded on 10 May, 2013. Following the conclusion of the negotiation process and subsequent award of contract, it is expected that the project will commence on/or before 1st July 2013.

2.8.6 ECOWAS Community Levy

240. The coming into force of the ECOWAS Community Levy regime since July 2003 has charged the ECOWAS Commission to monitor all Member States on the status of the Implementation of the Community Levy Protocol and report annually to the Council of Ministers.
241. It is important to note that all Member States of the Community have been implementing the ECOWAS Community Levy as required by the ECOWAS Protocol. However, it is necessary to mention that the degree of implementation varies from one Member State to the other.
242. The Community Levy receipts have significantly helped in financing the annual budgets of the Community Institutions. In addition, these receipts have further assisted ECOWAS in responding rapidly to the various crisis situations within the Region and had helped kept unpleasant situations at bay before having recourse to collective approach with other International Partners.

243. During the period under review, there was also an unprecedented surge in extra budgetary expenditures paid directly from the Community Levy. These included the sum of 30 million US dollars (10 million USD grant and 20 million USD loan) for electrification of Conakry town, the sum of 2 461 873 UA equivalent to US\$3 783 702 spent for six months Military deployment in Guinea Bissau, 7 143 932 UA equivalent to US\$10 979 652 for the Community assistance to Guinea Bissau. The Security Sector reform in Guinea Bissau for US\$ 63 million is forecasted from year 2013. etc. The military deployment to Mali which took ECOWAS to put the first boots on ground involved significant disbursements from Community Levy funds and the first payment in 2012 for mediation and others activities amounted to 412 848.63 UA equivalent to US\$643,515.
244. In view of the foregoing and the increasing mandate of ECOWAS, there is now an urgent need more than ever before for resources mobilization both on the part of our Partners and Member States if the Community is to withstand the current tide of expenditures in the face of evolving crisis within the Region. On the political side, these must also be accompanied with preventive rather than curative measures if the Community is to stem the tide of these costly developments. There must also be a better cost sharing formula with the United Nations. African Union and the International Community even in the case of initial rapid response for a viable success of future Military missions within our Region.

CHAPTER III: ACTIVITIES OF OTHER COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

3.1 The ECOWAS Parliament

245. The major accomplishments of the ECOWAS Parliament during the period January to May 2013 are presented as follows: (i) An Extra Ordinary Session in February 2013. (ii) The First Ordinary Session in May 2013; (iii) The project on the Enhancement of the Powers of Parliament.

✓ Extra Ordinary Session

246. An Extra Ordinary Session of Parliament was held **from** 26 to 28 February 2013. The Session was summoned to examine the unfolding events in Mali as they affect the peace and security in the region and beyond. Accordingly, the Parliament's adhoc Committee on the political and security crisis in Mali and Guinea Bissau took the centre stage. The Committee reported on the outcome of a fact finding mission it undertook to Mali from 18th to 22nd February, 2013 and made several recommendations which were debated in plenary. At the end of the Session. Parliament adopted a Resolution relating to the political and security situation in Mali with the following proposals:
- Requested all ECOWAS Member States to co-operate in the implementation of the international arrest warrant issued by the State Prosecutor of the Republic of Mali against leaders of the terrorist groups particularly, MNLA, Ansardine, MIA, MUJAO and AQMI. and entreats the other African States as well as the entire international community to collaborate in this regard;
 - Further requested ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to initiate a case before the ECOWAS Court of Justice against the perpetrators. co-perpetrators and accomplices of acts of human rights violation committed during the occupation and. Subsequently, the coup d'état of 22nd March 2012. It further called for the transformation of the ECOWAS Standby Force into a permanent operational Intervention Force capable of acting on time in the event of a terrorist threat against the territorial integrity of Member States;
 - Parliament further requested the Heads of State and Government to enforce the prescribed sanctions on persons already identified who were found guilty of obstructing the transitional process in the Republic of Mali and to ensure that steps are taken towards involving ECOWAS in the process of preparing for elections and effectively securing elections in Mali;
 - The Resolution also requested ECOWAS to diligently take the necessary steps to effectively secure Mali's transitional institutions to enable them function fully and be free from all attempts and temptation of influence from elements of the ex-junta.
247. On the situation in Guinea Bissau, the Honourable Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament. His Excellency Senator Ike Ekweremadu, CFR, embarked on a working visit to the country to have a first hand assessment of the achievements so far made towards the attainment of peace and stability in Guinea Bissau. At the end of the visit. Parliament became convinced that the situation in the country was not as bad as it was reported and that peace and stability were almost achieved.

✓ First Ordinary Session in 2013

248. Parliament held its First Ordinary Session from 6 to 21 May 2013. The Session which is statutory, was the main working session of Parliament. Accordingly, Country Reports were presented by each delegation and subsequently debated. Also, the President of the ECOWAS Commission presented the Activity Report for 2012/2013, which gave a vivid account of the state of the Community. This presentation was very vital in the activities of the Parliament as it usually afforded Members the opportunity to understand and keep abreast with development programmes of the Community. In addition, Parliament received five referrals from the ECOWAS Commission which were considered and got the support of the Parliament. They included:
- The ECOWAS Security and its Administrative and General conditions on Social Arrangement;
 - The Supplementary Act on Social Dialogue and Forum;
 - The Regional Action Plan on Youth Employment;
 - The Regional Action Plan Against Child Labour;
 - The draft Supplementary Act relating to the Establishment and Implementation of Joint Border Posts within Member States.
249. The Parliament also used the opportunity provided by the First Ordinary Session to further deliberate on the security and political crises in Mali in fulfillment of its third Strategic Objective. Parliament's adhoc Committee on Mali conducted a hearing on the prevailing situation in that country. It received reports from the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs. Peace and Security as well as several stakeholders. Accordingly, the adhoc Committee made recommendations to plenary, which resulted in the adoption of a Resolution.
250. This Resolution, in addition to the requests made in the earlier Resolution at the Extra Ordinary Session. further requests the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government to:
- Support the mechanism put in place by the Malian Authorities, notably the National Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission. to restore national unity and harmony while respecting the integrity and secularity of the State;
 - Pursue efforts towards implementing the roadmap, especially the deployment of an exploratory mission to inquire about the material conditions of the electoral preparations. It also called for the constitution of a multidisciplinary team for the supervision of the electoral process as well as the establishment of an effective Joint ECOWAS/EU/AU/UN Observation Mission. charged with the oversight of activities at the polling stations;
 - Take up the required measures to ensure the effective liberation of the Kidal Region as a necessary step towards the preservation of the territorial integrity of Mali;
 - Encourage Partners to recognize the risks associated with botched elections and the need to take steps towards ensuring transparency, credibility and safety at future elections in Mali;

- Accelerate the deployment of UNIMASA under an African leadership that is committed to defending ECOWAS objectives. These include the restoration of the authority of the Malian State, deter separatist tendencies and eradicate terrorism.
251. The position of the Parliament on the fight against terrorism, militancy and fundamentalism, leading to insurgency, was further explained by the Honourable Speaker in his closing speech at the end of the Session. He expressed Parliament's support on steps taken by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in addressing insecurity in the North Eastern part of her territory. The Parliament welcomed the State of Emergency declared in three Nigerian States, arguing that the country can only be in a position to address the menace posed by terrorism and insurgency in the sub-region when she was able to contain such tendencies within her territory. The Parliament called for a joint summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS and the Central African Monetary and Economic Community (CEMAC). This proposal was made based on the fact that several countries of ECOWAS share border with several countries of CEMAC. A joint summit will establish a proper framework on joint policing, sharing of intelligence and undertaking joint military action against terrorists, who most often flee from one Member State of either Community to perpetrate their actions.

✓ *Project on the Enhancement of the Powers of Parliament*

252. This project is situated within the second Strategic Objective of Parliament and aims at fostering adequate and democratic representation of the people in the ECOWAS integration process. It was common practice globally, the Regional Parliaments were granted powers to legislate in certain pre-determined areas relating to the aims of the Community. Within Africa for instance, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) had attained that status several years ago. The Pan African Parliament (PAP) was already on its way towards moving from an advisory and a consultative body, to a full fledged legislature. The ECOWAS Parliament therefore established an adhoc Committee, which undertook a study and produced a draft Supplementary Act.
253. During the period under review, a meeting of Multidisciplinary Experts from Member States was summoned by the President of the ECOWAS Commission. The meeting was aimed at considering the proposals made in the draft Supplementary Act presented by the Parliament with the aim of making necessary recommendations for possible adoption. The meeting was held in Accra, Ghana, from 22nd to 26th April 2013. Apart from the Experts, there was representation from the ECOWAS Commission, the ECOWAS Parliament, the Community Court of Justice and GIABA.
254. The salient points contained in the draft Supplementary Act on the Enhancement of the Powers of the ECOWAS Parliament included:

- Elections to the Parliament by Electoral College- This was contained in article 14 of the draft Act and proposed that National Assemblies of Member States were to elect ordinary citizens to the Parliament;
- Parliament to legislate by co-decision with the Council of Ministers- This proposal was contained in article 7. It stated that either Parliament or Council may initiate legislative acts, which must be adopted by both Institutions to become applicable. This process was to be used for Community Budget as well;
- Parliament Oversight on Community Sector Policies and confirms the appointment of Statutory Appointees- This was contained in article 7 of the draft Act. It proposed that the Parliament should confirm the appointment of Statutory Appointees prior to their assumption of office;
- The integration of the Parliament into the Community Mechanism on Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security- This was contained in article 47, where the Act proposed that Members of Parliament can complement the early warning channels and participate in conflict resolution;
- Office of the Ombudsman- This was contained in article 48 of the draft Act. The establishment of the office of an Ombudsman was an innovative concept meant to foster closer ties with ordinary citizens. It was meant to provide an avenue through which citizens can access redress and justice without going to court;
- The strengthening of interactions between ECOWAS Parliament and National Parliaments- This was contained in articles 11, 20(2), 35 and 46 of the draft Act. The idea was that National Parliaments were the greatest resource of the ECOWAS Parliament.

255. Presentations were made on the impact of the draft Act proposed by Parliament in various areas. They range from the political and legal implication, to impact on the existing operational arrangements of the Community Institutions, as well as the Financial Implication. Consequently a roadmap was adopted with the following timeframes:

- Multidisciplinary Experts Session on the draft Supplementary Act to consider the political, legal and financial implications of the proposal- 22nd to 26th April 2013;
- Joint Steering Committee (Legal Advisers of all ECOWAS Institutions) to fine tune the draft Act- May 2013;
- Meeting of Financial and Human Resource Team to assess the Human Resources and Financial implications of the draft Act- May 2013;
- Presentation of the draft Revised Act to the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC)- June 2013;
- Submit approved draft Act to the Statutory Legal Committee- 4th quarter 2013;
- Submit draft Act approved by the Statutory Legal Committee back to AFC if there are additional financial implications proposed by the Legal Committee- 4th quarter 2013;
- Submit draft Act to Council for onward transmission to the Authority- 4th quarter 2013.

256. It is worth noting that during the period under review, the Honourable Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament. His Excellency Senator Ike Ekweremadu, CFR, paid a visit to the European Parliament. This visit was part of the Parliament's fourth Strategic Objective. The visit afforded the Honourable Speaker the opportunity to interact with the President of the European Parliament on issues of mutual interest to the two regional blocs, especially the proposed Partnership Agreement on trade between Europe and West Africa. The Honourable Speaker used the occasion to advocate for a visa free regime between Europe and West Africa. The President of the European Parliament will be attending the opening ceremony of the 2013 Second Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament later in September.
257. Furthermore, Parliament attended the 128th Assembly and related meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) that were held in Quito, Ecuador, from 22nd to 27th March 2013. Participation in these meetings afforded Parliament an opportunity to be on the global stage of parliamentary activities.

3.2 West African Health Organisation (WAHO)

258. WAHO's activities undertaken over the period January -May 2013, constitute part of its 2009 – 2013 Strategic Plan, whose strategic orientations are as follows: (i) Support to quality improvement in the health systems of the ECOWAS region. (ii) Support to improvement of health coverage in the ECOWAS region, (iii) Support to the development of sustainable health financing, (iv) Institutional Development of WAHO.

3.2.1 The Main Objectives for 2013

259. These objectives remain the same as those of the 2009-2013 Strategic Plan and are restated as follows:
- Promote coordination and harmonization of health policies in ECOWAS Member States;
 - Strengthen the development of health information management for disease prevention and control in ECOWAS Member States;
 - Promote health research in the ECOWAS region;
 - Support the training of health professionals by implementing the harmonized curricula and accreditation criteria in order to facilitate the movement of health human resources in the ECOWAS region;
 - Facilitate access to essential medicines, vaccines and other quality health products and reduce the use of substandard medicines in Member States;
 - Support the institutionalization of Traditional Medicine in the health systems in the region;
 - Promote new funding mechanisms, prioritize resource mobilization activities which can have immediate impact on people's health and advocate an increased budget allocation to health;
 - Develop a New Strategic Plan that will guide the interventions of the Organisation as of 2014;
 - Prioritize cross-border and multi-country activities (mobile laboratory, corridor);

- Prioritize strategic partnerships;
- Strengthen the coordination of WAHO's activities in Member countries.

3.2.2 Summary Results of WAHO's Achievements

3.2.2.1 Coordination and Harmonization of Policies

260. The main results can be broken down as follows :

- The harmonized Codes of Ethics of medical doctors, environmental health professionals, health information professionals. and Medical Biology and Imaging professionals are available;
- The Codes of Practice of professionals of environmental health. Biology and Medical Imaging and health information are available;
- The harmonized Curricula of Undergraduate Medical training and Dental Surgery training in the ECOWAS region are available;
- The referential of harmonized accreditation criteria for basic and specialist training of nurses and midwives is available;
- The harmonized Curricula for the training of Pharmacy Technicians, health information and medical imaging professionals are available.

261. **Malaria Control:** The Steering Committee for the development of the Regional Strategic Plan for Malaria Control was established, its Terms of Reference were developed and the Team of Consultant is in place.

262. **Non-Communicable Diseases:** Three countries (Liberia, Burkina Faso, and Ghana) respectively have a Non-Communicable Disease control plan, data from the STEP survey and the findings of a food security survey which was conducted with the financial support of WAHO.

263. **Mother and Child Health:**

- Financing the purchase of contraceptives for the 5 pilot countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, and Niger) by the regional programme "Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention in the ECOWAS Region" for an amount of FCFA 1 731 726 480 ;
- Financing of 59 capacity building activities for a total of FCFA 787 148.400 ;
- A training of trainers in EmONC for staff of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with technical support from Jhpiego;
- Fourteen (14) countries and Mauritania took part in the second review of national MNCH programmes and presented progress reports that highlighted their challenges. Similarly, national Action Plans for accelerating the MDGs were developed by countries;
- Documentation reviews of High impact intervention conducted in Benin were shared

264. HIV & AIDS Control:

- The Guide of the Operating Procedures of the ARVs Buffer stock was developed;
- The choice of the country to host the ARV Buffer Stock was approved by the Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS ;
- The collaborative framework of support to the local pharmaceutical industry was signed by ECOWAS Member States.

3.2.2.2 Strengthening of Health Information

265. Polycom HDX 6000 video conferencing equipment was installed, configured and became operational in Benin, Cape Verde and Burkina Faso;
266. Financial support was given to the Unit supporting the development of Telehealth in Niger through partial equipping of three district hospitals in telemedicine kits.

267. Epidemic Control:

- The Guide for WAHO's intervention in countries in the situation of epidemics is developed;
- Financial support was granted to two Member States (Nigeria and Ghana) respectively to adapt the revised IDSR guide and respond to cholera outbreak;
- A strategy document for WAHO's support to Member States in the event of epidemic outbreak was developed.

3.2.2.3 Promotion of Health Research

268. Two Member countries (Togo and Niger) were given financial support to develop a policy document and a health research development plan and to adopt and implement a Strategic Plan for the development of health research.

3.2.2.4. Development of Human Resources for Health

269. Given the importance of Human Resources for Health, WAHO has provided technical and financial support to countries to build the capacities of health professionals in various fields, with the main results as follows:
- Eighteen (18) Pediatricians were trained in COCHRANE HINARI ;
 - Financial support was provided to the West African College of Nursing (WACN) and the West African College of Pharmacists (WACPCP) to prepare and hold statutory meetings;
 - Four (4) professionals benefited from the Professional and Language Exchange Programme (PEPL) to improve their linguistic and professional skills;
 - Fifteen (15) Young Health Professionals in the ECOWAS region are being trained to improve their skills (YPIP).

3.2.2.5. Medicines and Vaccines

270. The ECOWAS Medical Products Anti-Counterfeit Committee (EMACCOM) was established ;
271. Technicians from the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authorities of the 15 ECOWAS countries were trained in the use of WAHO's Guide.

3.2.2.6 Traditional Medicine

272. Country experiences in terms of "best practices" in Traditional Medicine (TM) are shared ;
273. Sharing of knowledge and practices in TM products among stakeholders encouraged;
274. Collaboration between Conventional Medicine Practitioners (CMP) and Traditional Medicine Practitioners (TMP) promoted ;
275. Continuing education and training in Traditional Medicine encouraged.

3.2.2.7 Actions Conducted in the Area of Partnership

276. Two (2) MoUs were signed with ECSA and MSI.
277. Two additional contracts were signed with IDRC for financing the Sierra Leone Northern Polytechnic research project valued at CAN \$ 41.000 and the capacity building of research teams at a total cost of CAN \$ 320.000 .

3.2.2.8. Monitoring and Evaluation

278. The 2012 annual programme implementation report was drafted.
279. The creation and update of databases continue as well as preparations for the consolidation of the data generated from 2009 to 2013 with a view to providing summary information for the final evaluation of the second Strategic Plan of WAHO.

3.2.3 Challenges

280. In the area of health, in addition to continuing epidemic outbreaks, the implementation by WAHO of planned activities, has been hampered by the following factors:
 - Delayed disbursement of funds by the ECOWAS Commission;
 - Difficulties in mobilizing additional resources from other partners;
 - Weak coordination of WAHO's activities in Member countries;
 - Half-hearted collaboration with partners, in particular with regard to improving the synergy of actions;
 - Implementation of resolutions, decisions and recommendations which emanate from the various deliberative bodies

3.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING IN WEST AFRICA (GIABA)

281. This report summarises the major activities carried out by the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) from January to May, 2013.

Follow Up Actions within the Framework of Mutual Evaluations

282. The Director General undertook a high level mission to Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 22 to 23 January, 2013 where he had meetings with the country's President, H.E. Ernest Koroma, and the GIABA the Ministers of Finance, Justice and Interior as well as the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone. The meetings focussed on amendment of the AML/CFT Act 2012 based on the issues raised in the Secretariat Analysis of the follow up report of Sierra Leone, ratification of the UNCAC, appointment of GIABA National Correspondent in Sierra Leone, operations of the Sierra Leone FIU and need for stronger political support to AML/CFT.
283. An advocacy mission was also undertaken to Cotonou, Benin Republic by the Director General on 12 February 2013. The Director General met with the Minister of Economy and Finance to seek his intervention for an increase in budgetary allocation and the provision of adequate administrative support to the FIU. The Minister's intervention was also sought for the official approval of Benin's national AML/CFT Strategy, and the establishment and proper functioning of the AML/CFT Inter-Ministerial Committee.
284. Following the decision of the 18th GIABA Plenary meeting directing the Secretariat to undertake advocacy mission to Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau, the Director General also led a high level mission to Guinea Bissau from 27-31 March 2013 to garner greater political commitment to AML/CFT issues leading to the implementation of acceptable AML/CFT measures in Guinea Bissau.

19TH TECHNICAL COMMISSION / PLENARY

285. The 19th Technical Commission/Plenary Meeting of GIABA was held in Accra, Ghana, from 6-10 May, 2013. The meeting was attended by GIABA Member States and observers, the FATF Secretariat, some FATF Member States and representatives of the following development partner countries and organisations: United Kingdom, France, United States of America, European Commission, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Counter-terrorism Committee and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
286. The Plenary was preceded by preliminary meetings which included Expert Review Group (ERG) on Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs) of Sao Tome and Principe, Working Group on Mutual Evaluations and Implementation (WGMEI) meeting on review and discussion of Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs) Follow-Up Report (FURs) of member States and Regional FIU Forum.
287. The Plenary considered and adopted the following reports:

- Consideration of GIABA 2012 Monitoring and Evaluation Report which highlighted the achievements of GIABA in program and project implementation in 2012;
- Consideration of the Draft Typologies Report on Terrorism and Terrorist Financing in West Africa which consists of the report of the Co-chairs of TYWG and covered among others, background to the conduct of the typologies study on terrorism and terrorist financing in West Africa the draft report of the study;
- Presentation of Summary of Draft Research Reports;
- Round Table with Development Partners;
- Report of the Co-Chairs of WGMEI on Follow-Up Reports

12TH GIABA MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

288. The 12th GIABA Ministerial Committee Meeting (GMC) took place in Accra, Ghana, on 11th May 2013 and adopted the report and recommendations of the 19th Technical Commission/Plenary Meeting.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

✓ Deployment of AML/CFT Analytical Software to Member States FIUs

289. In line with its mandate to provide technical assistance to Member States, GIABA continues to provide necessary capacity building support and assistance to its members, particularly in the area of establishing and/or strengthening the FIUs.
290. Following the successful deployment of the AML/CFT analytical software in The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and Ghana, GIABA has commenced the deployment of this software in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger and Togo.

✓ Support for Ghana to review and adopt executive guidelines for the implementation of UNSCRs 1718, 1373, 1267 and 1737 and successor resolutions

291. The Secretariat undertook a mission to the Republic of Ghana on 28 and 29 January 2013 at the request of the Ghanaian authorities to provide assistance for the review of a draft Executive Instrument in respect of Special Recommendation III of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 40+9 Recommendations.
292. The new draft is intended to consolidate the provisions in Executive Instruments (E. I.s) 8 and 19 to address the outstanding issues raised by the RRG and repeal the E.I.s.

✓ SCUML/GIABA AML/CFT Training for DNFBPs in Nigeria

293. In order to increase awareness among Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professionals (DNFBPs) on the negative consequences of money laundering and terrorist financing, GIABA, in collaboration with the Special Control Unit on Money Laundering (SCUML), organised a national programme in Nigeria on 11 February 2013 to acquaint all DNFBPs in Nigeria with their roles in AML/CFT.

294. The discussions focused on how to establish channels for information sharing and identification of possible areas of collaboration between regulators and operators to enhance effective implementation of AML/CFT regime in Nigeria.

✓ ***GIABA Open House***

295. In continuing efforts to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing in West Africa, the Secretariat organised Open House Sessions for the Youth on 28 March 2013 in Bissau, Guinea Bissau. The event aimed at mobilising the Youth from tertiary institutions, civil society and the media, in the fight against the laundering of the proceeds of crime and the financing of terrorism.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

✓ ***ICRG/RRG meeting and on-site visit to Ghana***

296. The RRG meeting and on-site visit to Ghana took place from 14-18 January 2013 to conduct face to face meetings with countries under the FATF ICRG review. All countries in the GIABA, ESAAMLG, MENAFATF regions, with the exception of Sao Tome and Principe and Syria, attended the face to face meetings. The RRG noted Ghana's progress with the implementation of five out of the six action plan items.

✓ ***Commonwealth National Workshop for Prosecutors and Investigators on Money Laundering, Terrorism and its Financing and Recovery of Proceeds of Crime***

297. The Secretariat participated in the Commonwealth national workshop for prosecutors and investigators on money laundering, terrorism and its financing and recovery of proceeds of crime organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Justice of Nigeria from 15-18 January 2013.
298. The workshop was intended to enhance the capacity of investigators and prosecutors to effectively investigate and prosecute terrorism related cases, as well as money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

✓ ***Participation in Egmont Group meeting with FRSBs***

299. The Egmont Working Group and Committee Meetings were hosted by the Belgium Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) from January 20 – 25, 2013 in Ostend, Belgium. The discussions at the meetings of the five working groups (Legal, IT, Operational, Outreach and Training) focused on the Role of the FIU in the Revised FATF Standards and how to mainstream the individual annual business plans into the overall strategic plan of the Egmont Group.
300. The meetings considered applications from candidate FIUs for membership of the Egmont Group. The applications from three GIABA FIUs (Ghana, Togo and Burkina Faso) were considered. Final decision is likely to be made during the Egmont Plenary in July 2013.
301. Also, GIABA participated in the workshop/meeting of the UN Panel of Experts on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006),

1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013) on North Korea which was held from 16 to 21 March, 2013 in Johannesburg. South Africa.

302. Among others, the meeting considered the following:

- The sanctions regime for the prevention of the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and the work of the Panel of Experts;
- Examine the types of sanction measures required by countries, including sanctions on goods, arms sale, targeted individual assets, as well as financial vigilance;
- Expected roles of member States in the implementation of these Resolutions\Challenges faced by African countries in reporting as required by the resolutions.

✓ ***Joint FSRB/Egmont Group Meeting***

303. The joint FSRB/Egmont Group Meeting was held in Doha, Qatar on 16-17 April 2013. The heads of all the 3 African FSRBs, namely, ESAAMLG, GIABA and MENAFATF; and the Head of CFATF attended in person while FATF, APG, EAG were represented. The Chair of the Egmont Group, Regional Representatives. The Executive Secretary and staff also attended. The meeting was hosted by the Qatar FIU. Among other decisions, the meeting agreed on the following:

- A collaborative, coordinated regional approach of Egmont Secretariat, Egmont Regional Representatives & FSRB Secretariats is beneficial.
- Collaboration and cooperation is complimented by sharing of draft agendas, business plans. GNCG update documents, other documents on relevant secure websites (FSRB. Egmont. ESW) teleconferences (before/after meetings) between Egmont and FSRB Secretariats and Regional Representatives.
- To improve collaboration and coordination, it would likely require realignment of Egmont Regional Representatives – e.g. FSRBs (1 rep each), APG (2 reps). EU + (2 reps);
- Mandate of Egmont Regional Representatives to be well-defined/published;
- Outreach for FIUs who are not yet Egmont member a priority – to include African FSRBs’ – desire for Regional Representatives to link with OWG and sponsors (and for this to be included in mandate for Regional Representatives);
- Strong preference for Egmont to attend all FSRB meetings and FSRBs to attend Egmont meetings and to designate points of contact in both Secretariats;
- HoFIU/FIU Forums within FSRBs to be encouraged. liaison with Regional Representatives, possible template agenda/approach for FIU Forums – open sessions encouraged, limited closed sessions for operational discussions. Item for discussion at FSRB/Regional Representatives meeting, Egmont Plenary July 2013.

- ✓ ***Meeting of Experts on the Enhancement of the Powers of the ECOWAS Parliament***
- 304. GIABA participated in the meeting of experts on the enhancement of the powers of the ECOWAS Parliament which took place in Accra, Ghana, from 22 to 26 April 2013. The meeting considered the Draft Supplementary Act which seeks to enhance the powers of the ECOWAS Parliament to better deepen the regional integration process.
- 305. A major outcome of the meeting was the development and adoption of a road map allowing for contributions from ECOWAS Institutions and Experts drawn from member States to consider and finalize the draft act.
- ✓ ***Participation in FATF Activities***
- 306. GIABA continued to participate in the FATF Plenary and other activities. During the period under review. GIABA participated in the FATF/ICRG Regional Review Group (RRG) for Africa and the Middle East meetings to discuss reports from jurisdictions that were targeted for prima facie review, as well as progress reports from countries that were under the ICRG review process. GIABA also participated in the intercessional working group meeting on the Methodology for assessing countries based on the revised FATF standards.

TYPOLOGIES

- 307. In collaboration with the FATF, GIABA organized the Annual Typologies Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from November 26-28, 2012. Five (projects) were reviewed at the meeting and the report has since been disseminated through the appropriate channels. The joint typologies project between GIABA and the FATF on Terrorism Financing in West Africa is at advance stage, and the draft report is well on schedule for consideration at this plenary and the FATF plenary in June, 2013

3.4 ECOWAS BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (EBID)

- 308. The activities conducted by the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) during the period between 1st January and 31st December 2013 were focused on consolidating its interventions for the member states, improving the governance of the institution and intensifying the strategies for the mobilization of resources to finance its operations. The Bank's achievements during that period revolved around (i) the deliberative activities of the decision-making organs, (ii) the administrative activities, (iii) progress in finance operations, (iv) resource mobilization activities, and (v) the Bank's provisional accounts at 31 March 2013.

3.4.1 Activities of the decision-making bodies

✓ ***Board of Governors***

- 309. During the first semester of 2013, the Board of Governors held its 40th session on 27 March, 2013 in Lome, Togo.
- 310. At the meeting, the Board approved the financing of three (3) projects, including one from the private sector, namely:

- partial funding of the project for the extension and construction of University campuses for 'All Nation University' at Koforidua in the Republic of Ghana;
- partial funding of the project for the acquisition and deployment of RASCOM land network equipments in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire; and
- CEETs' partial financing of the capacity building project and electrical energy distribution in the major towns within Togo.

3.4.2 *Activities relating to administration and modernization of the Bank*

✓ *Human resource Management*

311. As at 31st May 2013 the total staff of the Bank stood at 143 which included 3 top management personnel, 96 permanent staff and 44 contract staff.
312. In terms of movements, the principal changes recorded during the period under review focus on strengthening the Bank's professional staff position with the recruitment of eight new professionals and one contract staff. The table below indicates the Bank's staff position:

Table 3: Staff situation in EBID as at 31 May, 2013

Category	Effective			
	31/12/2011	Recruited	Disengaged	30/11/2012
President	1	0	0	1
Vice-President	2	0	0	2
Management Personnel	3	0	0	3
Professional Staff (P and D)	40	8	0	48
Support staff (G and M)	51	0	3	48
Total Permanent	91	8	3	96
Contract staff	45	1	2	44
Total	139	9	5	143

313. Furthermore, a Professional staff was appointed to the post of Director of the Department of Technology, Information. Organization and Methods, and three support staff redeployed.
314. Regarding the capacity building aspect, four (4) members of staff underwent training on:
- Active Management fundamentals/passive –ALM;
 - Management based on development results (GARD) and monitoring-evaluation of development policies, programmes and projects.

✓ *Status of implementation of rehabilitation works in the bank's building*

315. In order to undertake rehabilitation works on the main building of the Bank's headquarters, the Board of Directors, at their session held on 21st December 2010, approved a budget in the sum of UA 4.7 million, being equivalent to FCFA 3.7 billion. Works relating to the rehabilitation of the headquarters building were divided into four (4) phases namely:

- phase1: detailed examination and preparation of the works to be implemented and preparation of the tenders dossier;
 - phase2: publication of the call for tenders, receipt of tender documents. processing of tenders and award of contracts;
 - phase3: implementation of works. project management and control operations;
 - phase 4: acceptance of works including the submission of the documentation required for the use and technical management of the building.
316. To date, the first two stages have been completed, the contracts have been signed, and the works have started.
- ***Modernization of the Information System***
317. During the period under review, the programme for the modernization of the Bank's information system continued. especially:
- the draft elaboration of the 2013 Master Plan financed by the French Development Cooperation (AFD);
 - elaboration of the plan for the implementation of the Master Plan;
 - drafting of the information security charter and the charter of ethics in the use of the Bank's information resources.
318. Furthermore, it is worth pointing out that a Director of Department has been appointed to coordinate and facilitate the establishment and audit of the security management at EBID aimed at beginning to prepare the Bank to bring up to standard the certification of its information system.
- ***Governance and Control***
319. Under the auspices of the Human Resources. Audit. Risk and Credit Committees of the Board of Directors, several activities were undertaken within the framework of enhancing governance and control of the Bank's activities, notably audit missions..
320. Regarding Risk analysis, the main actions related to the continued implementation of the AFD subsidy for the capacity building of the Bank on risk management, updating of the anti money laundering procedures and anti-terrorism and the elaboration of a plan for updating the environmental and social environment. Among other things, the Bank prepared the report on the quality of its portfolio at 31 December 2012 and gave reasoned advice on the projects that will be submitted to the next Board of Governors meeting.
- 3.4.3 Operational Activities**
321. The operational activities undertaken by the Bank during the period under review involved project appraisal, loan approvals, signing of loan agreements and project supervision.

✓ **Project appraisal**

322. During the period considered, three (14) projects were appraised, including four (4) from the public sector and ten (10) from the private sector' all in a total of UA 86.9 million.

✓ **Loan Approvals**

323. Between 1st January and 31st March. 2013, the Board of Directors approved eighteen (3 loan projects in the amount of UA 26 152135 (US\$ 39.8 million).

✓ **Project Supervision**

324. In order to reduce project implementation risks, the Bank strengthened the supervision of active projects in its portfolio. During the period under review, a total of seventeen (17) projects were supervised including sixteen (16) in the private sector.

✓ **Loan Agreements Signed**

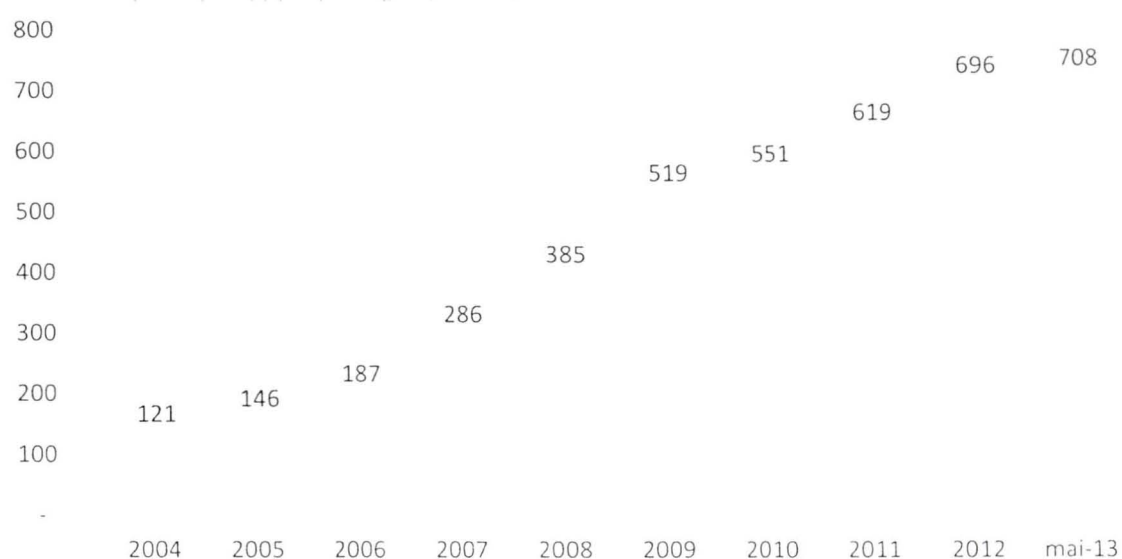
325. From 1st January to 31st December. 2013. three (3) loan agreements were signed between the Bank and Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana in the amount of UA15.34 million or US\$ 23.34 million, of which 25.24% and 58.4% between the private and public sectors respectively.

✓ **Commitments at 31st May. 2013**

- **Status of commitments**

326. As at late May 2013, the total net commitments of the Bank in favour of the Member States of the Community amounted to UA 708 136 154 i.e. 1078 billion US dollars, in respect of 124 active projects.

Figure 6: Net cumulative commitments of EBID between 2004 and Mai 2013 (in UA million)



327. In relation to December 2012 where the level of commitments was 696 4665 093, there was a rise of 1.7% as at 31/03/2013
328. In terms of number of active projects, it is worth noting the commencement of two projects, especially debenture loans of SOFITEL and CELTEL in Burkina Faso. This leaves unchanged the number of active projects between December 2012 and May 2013.

- *Breakdown of Commitments*

by sector of activity

329. EBID continued to channel its interventions into the financing of infrastructure in all sectors; electricity interconnectivity works, the construction of inter-State roads, development of ports or the financing of port equipment, opening up of rural areas and development of digital coverage areas, These activities absorbed about 65.8% of the Bank's net cumulative commits indicated in the graph below.

Figure 7: Breakdown of net cumulative commitments of EBID by area of intervention as at 31/03/2013 (%)

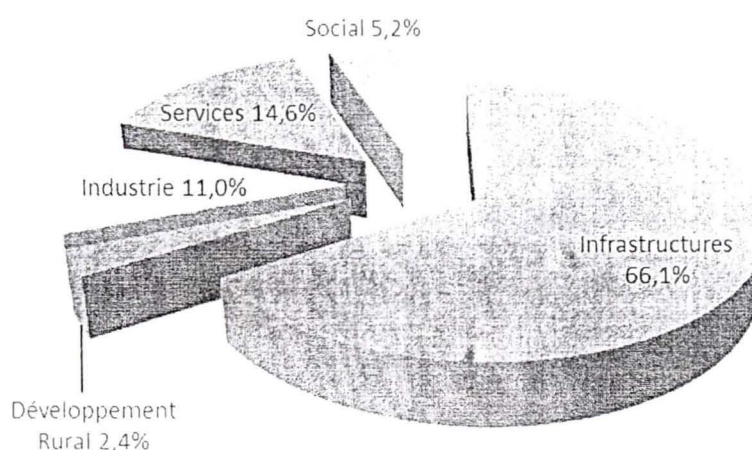


Table 4: Net cumulative commitments of EBID between 2011 and 2012 (in UA)

Type	Sectors	December 2012		May 2013		Variation (%)	
		Num.	Amount	Num.	Amount	Num.	Amount
Loan	Infrastructure	65	443 608 435	67	455 076 314	10.2%	10.2%
	Rural Development	7	21 488 624	7	21 488 624	16.7%	45.7%
	Industry	12	63 142 055	12	63 142 055	50.0%	24.9%
	Services	16	72 854 798	16	76 727 240	14.3%	28.7%
	Social	5	37 090 117	5	37 090 117	25.0%	20.8%
	Total Loans	105	638 184 029	107	653 524 350	15.4%	15.0%
Equity Participation	Services	13	26 665 112	13	26 864 466	30.0%	13.5%
	Total Participation	13	26 665 112	13	26 864 466	30.0%	13.5%
Guarantees	Infrastructures	3	14 573 337	2	13 096 109	0.0%	-29.5%
	Industry	3	17 043 615	2	14 651 229	0.0%	-13.2%
	Services	-	-	-	-	-100.0%	-100.0%
	Total Guarantees	6	31 616 952	4	27 747 338	-14.3%	-21.7%
COMMITMENTS		124	696 466 093	124	708 136 154	14.8%	12.5%

by sector:

330. As at 31st May, 2013, EBID granted loans in the amount of UA 444 202 235 for the financing of 67 public sector projects representing 62.73% of the Bank's net cumulative commitments.
331. With regard to assistance for the development and promotion of the private sector the Bank made available the amount of UA 263 933 919 (representing 37.27% of the net cumulative commitments) for the financing of 58 projects.
332. Compared to their levels at 31 December 2012, the cumulative net lending of the Bank to the public sector increased by 2.65% while those for the private sector remained virtually stable.

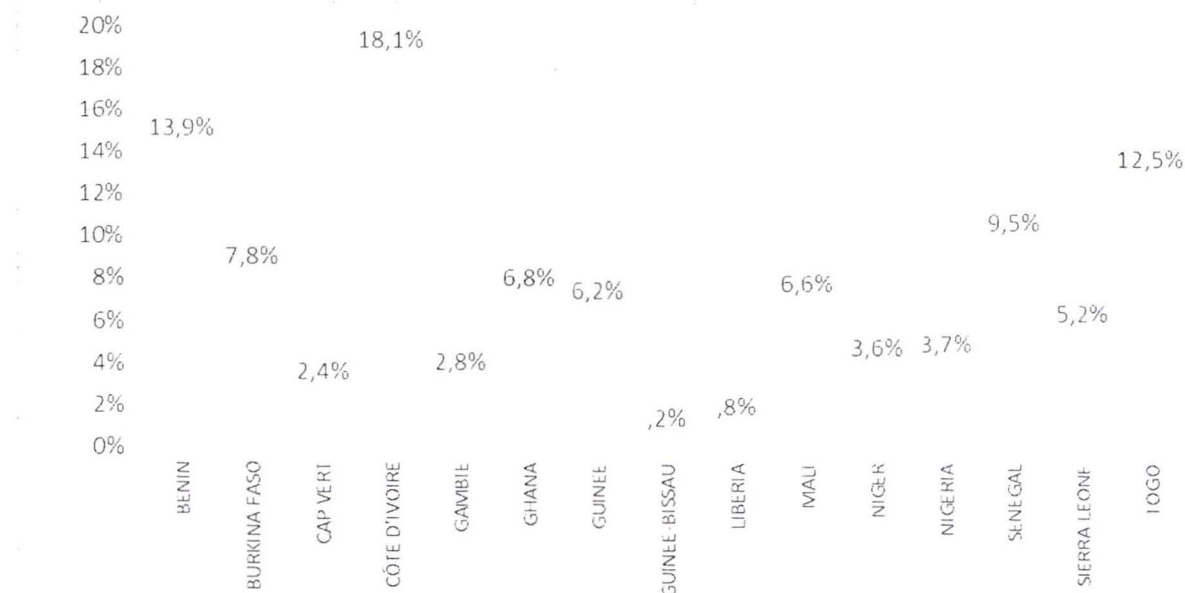
Table 5: Breakdown of the net cumulative commitments of EBID by sector as at 31/05/2013

Sector	Nbr	Amount UA	Amount USD	% commitment
Public sector	67	444 202 235	675 947 428	62.73%
Private sector	57	263 933 919	401 631 147	37.27%
Total	124	708 136 154	1 077 578 575	100%

by country:

333. Even though all Member States of the Community benefited from the assistance of EBID, the breakdown of net cumulative commitment as presented in the table and graph below shows a concentration of the Bank's assistance on Côte d'Ivoire (18.66%), Benin (13.72%), Togo (12.35%) and Senegal (9.32%)

Figure 8: Breakdown of net cumulative commitment by country as at 31st may. 2013(in %)



334. As indicated in the table below, the interventions of EBID in 2012 were mainly in favour of Ghana (+8.0%), Benin (+6.0%). Cote d'Ivoire (+4.0%).

Table 6 : Breakdown of net cumulative commitments by country between December 2012 and May 2013 (in UA)

Country	Commitment as at the end of Dec.2012	Commitment as at the end of May 2013	Variance Dec. 2012/May 2013	% Commitment
	UA	UA		
BENIN	91 463 711	97 187 948	6%	13.7%
BURKINA FASO	57 459 301	54 282 454	-6%	7.7%
CABO VERDE	16 582 141	16 582 141	0%	2.3%
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	126 500 393	132 123 639	4%	18.7%
GAMBIA	19 683 339	19 683 339	0%	2.8%
GHANA	47 562 883	51 435 325	8%	7.3%
GUINEA	43 429 837	43 429 837	0%	6.1%
GUINEA-BISSAU	1 421 512	1 421 512	0%	0.2%
LIBERIA	5 243 425	5 243 425	0%	0.7%
MALI	45 887 278	45 887 278	0%	6.5%
NIGER	25 007 151	25 007 151	0%	3.5%
NIGERIA	26 006 532	26 006 532	0%	3.7%
SENEGAL	66 018 101	66 018 101	0%	9.3%
SIERRA LEONE	36 355 175	36 355 175	0%	5.1%
TOGO	87 845 314	87 472 297	0%	12.4%
TOTAL	696 466 093	708 136 154	1.7%	100.0%

✓ *Disbursements as at 31st December. 2012*

335. From 1st January to 31st May, 2013, disbursements amounted to UA5 039 930 bringing the cumulative total to UA 4 840 576 against UA 353 620 136 for all active projects
336. The cumulated disbursements thus recorded a 1.4% rise in relation to 31 December 2012 when it was pegged at UA 348 580 206
337. In relation to the Bank's net commitments, the cumulation represents 49.94% at 31 May 2013.
338. Following the repayments effected, the loans outstanding amounted to UA 262 643 166 (US\$ 403 089 650) as at 31st May. 2013, The situation of outstanding loans by country is as follows

Table 7: Breakdown of Loans Outstanding by Country as at 31st May, 2013 (in UA)

Country	Nbr	Commitment	Disbursement	Undisbursed	Princ. Due	Reimb. Princ.	Amount outstanding	
							Montant	Part (%)
BENIN	16	96 870 657	49 052 568	47 818 089	11 892 228	9 934 326	39 118 242	14.9%
BURKINA FASO	10	53 337 509	31 525 889	21 811 620	7 187 700	4 771 224	26 754 665	10.2%
CABO VERDE	4	16 582 141	9 759 378	6 822 763	700 076	639 579	9 119 799	3.5%
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	13	103 705 718	27 797 319	75 908 399	10 913 167	10 551 623	17 245 696	6.6%
The GAMBIA	3	19 683 339	3 699 613	15 983 726	522 163	523 844	3 177 450	1.2%
GHANA	7	51 435 325	15 755 183	35 680 142	1 872 415	1 728 405	14 026 778	5.3%
GUINEA	7	43 429 837	32 243 628	11 186 209	7 606 488	5 948 834	26 294 794	10.0%
GUINEA BISSAU	4	1 421 512	1 421 512	-	1 020 584	136 419	1 285 093	0.5%
LIBERIA	2	3 924 410	1 964 766	1 959 644	-	-	1 964 766	0.7%
MALI	9	45 887 278	31 892 821	13 994 457	4 453 789	4 074 308	27 818 513	10.6%
NIGER	6	25 007 151	4 892 179	20 114 972	84 517	85 391	4 806 788	1.8%
NIGERIA	3	26 006 532	6 525 300	19 481 232	2 593 904	2 627 271	3 898 029	1.5%
SENEGAL	8	66 018 101	48 922 325	17 095 776	15 777 068	14 049 890	34 872 435	13.3%
SIERRA LEONE	3	36 355 175	22 432 150	13 923 025	239 763	238 763	22 193 387	8.5%
TOGO	12	63 859 665	38 871 039	24 988 626	9 417 735	8 804 308	30 066 731	11.4%
TOTAL LOANS	106	643 908 266	326 755 670	317 152 596	74 281 597	64 114 185	262 643 166	100.0%

3.4.4 Cooperation and resource mobilization activities

339. The implementation of activities relating to cooperation, partnership and the mobilization of financial resources is an important aspect in the development strategy of EBID. The Bank maintains the triple objective of raising awareness about the institution within the Community and development partners, searching for the various forms of technical assistance required for the development of the Bank and an adequate resource base to boost project financing activities to guarantee profitability and a secure future.

✓ Cooperation and partnership activities

340. The main cooperation and partnership initiatives recorded in 2013 are as follows:

- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 24 February in Johannesburg with Public Investment Cooperation (PIC) South Africa on the participation and grant of a credit line and/or quasi equity to EBID;
- The signing with the ADB, on 4th March 2013, of a USD 950 400 grant agreement will be imputed to FAPA resources for EBID capacity building. This loan subvention loan is aimed at implementing a technical assistance programme (I) for reinforcing EBID interventions in the private sector, (II) developing the technical technique of its staff and (III) improving its financial resource mobilization capacity.

✓ *Resource Mobilization Activities*

341. The resource mobilization activities undertaken by the Bank were in respect of capital, borrowings and special resources.
342. With regard to capital, the Bank received payment from Burkina Faso (UA 2 047 730) as part-payment of the arrears due from them over the call up of the first tranche of capital. To date only six countries namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Togo have paid up their share of amounts due from the first tranche of capital.
343. With regard to borrowings, the main progress recorded during the period under review was in respect of:
- The signing in March 2013 of the agreement on the line of credit of USD 40 million negotiated with Afreximbank.
 - the continuation of negotiations with IDC with a view to renewing the credit line up to 30 million US dollars
 - continuation of the measures to raise funds from Nigeria's financial markets (Nigeria Stock Exchange);
344. **Special resources:** Pending the conduct of an exhaustive study on the evaluation of the Community Levy mechanism, it was agreed that the Heads of the two Institutions (ECOWAS and EBID) submit to the Council of Ministers a Joint Memorandum on the inclusion of annual budget appropriations to replenish the Subsidy Fund created by EBID.
345. Over all, resource mobilization remains a major challenge for the Bank in view of the enormous needs relating to the financing of regional projects and programmes and those originating from each of the fifteen ECOWAS Member States.
346. Within that framework, the contribution of the Member States to the capital and access to funds from the Community Levy would constitute viable alternatives for the enhancement of the Bank's own resources with a view to enabling it ensure the concessionality of its financial contribution for the public sector.

3.4.5 Financial Situation of the Bank as at 31st March 2013

347. The financial situation of the Bank as at 31st December is summarized as follows:

✓ *Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2013*

348. Compared to December 2012, an analysis of the provisional accounts of the Bank carried out after the first quarter of the ongoing year revealed a slight 0.15% dwindle from UA 355.7 million in late March 2013 against the previous year's UA 357.5 million. This rise is mainly as a result of the combined effects of repayments received by way of loans result and payment of coupons from 2006-2013 debenture loan coupons. This induced a reduction in the states' outstanding debts (-1.1%) and a 1.4% regression of outstanding loans.

349. Compared to 2012 the total balance sheet increased by 14.6%, in contrast, owing to a rise in net lending of 16.3% to Member States.

Table 8: Balance Sheet as at March 2013, 2012 (in UA thousand)

RUBRIQUES	31/03/2012	31/12/2012	31/03/2013	Variation	
				Mars13/Mars 12	Mars13/Déc. 12
ASSET					
Cash and bank accounts	604	3 929	3 251	438.1%	-17.3%
Short term investments	44 438	47 743	48 111	8.3%	0.8%
Loans to Member States	217 328	255 696	252 780	16.3%	-1.1%
Inter-institutional accounts	710	425	420	-40.9%	-1.3%
Other negative balances	10 289	10 546	11 072	7.6%	5.0%
Long term investments	20 081	22 301	23 481	16.9%	5.3%
Fixed assets	17 025	16 876	16 623	-2.4%	-1.5%
Total assets	310 474	357 515	355 738	14.6%	-0.5%
LIABILITY					
Credit balances	5 312	6 878	5 041	-5.1%	-26.7%
Borrowings	141 908	171 147	168 757	18.9%	-1.4%
Inter-institutional accounts	72	1 465	1 465	1920.9%	0.0%
Capital	125 438	142 130	144 177	14.9%	1.4%
Free reserves	28 908	26 672	27 071	-6.4%	1.5%
	301 638	348 292	346 511	14.9%	-0.5%
Minority interests	8 835	9 223	9 227	4.4%	0.0%
Total liability	310 474	357 515	355 738	14.6%	-0.5%
OFF BALANCE SHEET					
Guarantee outstanding	38 128	31 617	27 747	-27%	-12.2%

✓ **Income Statement as at 31 March 2013**

350. Consolidating the surplus of UA 0.7 million obtained at the end of December 2012, the Bank's operating profit stood at UA 0.398 million.

Table 9 : Quelques agrégats significatifs au 31 mars 2013 (en milliers d'UC)

AGGREGATE	Value (In Thousands of UA)		
	31/03/2012	31/12/2012	31/03/2013
Interest Margin	2 580	9 976	2 082
Net Banking Income	2 575	10 540	2 079
Risk-related Cost	-	2 653	-
Net Result	852	69	398

351. The table below sums up the detailed situation of the major items of the incomes statement at March (in UA thousand).

Table 10: Income statement as at 31st March, 2012 (in thousands of UA)

INCOME		ITEM	EXPENSES	
31/12/2012	31/03/2013		31/12/2012	31/03/2013
12 735	2 728	Interest and incomes/similar charges	6 197	1 015
3 438	369	Commissions (income/charges)	-	-
16 173	3 097	Total Interest and commissions	6 197	1 015
9 976	2 082	INTEREST MARGIN		
586		Gains or losses on placement portfolios	22	3
16 759	3 097	Total income/bank charges	6 219	1 018
10 540	2 079	NET BANKING INCOME		
464	35	Other incomes / General operating expenses	6 819	1 712
		Subv /Amortization of fixed and intangible assets	1 068	
17 223	3 132	Total income/expenses	14 106	2 730
3 117	402	GROSS OPERATING INCOME		
		Risk-related cost	2 653	-
464	402	OPERATING INCOME		
		Minority holdings	395	4
69	398	NET RESULT		

- *Analysis of Financial Ratios*

352. The change in revenue due to the low level of activities during the first quarter led to a deterioration in the operating ratio (operating expense reported in net banking income). Indeed, reversing the downward trend throughout 2012, the operating ratio increased by 17.7 percentage points from its level at 31st December 2012, reaching 82.35% or 17.4 points above the acceptable maximum.
353. Owing to the income statement the operating profits which relate to the net result of the adjusted gross revenues (AGR) deteriorated in relation to the same period last year pegging at 19.1% against 33.0% a year earlier. It however recorded an improvement in relation to its level at 31st December 2012.

Table 11: Some Important Aggregates as at 31st March 2013 (UA '000)

Financial ratio	Value at			Standard
	31/03/2012	31/12/2012	31/03/2013	
Operating ratio	68.13%	64.70%	82.35%	< 65%
Net Banking Income	33.08%	0.66%	19.15%	> 5%
Cost of Risk	0.27%	0.02%	0.11%	> 1%
Net Results	52.56%	49.80%	50.73%	> 2%

354. This very trend is globally confirmed at the level of the output coefficient which measures the profitability of the resources implemented for the deployment of the Bank's activities. Indeed, this Bank coefficient remains low at 0.11% by late March 2013 against 0.27% in March 2012, but remains significantly improved as compared with December 2012.
355. Lastly, again recording 50.7%, the financial surface ratio demonstrates that the Bank still has consistent equity which is almost half of the total Bank balance while the desirable floor level for the Banks as well as equity funds are concerned, in relation to the balance mass is 2%.
356. Over the period from 1 January to 31 May 2012, EBID showed slight dynamism in operational activities marked by a 1.7 progression of the volume of its commitments in relation to the situation at late December 2012.
357. As far as resource mobilization is concerned, the Bank continues to intensify its activities towards finance resources likely to substantially sustain its loan portfolio, which is the sole guarantee its viability and profitability. In that regard, Management fielded several high-level missions to Heads of State and Government and financial partners.
358. Faced with this situation and considering the international financial crises, the principal challenge of the Bank remains the mobilization of adequate resources, especially at Community level. In that regard, the effectiveness of the implementation of the decisions of the Community high authorities regarding the mobilization of part of the Community Levy is a viable and credible alternative for making the Bank's interventions sustainable.
359. Similarly, the Member States' payment of the second tranche of the capital while strengthening the equity capital of the Bank doubtlessly constitutes an undeniable and important leverage to bank on for the entry of non-regionals

3.5 The West African Power Pool

360. The West African Power Pool (WAPP) organisation was created in 1999 and established in 2006, by the highest decision making body of ECOWAS, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS Member States, as a mechanism and institutional framework for integrating the national power systems of ECOWAS member countries and help meet the energy needs of the ECOWAS citizenry by providing least cost, reliable and sustainable electricity supply for economic development. Its mission is to promote and develop infrastructure for power generation and transmission as well as to assure the coordination of electric power exchanges between ECOWAS Member States through a regional electricity market. The Implementation Strategy of WAPP is based on realizing distinct but complementary and mutually reinforcing infrastructure sub-programmes that encompass various priority projects. These priority projects are based on the outcome of an electricity Master Plan study that was developed in 1999, revised in

2005 and updated in 2012 with subsequent approval by the 40th Ordinary Session of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government through the Supplementary Act A/SA.12/02/12.

361. The progress made by the WAPP during the year under the review is as follows:

3.5.1 Projects Under Preparation

362. **330 kV Riviera (Cote d'Ivoire) - Prestea (Ghana) Interconnection Reinforcement Project:** Funding for the pre-investment studies of **€1.75 million** was secured by WAPP from the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund through the European Investment Bank (EIB). Consultants have commenced work on the preparation of a Feasibility Study and Preparation of Bidding Documents as well as a Line Route and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2016.
363. **225 kV Ghana – Burkina - Mali Interconnection Project:** Pre-investment studies that were funded by European Investment Bank at the cost of **€2 million** have been concluded and environmental permits issued in each of the three countries. Complementary studies funded by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund through AFD at the cost of **€1.2 million** are being carried out to among others, elaborate an appropriate commercial framework and update some aspects of the Environmental and Social Impact. The Agence Française de Développement (AFD), African Development Bank (AfDB), EIB and ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) have indicated their firm interest to participate in the financing of the project which has been estimated to cost **€172 million**. The project is expected to be commissioned by 2017.
364. **147 MW Adjarala Hydropower Facility (Togo/Benin):** The project is at the level of processing for financing and is estimated at **US\$377 million**. The AfDB, World Bank (WB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), KfW, EBID, Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD) Saudi Fund and UEMOA have indicated firm interest to participate in the project's financing. All pre-investment studies for the project have been concluded and complementary studies to update the Economic and Financial Analyses on the project and also the Environmental and Social Management Plan and the Resettlement Action Plan are being carried out. Once these are completed by October 2013, the Funding Agencies shall confirm their financing and the project implementation would be launched.
365. **225 kV Guinea – Mali Interconnection Project:** The pre-investment studies for the project are being funded by the AfDB with amount **€2.92 million**. Consultants are being recruited to prepare a Feasibility Study and Preparation of Bidding Documents as well as a Line Route and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2017.
366. **330 kV Nigeria – Niger - Benin - Burkina Interconnection Project:** Pre-investment studies that were funded by the concerned national utilities have been concluded and indicated an approximate project cost of **US\$443 million**. Complementary studies of approximate cost **€5.3 million** are required to among others, elaborate an

appropriate commercial framework and update the Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. Terms of Reference for these studies have been prepared and related Requests for Funding sent to WAPP Donors for consideration. The project is expected to be commissioned by 2017.

367. **330 kV PHCN/TCN (Nigeria) – CEB (Togo/Benin) Interconnection Reinforcement Project:** Terms of Reference were prepared for a Feasibility Study and Preparation of Bidding Documents as well as a Line Route and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study to be conducted. The WAPP also prepared and dispatched Requests for funding for **€2.5 million** to its Partners for consideration and based on preliminary discussions, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) has indicated its keen interest to facilitate funding from the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund. The pre-investment studies for the project are expected to be launched in 2013.
368. **225 kV OMVG Energy Project (Senegal. The Gambia. Guinea Bissau. Guinea):** The project comprises hydropower facilities at Kaleta (240 MW) and Sambangalou (128 MW) in addition to a 225 kV transmission line interconnecting Senegal. The Gambia. Guinea Bissau and Guinea. The project cost is approximately **US\$1.451 million** and about 65% has been mobilised from Funding Agencies that include the AfDB, WB, AFD, EBID, KfW, Abu Dhabi Fund. BOAD and IsDB. In a bid to accelerate the realisation of the project, the Government of Guinea launched the construction of the 240 MW Kaleta Hydropower plant and commenced discussions with the OMVG Secretariat on the envisaged quantity of power that would be available from Kaleta for OMVG Member States. Similarly, in view of availability of part funding from the KfW and as requested by the national power utilities of Senegal and The Gambia. consultation meetings were held with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 225 kV transmission line OMVG Western Corridor by fast tracking the realisation of the 225 kV Kaolack (Senegal) – Brikama (The Gambia) – Soma (The Gambia) - Tanaf (Senegal) transmission line segment. The WAPP Secretariat also submitted a request for funding to the 10th EDF and presented the initiative to its 21st WAPP Donors' Coordination Meeting. The project is expected to be completed by 2018.
369. **515 MW Souapiti Hydropower Facility in Guinea:** The WAPP Secretariat mobilised funding of €1.2 million from the World Bank to prepare a Feasibility Study for the project to complement Environmental and Social Impact Assessment studies being carried out by the AfDB. The process to recruit the Consultant to prepare the Feasibility study was launched. Commissioning of the project is expected by 2018.
370. **64 MW Mount Coffee Hydropower Facility in Liberia:** Pre-investment studies that were funded by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund through the EIB and KfW (€1.5 million) have demonstrated the bankability of the project at an approximate cost of US\$172 million. The project is envisaged to be financed by EIB, KfW, and Government of Norway, and has been handed over to the Liberia Electricity Corporation for implementation. The commissioning of the project is expected in 2015.

371. **128 MW Kassa 'B' Hydropower Facility in Guinea:** The WAPP Secretariat mobilised funding of **€0.4 million** from the World Bank to prepare a pre-feasibility Study for the project. The process to recruit the Consultant to prepare the study was being launched. Commissioning of the project is expected in 2019.
372. **86 MW Bikongor Hydropower Facility in Sierra Leone:** The WAPP Secretariat mobilised funding of **€0.5 million** from the World Bank to prepare a pre-feasibility Study for the project. The process to recruit the Consultant to prepare the study was being launched. Commissioning of the project is expected in 2019.
373. **150 MW WAPP Power Generation Facility within OMVS Zone (Senegal):** Following several attempts by WAPP to identify a suitable site for the project with the Governments of Mali and Senegal that led to significant delays in advancing the project, the Government of Senegal in June 2012 requested the WAPP to re-launch the project. Consultations were subsequently held between the Governments of Senegal and The Gambia with OMVS-SOGEM and WAPP Secretariat during which, the Government of Senegal proposed to make available to the project a site at Saint Louis to take advantage of possible gas supplies from Mauritania. The Government of Senegal also indicated that it could consider a site at Kayar or a site at Sendou as potential alternative sites. A formal request for a site was consequently submitted to the Government of Senegal for approval to enable the securing of a Strategic Partner to support WAPP develop the project. Commissioning of the project is expected in 2018.

3.5.2 Projects Under Implementation

374. **330 kV Volta (Ghana) – Lome 'C' (Togo) – Sakété (Benin) Interconnection Project:** The project, of approximately cost **US\$149 million**, is being financed under the auspices of WAPP by the African Development Bank, KfW, and World Bank. Works on the Ghana segment are on-going. Prequalification of Bidders have been completed for the Togo/Benin segment and bids have been launched. Recruitment of Owner's Engineer is also underway. The project is expected to be completely commissioned in 2014.
375. **330 kV Aboadze (Ghana) – Prestea (Ghana) – Kumasi (Ghana) - Bolgatanga (Ghana) Transmission Line Project:** The project is at the level of processing for financing. Technical specification for the 330 kV transmission line and substations was completed and funding of **US\$174.8 million** was secured from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to realize the 330 kV Kumasi - Bolgatanga transmission line segment of the project. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2016.
376. **161 kV Tumu (Ghana) – Han (Ghana) - Wa (Ghana) Transmission Line Project:** The project is at the stage of implementation with an approximate cost of **US\$19.1 million**. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Studies have been completed and the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency issued an Environmental Permit. Construction works have commenced and the project is expected to be commissioned by 2014.

377. **225 kV Bolgatanga (Ghana) - Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) Interconnection Project:** The project is at the stage of implementation and its cost of **US\$111 million** is being financed by the WB, AFD and EIB. The Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) between SONABEL and GRIDCo was executed and the Power Sales and Purchase Agreement (PSPA) between VRA and SONABEL was being finalised for execution by December 2012. The recruitment of an Owner's Engineer was ongoing and the expected commissioning of the line is 2015.
378. **60 MW Felou Hydropower Facility (OMVS-SOGEM):** The project is at the level of implementation and its cost of **US\$236 million** is being financed by the WB and EIB. Construction works are in progress and commissioning is expected in 2013.
379. **225 kV Cote d'Ivoire – Liberia - Sierra Leone - Guinea Interconnection Project:** The project is at the level of processing for financing. Pre-investment studies that were funded by the WB (**US\$4.45 million**) and the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund through the EIB (**€3.168 million**) were completed and adopted. The Government of Guinea issued an Environmental Permit for the project and the process in the other concerned countries was almost completed. Financing for the project of amount **€323 million** is envisaged by the AfDB, WB, EIB and KfW and in fact, the Government of Germany and the Board of Directors of WB have approved their participation in the project. In application of Supplementary Act A/SA.3/01/08, the four countries have agreed to establish a Special Purpose Company (SPC) to implement the project and manage its operations after commissioning. The legal documents to establish the related legal and institutional framework comprising an International Treaty, International Project Agreement, Articles of Association and Shareholders Agreement, have been adopted. The Project Implementation Unit is being established and the project is expected to be commissioned in 2016.
380. **450 MW WAPP Maria Gleta (Benin) Regional Power Generation Facility:** The project is at the level of implementation and its estimated cost is **US\$564 million**. 46 hectares of land with freezone status has been acquired from the Government of Benin. Through international competitive bidding Sithe Global Power Ventures LLC was selected as Private Partner to support WAPP realize the project. A Joint Development Agreement (JDA) and Confidentiality Agreement (CA) were executed between WAPP and Sithe Global, Sithe Global has begun preparing the project and commissioning is expected by 2017.
381. **450 MW WAPP Aboadze/Domunli (Ghana) Regional Power Generation Facility:** The project is at the level of implementation and its estimated cost is **US\$564 million**. 50 hectares of land has been identified at Domunli in Ghana and the process is advanced with the Government of Ghana to secure title to the land with freezone status. Through international competitive bidding, Sithe Global Power Ventures LLC was selected as Private Partner to support WAPP realize the project. A Joint Development Agreement (JDA) and Confidentiality Agreement (CA) were executed between WAPP and Sithe Global. Sithe Global has begun preparing the project and commissioning is expected by 2018.

382. **Côte d'Ivoire – Liberia MV Cross Border Project (1st ACP-EU Energy Facility):** The project involves the electrification of Eighteen (18) communities in Liberia from Cote d'Ivoire at an approximate cost of **€9.6 million**. The works in Côte d'Ivoire were completed. In Liberia, all MV cross arms and insulators were installed in Grand Geddeh and Nimba counties. In Maryland, bush clearing and installation of MV poles were well advanced. The Project is being financed by the EU, Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), and the defunct Société d'Opération Ivoirienne d'Electricité (SOPIE) (now CI-Energies) and is expected to be commissioned in 2013.
383. **Ghana – Southern Togo MV Cross Border Project (2nd ACP-EU Energy Facility):** The project involves the electrification of Fifteen (15) communities in Southern Togo from Ghana at an estimated cost of **€2.3 million**. The pre-investment studies for the project have been adopted and the process was launched to recruit Contractors to implement the project. The Project is being financed by the EU. ECG, CEB and CEET and is expected to be commissioned in 2014.
384. **Benin – Northern Togo MV Cross Border Project (2nd ACP-EU Energy Facility):** The project involves the electrification of Ten (10) communities in Northern Togo from Benin at an approximate cost of **€2.1 million**. The pre-investment studies for the project have been adopted and the process was launched to recruit Contractors to implement the project. The Project is being financed by the EU. CEET and CEB and is expected to be commissioned in 2014.

3.5.3 Projects Commissioned and Operational

385. These projects are as follows :

- 330 kV Ikeja West (Nigeria) – Sakete (Benin) Interconnection Line (US\$40 million)
- 330 kV Aboadze (Ghana) – Volta (Ghana) Transmission Line (US\$48 million)
- 225 kV Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) – Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) Transmission Line Project (US\$130 million)
- 225 kV Cote d'Ivoire – Mali Interconnection Project (US\$275 million)
- Ghana - Togo Medium Voltage Cross Border Project (€3.8 million)
- Ghana – Burkina Medium Voltage Cross Border Project (€2 million)

3.5.4 Regional Electricity Market

386. The ultimate goal of the WAPP is to establish a regional electricity market and in this regard, the WAPP has been promoting cross border electricity trade between ECOWAS Member States. In the eastern part of the region, the electricity networks of Niger, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso are interconnected and electricity trade is on-going while in the western part. Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal are interconnected for electricity trading. The quantity of electricity traded through the interconnections increased by 4.7% from 3.278 Giga Watt hours (GWh) in 2010 to 3.432GWh in 2011. During this period, hydropower remained the primary source of generation representing 65% in the power generation mix with the remaining 35% being predominantly thermal power

generation. The total electricity consumed in the region rose from 47.073GWh in 2010 to 48.959GWh in 2011 representing a 4% increase.

387. In order to ensure the establishment of a well-functioning wholesale electricity market within the ECOWAS region, the WAPP Secretariat has developed Governance documents and started to put in place the appropriate framework that shall guide the development of the regional electricity market. To this end, the WAPP has adopted the WAPP Operations Manual to achieve a harmonized and coordinated operation of the interconnected system and developed a transmission tariff methodology. The WAPP Secretariat has also developed and adopted a Market Design and Market Rules that are fundamental for the well-functioning of the wholesale electricity market. The WAPP Market Design and WAPP Market Rules have already been filed with the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) for consideration and adoption, and shall subsequently be presented to the Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for approval after endorsement by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.
388. As part of the regional electricity market development, the WAPP Secretariat has completed the Basic Design and Feasibility Study for the Information & Coordination Centre (ICC) that shall among others, coordinate the trading and the stable operation of the WAPP interconnected system. The architectural design of the ICC and final design of the system including the requirements for the communication infrastructure, hardware and software needed to manage the regional electricity market have been concluded. The Bidding Documents to implement the project have also been finalized and the WAPP has secured funding of **€60 million** from the EU to realize the project within the framework of the 10th EDF Regional Indicative Program. The WAPP Secretariat has also secured a Grant of **US\$31.5 million** from the World Bank to among others, enhance the stable and synchronised operation of the WAPP Interconnected system.
389. In order to strengthen and put in place an effective Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) of WAPP Operations and the implementation of the priority projects, the WAPP Secretariat has, with the support of **US\$630,000** Grant from the World Bank, developed a WAPP M&E Framework and a harmonized WAPP M&E Manual. These were examined and adopted by WAPP Member Utilities. In addition, M&E Units have been set-up in all WAPP Member Utilities of ECOWAS Member States and have been equipped with internet-connected computer and M&E software to establish a WAPP M&E / MIS System that will produce WAPP Quarterly Project and Operations Reports.

3.6 COMMUNITY COURT OF JUSTICE

390. This report summarizes the key activities carried out by the Court between January and May 2013 as part of its work program and its main mission which is the interpretation and application of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty and other Community texts. In carrying out this mission during the period under review, the Court carried out its work program both in the judicial and extrajudicial domain, which is as follows:

✓ **Judicial activities**

391. During the period, the Court registered eleven (11) new cases and one (1) application for review. It held twenty-four (24) court session and delivered four (4) final decisions and seven (7) Preliminary Rulings (Rulings). The Court adjourned five (5) cases for decision on the merit and two (2) other cases for Ruling. As of 27 May 2013, the number of cases pending before the Court is estimated at forty-three (43) and which are subject to the written and oral procedures.

✓ **Publications related to court cases**

392. These are the collection of the case Law, the Official Journal and the website of the Court. Regarding the compendium of the case Law, the Court completed the drafting of the 2010's Law Report and is awaiting the printed work. Also, work is underway to finalize the 2011 and 2012 editions of the said Law Report.
393. Concerning the publication of cases in the Official Journal of the Community, it should be noted that volume 60 of the Official Journal of the Court containing the Notice of Registration of five new cases had been printed in February 2013. The next edition of the Official Journal is to be published in June 2013.
394. With regard to the Website, the Court has developed a very useful tool for the dissemination of information to the public. The site is constantly updated and contains various information such as decisions of the Court, the press communiqués and statistics of cases, not to mention many other working documents of the Court as well as information for the visibility of the Court.

✓ **Capacity Building**

395. This concerns the seminar on monitoring and evaluation, the workshop on Strategy for improving the performance of the Court and Training on Information Technology.

✓ **Monitoring and evaluation**

396. The beginning of the year 2013 was marked with the organization of the training sessions on Result Based Management (RBM) and Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E). The aim is to promote a culture change within the Court for the purpose of increasing its performance. Organized for members of the professional staff in charge of administrative functions, recording and linguists (Interpreters, Revisors, Translators) of the Community institution, the session took place over two days, from 15 to 16 January 2013 at BOLTON WHITE in Abuja.
397. The workshop which was organized by the Commission and GIZ is part of converging concerns for the Court and the Commission. For the Court, it is laying the groundwork for the systematization of the RBM and RBM&E in the management of the institution; while for the Commission, the aim was to launch the process with the Court which will eventually provide the Community with a common system of monitoring and evaluation, of which the monitoring and evaluation manual specific to ECOWAS will be its concretisation. As a reminder, the Monitoring and Evaluation

Unit of the ECOWAS Commission is attached to the Office of the Vice-President of the Commission.

✓ *Strategy to improve the performance of the Court*

398. On 14 February 2013 a workshop on “Strategies to improve the performance of the institution” was held in the courtroom of the Court of Justice in Abuja. The objectives of the workshop among others were to institutionalize RBM and RBM&E at the Court; to present, discuss and formulate guidelines that will enable the Court to provide adequate human resources as well as to present and discuss collaboration platform between the Court and the Commission.

✓ *Training in Information Technology*

399. In order to bring the staff of the Court to adopt new information technology to better carry out their work, two training sessions were organized for the staff of the Court in the premises of the Community Computer Centre (CCC) in Lome, Republic of Togo. The first group was trained in April and the second in May 2013. Training in Information Technology focused on the use of 2013 software such as Microsoft 2013, Word, Outlook, SharePoint and Lync. The training inculcated into staff the use of new techniques for internal communications including the intranet.

✓ *Cooperation between the Court and academic institutions of Member States*

400. The Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS, has always emphasized the need for academic institutions in the Member States, particularly schools and law faculties to introduce ECOWAS law into their curriculum. The year under review saw the University of Calabar in Nigeria, who recently introduced the ECOWAS law in its “**General Studies Citizenship Course**” The Dean of the Judges of the Court, the Honourable Justice Hansine N. Donli led a delegation there to give lectures during the inaugural seminar at the Faculty of Law from 16 to 18 April 2013.

✓ *External relations and cooperation with international institutions*

401. From 24 to 26 April 2013 the ECOWAS Court of Justice participated as usual at a seminar organized by the Court of the European Union. The aim is to enable judges as well as staff to familiarize with the best practices in order to raise the Community courts to the same level as that of the Union. Indeed, for three days of discussions, the participants, numbering of eighteen, from the Court of Justice of ECOWAS as well as the Court of Justice of (UEMOA) and the Court of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC) displayed a great interest vis-à-vis the various sessions conducted by CURIA officials. They underlined a certain number of question which preoccupy them. A second group will be going there in June this year for the second session organised for English Speakers.

✓ *Participation of the Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS at the eighth edition of the National Integration Week in Benin*

402. During this meeting, the ECOWAS Court of Justice distributed promotional items as well as basic texts of the Court. The eighth edition of the Integration Week was held from 27 January to 2 February 2013. Placed under the theme of Free Movement of

Persons, Goods and Capital as well as the Right of Residence and Establishment, the week was spent in the Region of Zou and Collines, at the center of the Republic of Benin and was attended by the Commission, the Parliament and the ECOWAS Court of Justice, UEMOA Commission and representatives of National Units of Burkina Faso and the Republic of Guinea. The event was organized pursuant to the directives of the Authority of Heads of State and Government calling on stakeholders to facilitate the integration process through the education of citizens especially those who live in less accessible areas.

✓ ***Cooperation with national courts of Member States***

403. The ECOWAS Court of Justice has continued its participation in the activities of national courts of Member States to strengthen cooperation with these states. In this context, the Court took part in the seminar of the International Union of Lawyers and the 2nd Congress of the Conference of Constitutional Courts of African (CJCA).

✓ ***Participation of the Court at the Seminar of International Association of Lawyers***

404. From 22 to 23 March 2013, the **Union Internationale des Avocats** organized a seminar in which the Court participated in Porto-Novo, Benin Republic. Under the theme "Economic Integration and the exercise of the job of a lawyer" the theme is divided into several sub-themes, one of which reads: "Jurisdiction of Courts of Justice of the African communities." The Court's delegation led by Hon. Justice Awa NANA Daboya, President of the Court gave a presentation on the jurisdiction of the ECOWAS Court of Justice.

✓ ***Participation in the 2nd Congress of the Conference of African Constitutional Courts (CJCA).***

405. From 7 to 11 May 2013, on the invitation of Robert S. M. DOSSOU, President of the Constitutional Court of Benin, President of the Conference of African Constitutional Courts, the President of the Court, the Dean of Judges and a member of the Court participated in the celebration of the twentieth (20th) anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Benin and the 2nd Congress of the Conference of African Constitutional Courts (CJCA). The International symposium which marked the 22 years of Constitutional Justice in Benin and 20 years of the installation of the Constitutional Court had as theme "experience of the Constitutional Court of Benin to strengthen the rule of law and democracy". As for the 2nd Congress of the Conference of African Constitutional Courts, the theme was centred on Constitutional Justice in Africa; state of affairs and Prospects."

✓ ***Inter-Institutional relations***

406. Inter-Institutional relations during the period under review was marked by two events: The participation of the Court at the 7th edition of the Joint Retreat of ECOWAS institutions and the involvement of the Court alongside the ECOWAS Commission on a sensitization mission to Guinea.

✓ *Participation of the Court at the 7th edition of the Joint Retreat of ECOWAS institutions*

407. The Court has always maintained good relations with the other institutions of the Community. In this context, it took part in the seventh edition of the joint retreat of ECOWAS institutions, Permanent Representatives and National Units which held from 14 to 16 March 2013 at Le Meridien Ibom Hotel and Golf Resort, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The Retreat adopted the establishment of an appeals chamber within the Court and sub registries. In addition, it recommended the expansion of the jurisdictions of the Court particularly in the area of massive human rights violations and the establishment of legal aid to facilitate access to justice.

✓ *Participation at the sensitization missions organized by the Commission*

408. From 26 to 28 March 2013, the ECOWAS Court of Justice as well as other institutions and specialized agencies of the Community joined the Commission to partake in a three days sensitization on ECOWAS in Conakry, Republic of Guinea. This activity which is an initiative of the Department of Communication of the ECOWAS Commission was conducted in close collaboration with the Department of International Cooperation of Guinea, notably through the Directorate General of African Integration and the National Unit of the organization. The ECOWAS Court of Justice represented by its information officer, presented the objectives, achievements and challenges facing the institution. The Minister for International Cooperation, Dr Koutoub Moustapha Sano who chaired the closing ceremony of the sensitization mission, reiterated the belief that the beneficiaries of the awareness provided at the occasion will make the best use of it, as long as Guinea remains committed to its involvement in ECOWAS and its development goals.

✓ *Other activities contained in the work program of the Court for the year 2013.*

409. Apart from its regular Court Sessions scheduled to run throughout the month of June, the Court plans to hold Court Session before the end of December 2013. In addition, a number of activities will be implemented in order to fully execute its work program for the year under review. These are the radio and television program scheduled for 22 to 28 June 2013; the Budget and Administrative Retreat scheduled for 7 to 17 July 2013; Opening of the Legal Year followed by ordinary Court Session in Ouagadougou on 26 September 2013; WAJA meeting in October this year.

✓ *Challenges*

410. Implementation of 2013 activities have not been effected without difficulties. Some of these difficulties include those related to the execution of the Court's Decisions, to the inadequacy of the seat of Court and access to the Court.
411. **Regarding the enforcement of the Court's Decision:** A major challenge facing the ECOWAS Court of Justice is linked to the enforcement of its decisions. Majority of the decisions of the Court have not been executed. According to the Protocol of the Court, as amended, Member States are responsible for the enforcement of the Court's Decisions, following the rules of effective execution procedure in each Member State. Member States are therefore called upon to appoint competent

national authority responsible for implementing the decisions of the Court. Since January 2005, with the adoption of this new provision, only three (3) Member States have appointed national authority (Guinea, Togo and Nigeria). Article 15 (4) of the Revised Treaty provides that the decisions of the Court are binding on Member States, Community institutions, individuals and legal entities. In addition, Article 22 (3) of Protocol A/P1/7/91 provides that Member States and the Community institutions must take immediate measures to ensure execution of the decisions of the Court. Despite these provisions, most Member States have not taken the necessary measures to execute the decisions of the Court nor appoint the competent national authority responsible to do so. Below are the number of decisions waiting to execution by the Member States and the institutions of the Community: These are:

- Federal Republic of Nigeria	6 decisions
- ECOWAS Commission	4 decisions
- Republic of Liberia	1 decision
- Burkina Faso	1 decision
- The Republic of The Gambia	2 decisions
- Republic of Niger	3 decisions
- The Republic of Togo	1 decision
- Republic of Senegal	1 decision
- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire	1 decision

412. **Regarding the inadequacy of the seat of Court:** The Court is faced with the unacceptable lack of space of its premises which is the temporary seat provided by the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2002. That is why it is imperative to provide the Court with a suitable building and adapted with adequate offices for judges and staff as well as courtrooms, a library, reading room and computer unit.
413. **Regarding access to the Court:** In order to facilitate access to the Court and to minimize legal costs for the applicants, it is important to allow the introduction of applications by opening sub-registries in ECOWAS national units of Member States, and to amend existing laws particularly in terms of the Rules of Court, the possibility of access to the Court through electronic means. On the whole, the ECOWAS Court of Justice plays a crucial role and it will be necessary to encourage it further for better performance and visibility. This contributes to the vision 2020.

CONCLUSION

414. The 2013 Interim Report provides an in-depth analysis on activities carried out during the period under review. It ascertains that the guidelines for the implementation of the Commission's 2013 work programme have been strictly adhered to.
415. As regards the economic situation, growth in the global economy is anticipated to gain momentum in the second half of 2013. Overall, the IMF's forecast for global growth has been revised upward to 3.3 percent in 2013 and an increase to 4.1 percent in 2014. In sub-Saharan Africa growth is expected to be 5.4 driven by further increases in output from the natural resources sector, which underpins rising fiscal expenditure, especially in infrastructure projects. Growth forecasts for West Africa would be positive and is projected to grow at 7.0% in 2013 from 6.6% in 2012. The key growth drivers include the expected high demand for minerals and hydrocarbons, improved production in the agricultural sector and consolidation of growth in the major ECOWAS economies such as Nigeria (7.2%) , Cote d'Ivoire (8.0%) , Ghana (6.9 %) and Senegal (4.0%).
416. In terms of regional infrastructure, the Commission is taking measures to improve the efficiency of interconnectivity projects in all the ECOWAS Member States, including the West African Gas Pipeline. The Construction of Joint Border Posts (JBPs) at Seme/Krake (Nigeria/Benin) and Noepe (Ghana/Togo) is ongoing. In the Air Transport Sub-sector, the Commission is implementing a "Single Africa Sky" project to replace the existing ground base air navigation aids by a satellite-base system. As regards the West African rail master plan, the Commission has launched a process for detailed engineering studies of the highest ranking link connecting the Abidjan-Ouagadougou railway line to the republic of Niger.
417. In the domain of Peacekeeping and Regional Security, the attempted insurgence in southern Mali in January 2013 saw immediate responses that resulted in an Africa-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). The intervention of a multinational force comprising of ECOWAS member states and supported by the French Forces (SERVAL) significantly curtailed the activities of the insurgents thereby securing the major northern cities of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu.
418. Significant progress in the implementation of multilateral surveillance programmes on the economic performances of Member States has also been achieved. The Commission, in collaboration with the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) and the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI), conducted joint surveillance missions to ECOWAS Member States to evaluate the status of macroeconomic convergence in the region and assess prospects for the first half 2013. As part of ongoing efforts progress towards the realization of the ECOWAS Single Currency initiative, the Commission organized a meeting of the interinstitutional sub-committee to evaluate the status of implementation of activities outline in the road map of the Single Currency programme. ... Progress was also been made in finalizing and validating the

- study report on the harmonization of public debt management and Public Procurement procedures and practices in ECOWAS Member States.
419. With regards to private sector development, considerable progress has been made on the formulation of the Common Investment Code (CIC) and ECOWAS Investment Policy (ECOWIP). Also, a study on the establishment of cross-border payment and settlement systems in ECOWAS was commissioned.
420. In the areas of Trade, Customs and Free Movement, the Commission has finalized the document With respect to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between West Africa and the EU. The document has been submitted to the Ministerial Monitoring Committee of the EPA, which subsequently adopted it but recommended for further analysis to be done at the national level. On finalising the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) mechanism, the draft texts were adopted at the Extraordinary meeting of the ECOWAS Ministers of Finance held in Praia, Cape Verde.
421. With respect to agricultural development, the Commission is strengthening the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) with particular focus on the promotion of strategic products for food security and sovereignty.
422. These achievements are quite encouraging. It is therefore important that the Commission continues its efforts in the following areas:
- The quest for long-term solution to the conflicts in Mali and Guinea Bissau with a view to maintaining peace and stability in the region;
 - The implementation of stimulus policies for sustainable growth through the formulation and implementation of appropriate macroeconomic policies by Member States, particularly in meeting the convergence criteria in order to fast track the ECOWAS Single Currency project
 - More efforts to address the regional infrastructure challenges as well as its regional food security drive with a view to mitigating constraints on the free movement of people and the growing food insecurity in the region;
 - Acceleration of the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS)
 - Finalization of the EPA negotiations with a view to the signing of a development-oriented agreement in conformity with the efforts being made towards accelerating regional integration in West Africa.
 - The monitoring of the implementation of the existing regulations on the Community Levy and free movement of goods, persons and right of residence are fully implemented by all Member States.

